

Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting
Tue September 15, 2015
3pm, Chancellor's Lounge (Mill)

Call to Order: Sue Schrader

Roll Call: Conor Cote

Senate members present:

Larry Hunter, Miriam Young, Conor Cote, Stella Capoccia, Rita Spear, Bill Drury, Vicki Petritz, Sue Schrader, Celia Schahczenski, Michael Webb, Scott Risser, Jim Rose, Bill Drury, Sally Bardsley, John Getty

Senate members absent:

Scott Rosenthal, Bill Ryan, Glenn Shaw, Tim Kober, Rhonda Coguill, Chad Okrusch, Rick Rossi, Gretchen Gellar, William Gleason

Guests:

Chris Danielson

Approval of Minutes:

- I. Ongoing Business & Reports
 - a. Review Senate Roster
 - i. Sue reviewed the Senate Roster for the new academic year. New Senate members include Michael Webb – Chemistry, taking over for Katie Hailer, Stella Capoccia – Biology, taking over for Amy Kuenzi; Scott Risser – Liberal Studies, taking over for Chris Danielson; and Sally Bardsley – SHIH, taking over for Julie Hart.
 - ii. Vacant positions include representatives from Electrical Engineering and Adjunct Faculty. Stella proposed a few adjuncts from her department and will provide those names to Sue. Larry said he would bring this up to the EE department.
 - b. Senate webpage
 - i. Conor now has the ability to update the Senate webpage. The Senate will be using the Faculty Senate webpage to post meeting minutes, meeting times, and meeting agendas this year. That page can be found here:
<http://www.mtech.edu/about/facultysenate/>
 - c. Update on Status of Civil and Mechanical Engineering Degrees
 - i. Larry provided an update on the Civil/Mechanical Engineering degrees. See the March 25, 2015 meeting minutes for reference on this issue. The Faculty Senate had drafted letter of support last semester but agreed to wait to see how

support for the new degrees progressed. However, the proposed degree programs are not on the agenda for this month's Board of Regents meeting and no apparent progress has been made. Larry offered to draft a new letter of support from the Faculty Senate for the Senate's review, and Sue offered to invite Doug Abbott to attend an upcoming faculty meeting in order to provide an update on the status of the degrees. John Getty motioned for the new Senate Committee membership to approve a letter of support, Rita seconded and the Senate passed the motion.

d. Senate appointments – Sue

- i. The following committees have vacant positions that the Faculty Senate is tasked with filling. The Senate may appoint a faculty member outside of the Senate.
- ii. Faculty Service Committee
 1. “The Faculty Service Committee assures proper professional tenure of administrative officers and members of instructional and scientific staffs, and promotes efficient service to the Institution.” – Faculty Handbook
 2. Members must be tenured faculty.
 3. Miriam volunteered to serve on this committee and the Senate approved.
- iii. Academic Freedom and Tenure committee – 3 different faculty members with staggered terms
 1. “The committee considers appeals by faculty of administrative decisions that impair the faculty member's academic freedom or violate the procedures for obtaining tenure.” – Faculty Handbook
 2. Members must be tenured faculty.
 3. The Faculty handbook states that these members should be elected by the faculty.
 4. Scott Risser volunteered to serve the 1 year term, Bill Drury volunteered to serve the 2 year term, and Celia volunteered to serve the 3 year term.
 5. Sue offered to explore if there were any other volunteers or nominations from outside the Senate. If so, the faculty can conduct an election either via email or at the Fall Instructional Faculty meeting.
- iv. The Grievance Committee – 2 faculty members
 1. “The Grievance Committee is charged with making a recommendation to the Chancellor for resolution of complaints by faculty, nonacademic staff, students and applicants for employment or admission arising out of an alleged violation of any applicable state or federal law or

- regulation or any contractual relationship, policy, or procedure the breach of which would cause a valid complaint.” - Faculty Handbook
2. The Handbook states that 4 nominees are chosen by the Faculty and that the Chancellor chooses 2 appointees from this list.
 3. Sue, Larry and Conor volunteered as nominees. Rick Rossi was also nominated.
- v. Instructional Improvement Committee
 1. John Getty volunteered to serve on this committee and was approved by the Senate.
 - vi. The Student Disciplinary Appeals Committee
 1. The Senate was unable to find information about this committee and decided to seek more information on its role and purpose before filling the vacant membership.
- e. Academic Calendar/ Fall break
- i. Provost Abbott asked for the Senate’s input on two calendar options for Fall 16-17. The first calendar is mapped from the previous semester and includes 42 MWF class meetings. The second calendar was proposed by the Dean’s Council and includes 44 MWF class meetings.
 - ii. The Senate was unable to view a copy of the second calendar but still discussed the two options as outlined by Provost Abbott.
 - iii. The concern was brought up that the alternative calendar brings us back closer to the 45 MWF class sessions that was moved away from in recent semesters. Another concern about the alternative calendar is that it ends later in December and therefore may cut into Winter Break. Many members expressed frustration with the split finals week and liked the single finals week proposed in the alternative calendar. It was noted that the split finals week was made to accommodate students, but anecdotal evidence on whether students preferred the split finals week were mixed. Sue offered to contact ASMT to get a better understanding of student opinion on this issue.
 - iv. Celia asked if a third calendar could be developed that included 42 MWF class sessions but also a single week of finals and several faculty agreed this would be a good alternative.
 - v. Sue said she would provide a copy of the alternative calendar for discussion at the next Senate meeting.
- f. Other Business
- i. Scott Risser noted a discrepancy between the current reimbursement policy for faculty sabbaticals and the Faculty Handbook. The Handbook states that faculty will be reimbursed at no more than two-thirds pay for 1 semester sabbaticals. The current practice is that faculty are reimbursed at full pay for one-semester sabbaticals and two-thirds pay for full year sabbaticals. He

recommended that this language be changed in the Handbook and the Senate agreed.

g. Next Meeting: Tuesday September 29, 3pm, Location TBD

Documents:

- Roster
- List of Committees that need FS appointments
- Academic Calendar options

Possible agenda items for next meeting:

- Recycling on Campus update
- Room limits and class limits
- Action on Civil/Mechanical Engineering Degrees
- Closed/open meeting discussions
- Library update
- Old Business