Faculty Senate Agenda
12/6/17
1 p.m.– 3:30
Chancellor's Lounge, Mill Building

I.   Welcome and Minutes
        a. Draft Minutes found here: http://www.mtech.edu/about/facultysenate/minutes/index.htm

II.   State of the Montana Tech Library – Scott Juskiewicz, Library Director
III.   Update from the Student Evaluations Sub-Committee – Dr. Glen Southergill, Senator for PTC/Writing

IV.   Recommendation for creating a Teaching Community – SD Risser
V.   Recommendation for creating a Research Mentorship Program – SD Risser
VI.   Other Items

IV. Teaching Circle

The Montana Tech Faculty Senate shall establish a community of practice for pedagogical improvement. In the spring of 2018 the Faculty Senate shall appoint a leadership team to plan the structure, content, and schedule for this community. This team shall utilize evidenced-based best practices in higher education as guidance for this planning. Thereafter, the leadership team shall be appointed annually each April by the Faculty Senate from the full time faculty, with special consideration given to Rose and Anna Busch Award recipients and Teaching Merit Award winners. This community will be open to all Montana Tech faculty beginning fall 2018.

Sample Structure: Weekly lunch meetings, once a month as a whole, and three times a month in smaller groups.

Sample Topics:

- At-risk students and accommodations
- Course planning / time management
- Dishonesty prevention
- Evaluating teaching in vivo
- Formative vs. Summative assessments
- Online / Moodle best practices
- Valid and Reliable assessments

V. Scholars Community

The Montana Tech Faculty Senate shall establish a group mentorship program for fostering interdisciplinary scholarship and increasing successful research. In the spring of 2018 the Faculty Senate shall appoint mentor leaders to plan the structure, content, and schedule for this community. This team shall utilize evidenced-based best practices in higher education as guidance for this planning. Thereafter, these lead mentors shall be appointed annually each April by the Faculty Senate from the full time faculty, with special consideration given to Distinguished Researcher Award recipients and Research Merit Award winners. This mentorship program will be open to all full-time Montana Tech faculty beginning fall 2018.

Sample activities and topics:

- "Cross-pollination" of research groups/individuals (frequent mixing)
- Best practices in mentoring grad students
- Dealing with federal compliance
- Establishing peer-partners for support (peer reviews, check-ins, accountability in deadlines, writing, and progress)
- Five-minute presentations of Research Programs
- Peer-lead Grant education (budgets, applications, finding collaborators)
- Setting up space/labs/lab groups