

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Thursday, August 25, 2011

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Jerry Downey (Chair) Suzan Gazioglu, John Nugent,
Celia Schahczenski, Heather Shearer (Vice Chair), Kirk Waren

Members absent: Rod James, Traci O'Neill, Bill Ryan

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott

Review and Approval of Minutes

No minutes were approved. Outstanding draft minutes are for the meeting of May 3rd.

Review and Amend Agenda

Jerry added the topic of miscellaneous requests of the Faculty Senate to the end of the agenda.

Senate Memberships, Nominations, and Elections: Senate Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Jerry Downey was nominated, seconded, and elected as Chair.
Heather Shearer was nominated, seconded, and elected as Vice-Chair
Kirk Waren was nominated, seconded, and elected as Secretary.

Old Business

1. Senate expansion amendment initiative

Jerry researched the term “simple majority” and found that this implies a majority of those eligible to vote that choose to vote on a particular issue. Therefore, once the Faculty Roster is prepared, the Survey Monkey vote will be sent to all faculty, and the results will be used to determine whether the Faculty Senate will be expanded or not. An absolute majority is not required.

An Instructional Faculty meeting will be conducted, probably in September. Jerry will schedule it based on the availability of key persons needed at the meeting. Items that may be brought forth to the Instructional Faculty meeting for discussions or actions include:

- An explanation of the re-vote for the Faculty Senate expansion
- A block on the agenda for announcements from the Chancellor and Administration

- A possible vote on the student email policy adaptation
 - Faculty Senate endorsement of John Nugent to be on the Foundation Director search committee
2. Review the roles and relationships between the Senate and Academic Committees

Possible items for the Faculty Senate to address this year are reviewing the structure and objectives of Montana Tech's committees, seeking to make them more efficient, and also to define quorums and voting schemes for both the faculty and the faculty senate.

New Business

1. Presentation of the draft E-Mail Communications Policy (VCAAR Abbott)

Doug Abbott presented the draft E-Mail policy. Faculty Senate members provided numerous comments. The comments generally did not change the message or intent of the policy, but included some clarifications and modifications in wording. Doug will take the suggestions back to the committee that developed the policy.

2. Senate nominations of the faculty members to serve on the Vice-Chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs search committee (and Foundation Director)

A motion was made to recommend having John Nugent represent the Faculty Senate on the search committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

3. Montana University System Faculty Association Representatives (MUSFAR) By-laws and Montana Tech Faculty Senate participation in MUSFAR

The Faculty Senate agreed that it would be good to send an officer or member of the senate to each MUSFAR event. They occur every other month starting in September.

4. Establish time for regular (open) Faculty Senate meetings and discussion of meeting protocols

The meeting time of Thursday afternoons will be explored by Jerry, since most members indicated they would typically have been available today. If the senate is expanded to 25 members, additional consideration of meeting times may have to be undertaken. The possibility of an early morning time was discussed.

Traci O'Neill will take a leave of absence during her interim administrative position, or let her Department decide if they want to send someone else.

5. Discuss timing for Commissioner of Higher Education to attend a Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting

The attendance of the Commissioner of Higher Education would best take place after the Faculty Senate expansion vote has been decided.

6. Chancellor's Cabinet Meetings (Downey, Shearer)

Jerry and Heather have been attending the Chancellor's Cabinet Meetings. They shared with us the many ideas being discussed about the future of Montana Tech.

7. Miscellaneous requests from faculty members

Jerry noted that as interim chair of the Faculty Senate, he had already received some messages from faculty members suggesting issues the Faculty Senate might address. Jerry suggests we collect any such requests, and then review them near the end of each Faculty Senate meeting to see which ones might warrant action.

The meeting was adjourned around 2:30 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:

None scheduled. The next meeting is expected to occur after the upcoming Instructional Faculty meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary