

Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting

Thursday, December 6, 2012

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Location: Pintlar Room

MEETING MINUTES

Senators present:

Hugo Bertete Aguirre, Laurie Battle, Merle Benedict, Tom Camm, Jon Chesbro, Chris Danielson (V. Chair), Jerry Downey (Chair), Gretchen Gellar, Bill Good, Katie Hailer, John Nugent, Mary North Abbott, Vicki Petritz, James Rose, Bill Ryan, Celia Schahczenski (Sec.), Glenn Shaw, Jack Skinner, Rita Spear

Senators absent: Scott Juskiewica, Raj Kasinath, Tom Moon, Miriam Young

Vacant senate seats:

Professional and Technical Communication

Research Faculty, Center for Advanced Mineral and Metallurgical Processing (CAMP)

Guests:

Doug Abbott (Provost)

Doug Coe (Dean LSPS)

Call to Order: Jerry Downey, Chair

Roll Call: Celia Schahczenski, Secretary

Actions Items (vote required)

Review and Approval of Minutes from the 25-Oct-12 Senate Meeting (Senate)

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Curriculum Review Committee Minutes from 27-Oct-12 and Nov-12 (Senate)

CRC recommendations were approved unanimously.

Approval of List of December Graduates (Senate)

Approval of the list of graduates was unanimous.

Discussion Topics

A resolution was proposed addressing the lateness of the announcement of the mandatory workshop on bullying.

Discussion:

- Some people have already made travel plans
- 40 days notice was given along with accommodations for those who can't make it
- There is no day for this that will be convenient for everyone
- The administration has known about this for some time

A motion was made and passed to table this resolution indefinitely.

Instructional Faculty Meeting:

The administration changed TECHXPO from Wednesday, May 1st to Thursday, May 2nd as recommended by the senate.

Path forward on the Academic Calendar issue

Considerable discussion on the calendar took place at the instructional faculty meeting. Two calendars have been proposed and Jerry suggested distributing these to senators and continuing the calendar discussion at the next senate meeting.

Path forward on the Criteria for Faculty Promotion/Tenure issue

Criteria for promotion and tenure were discussed at the instructional faculty meeting. The wording of the senate voted included the word "entirely" which might have been too all encompassing. The important issue is if departments should determine the minimal degree standards for tenure and promotion and tenure.

A motion was made and passed to reword the proposal and take another vote.

Administration request for Senate opinion on establishing "Professor of Practice" positions

Doug Abbott explained that a "Professor of Practice" is someone with extensive industry experience who may or may not have a PhD. These positions can alleviate problems some departments have trying to fill positions but not finding enough applicants with PhDs. Doug hopes the senate will make a recommendation on this. There is some urgency as there is currently a Tech PRA which uses this term.

Discussion:

- "Professor of Practice" positions are being used on many campuses.
- How this relates to adjuncts was discussed. Adjuncts on this campus, MSU and UM, are year to year positions. Visiting Professors are longer term. Professor of Practice would be more like visiting professors.
- It was questioned if this might be replacing a tenurable position with one that isn't.

- At least two senators stated that this would help their departments.
- It was suggested that departments could “hone” this for what they need. The distributed write-up said these positions could last from 3 to 10 years. However, a senator suggested that if the person was good the department might decide to keep them longer. They might even like to have levels so the person could be promoted.

A motion was made and passed to create a subcommittee to make recommendations for this and bring it to the next senate meeting.

Strategic Plan and Mission Statement (Dean Coe)

Doug Coe described the many ways that he is getting input on the strategic plan. In this phase, anyone can say what they want and it goes into the document. Ninety percent (90%) of the ideas require more resources, which makes sense given that this will be a strategic plan. There are strategic directions in the feedback document but they may not appear together. At present, the document is a list of issues/suggestions.

Doug plans to complete this phase of the process this semester. The next step will be to meet with the 40 member Strategic Planning Committee to develop a plan. Doug is open to suggestions on how to proceed. He expects having the larger committee break into smaller subcommittees to work on issues.

Whenever there is something reasonable to share, Doug has been putting it onto the website. He will continue to do so. The web site can be accessed from the “Strategic Plan” link in the lower left side of Tech’s homepage. Doug is looking for feedback throughout this process.

Discussion:

- Relative to the feedback document, some type of index of the broad topic areas would be helpful. Doug is open to receiving ideas as to “how” (to implement the ideas).
- When asked if any “eye opening” ideas have come from Doug’s meetings with various departments and campus groups, a Tech day care and advising center were mentioned.
- Another common feedback theme is faculty compensation, which is a fraction of the national average.
- Improving visibility of this campus is important.
- More time for faculty to do research is needed, which raises the possibility of reducing workloads for research-active faculty.
- A concern is that ambitious growth needs to be managed because it can really change the university. Our philosophies need to evolve along with growth. We

can be a much more dynamic institution. Currently we are fairly bureaucratic. It will be easier to make changes as a small faculty than after growth.

- Right now there is so much in the document that the plan could go in many directions. Transparency and continued input from faculty throughout the process is important.

It was decided that as the process moves along Doug will return to the faculty senate for input.

New Business

Faculty concerns and issues

It was stated that Coach Green would like to the senate to discuss the future of the Tech swimming pool

Faculty would like salaries to be higher.

Other new business items

No new business items were brought up.

Verify the time and date of the January Senate meeting (7:00 to 8:00 am on Thursday, January 31, 2013)

No objections were made to this meeting time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01 a.m.