

Faculty Senate Minutes

8/28/2020

1-2 pm

Kelly Steward SUB and Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

In Person: Charie Faught (Chair), Ron White, Rita Freebourn, Ulana Holtz, Peter Lucon, Atish Mitra

Zoom: John Ray, Courtney Young, Tony Patrick, Richard LaDouceur, Bret Robertson, Karen Wesenberg, Miriam Young, Dan Autenrieth, Glen Shaw, Matt Donnelly, Phil Curtiss, Sue Schrader, Katherine Zodrow, Tamara Harp

Quorum @1:00 pm

- I. Welcome and Minutes (<https://www.mtech.edu/facultystaff/facultysenate/minutes/index.html>)

Introductions.

Approvals for May 01, 2020 minutes. Motion to approve, and seconded. **PASSED.**

Action Items

- II. Faculty Senate Vice Chair Elections

Chair asked for nominations. One senator (Peter Lucon) was nominated through previous communications, and accepted the nomination. Peter Lucon was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

Chair discussed the upcoming BOR meeting in September, and asked for comments and suggestions from senators about possible points the senate should bring up in the meeting. The chair suggested COVID testing as a possible point to be included.

Informational Items

- III. Summer activities

- a. Instruction Preparation/Professional Development

The Chair reported on the meetings she had during summer 2020. Points discussed were: Faculty opting to teach online in Fa20, and trainings for them; Professional development for faculty and staff.

- b. CRC Approval Process

The Chair reported on activities in Spring 20: The CRC documentation process has been streamlined, and information about the new process will be forthcoming.

- IV. Semester Activities

- a. Strategic Planning, Master Planning

The Chancellor's Leadership team has been formed under the leadership of Provost Gammon. Senators are encouraged to provide the voice of their departments to give input to the upcoming process. Master Planning: senators are encouraged to give input on possible points of discussion.

b. Budget

Discussion on the email from Chancellor: Enrollment slightly down from last year. We are relying partly on reserves. The position of professional advisor for Mines and Engineering was discussed. Similar position for CLSPS has been planned.

c. Brand Launch

Discussion by chair on the launching of the new brand for Montana Tech.

Discussion Items

V. Activities and priorities for the upcoming year

a. Faculty Satisfaction Survey

The faculty satisfaction survey was successful, with ninety-nine Faculty participating. Staff senate used some of the faculty senate's questions, and we hope to have continued cooperation between faculty and staff senates in the future.

b. Committee Assignments

Committee on committees: Courtney Young will continue lead the effort of streamlining the various committees this semester.

Senate: Senators are invited to suggest what should be the faculty senate's priorities this year. Suggested topic from Chair - To look at quality of instruction in this new hybrid teaching environment.

VI. Other Items

- a. Meetings for Fa20: After looking at senators' availabilities, it has been decided that meetings will be scheduled on alternate Fridays @1-2pm. The plan is to have every other meeting at Highlands College.
- b. Full Faculty Meeting and Faculty Satisfaction Survey: We continue to plan to have one full faculty meeting per semester. The fall meeting will possibly be scheduled during the week of 26th October. We also need to decide on the date of faculty Satisfaction Survey.
- c. Comment from Senator: As there is an unusually long break scheduled this winter, we can think of offering inter-session online classes. We plan to put that as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- d. Question from Senator: Will the commissioner's office hold the university to the same enrollment standards – given the unusual situation due to COVID? Similarly, will there be any effects on the special focus status of Montana Tech?

Next meet (tentatively) two Fridays from this meeting.

Motion to adjourn @1:40pm