Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting
Tuesday March 29, 2016
3:30pm, Poore Room (URC)

Senators present:

Glenn Shaw, Scott Rosenthal, Scott Risser, John Getty, Glenn Southergill, Larry Hunter, Sally Bardsley, Sue Schrader, Conor Cote, Vicki Petritz, Michael Webb, Bill Drury, Rick Rossi, Bill Gleason, Gretchen Geller

Guests:

Provost Doug Abbott, Registrar Leslie Dickerson

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting
   a. Motion to approve 2/17 minutes: Scott Rosenthal; Second: Larry Hunter. All in favor.
3. Business by Vice Chancellor Doug Abbott and Leslie Dickerson
   a. Academic Calendar
      i. Doug passed out draft calendars for the next two academic years. The Senate can endorse, or not endorse and suggest a different calendar.
      ii. The Fall/Spring 2016-17 is similar to this year.
      iii. Leslie discussed changes to the Summer 2017 and 2018 calendars. Our current summer semesters are one week short of the required 45 lecture hours. The new draft Summer calendar starts before Memorial Day and goes to August 10th. An alternative considered was moving to a M-F schedule rather than M-TH, but the draft calendar retains the 3 day weekends.
      iv. Rick Rossi suggested extending class periods to give instructors and students more of a break between the end of Summer and the beginning of Fall. Leslie said she would look into this.
   b. Dual majors
      i. Recently Leslie has noticed confusion about the requirements for a dual major and asked the Faculty Senate to review the current language in the catalog to make sure it is accurate.
      ii. The confusion stems from a misunderstanding between a "major" and a "degree". The Senate agreed that a student that double majors should still receive a single bachelor's degree unless one major is a BA and the other a BS (but this case is not applicable at Tech).
      iii. The Senate agreed the requirement for a dual major is fulfilling the course requirements for both majors.
      iv. Regarding the language listed in the catalog that students must complete at least 15 additional upper division credits, the Senate agreed this refers to when a student is coming back to obtain a second degree.
      v. The Senate agreed that if a capstone is required for both majors then both capstones must be completed.
      vi. Sue offered to draft some clarifying language to amend the catalog and send it to the rest of the Senate and Leslie to review.
   c. Board of Regents program planning procedure change

  i. Doug explained that the BOR is changing the process for requesting approval of new academic programs.
    1. Proposed programs must now be added to the Academic Program Planning list within a specific timeframe. After July 31st this list will become locked until the next year. Faculty planning new programs should let Provost Abbott know as soon as possible, so he can make sure your program on this list.
    2. There are two types of requests, Level 1 and Level 2. The BOR will no longer be approving Level 1 (low impact) requests. Instead these will be approved directly by CAO or OCHE. Requests now require completing an Intent to Plan form. The Chief Academic Officers (CAO) must approve Intent to Plan forms before the paperwork necessary for BOR approval can be completed.
    3. The May 2016 meeting will be the last meeting under the old system. Afterwards the timing and paperwork for this process will changes.

4. Grad Committees
  a. Bill asked for clarification on graduate committee participation. Some issues have come up in the PhD program related to faculty with administrative responsibilities serving on the graduate committees. Also other schools participating in the joint PhD program may define participation differently. The Senate discussed the current standards for Graduate Committee participation. Glenn Shaw suggested that if clarification is still needed on this issue it could be brought to the Graduate Council.

5. CRC Business - approvals
  a. The Senate reviewed the course changes/additions that were approved at the last CRC meeting.
  b. Item 1: A set of new courses in Liberal Studies and PTC. Motion to add these courses to the catalog: Scott Risser; Seconded: Glenn Southergill. All in favor.
  c. Bill Gleason mentioned that the Gen Ed Committee is seeking to develop interdisciplinary courses between The School of Mines and the College of Letters and Sciences.
  d. Item 2: Petroleum department changes. Adding new Well Completions course and shifting other courses as necessary. Dropping 1 credit hour for one lab, moving it to a sophomore communications course tied into Senior Design.
  e. New communications course is being developed with feedback from Petroleum's IAB and internal CRC. Still developing syllabus, but the new course will be brought back to CRC for approval once the syllabus is completed.
  f. Motion to approve: Larry Hunter; 2nd: Bill Gleason. All in favor.
  g. Item 3: CS department changes. Create Computational Science Graduate Certificate and Minor in Computational Science. Move to accept; Rick Rossi; 2nd: Vicki Petritz. All in favor.
  h. A question was raised about co-listing courses at both 400 and 500 levels. The PhD program has been informed they cannot do this. Other departments still do this. The Senate may need to seek clarification on this.
  i. Item 4: New HCI 440 (Data Integration and Exchange) course as an option to replace the CSCI 347 (Data Mining) requirement.
  j. Move to approve: Bill; 2nd; Larry. All in favor.

6. Update on FOSS responses

a. The Senate has received 64 responses so far. Sue plans to leave the survey open for one more week. Each senator should encourage department to respond.
7. Other business
    a. MUSFAR Dinner discussion on dual credits
        i. Meeting of faculty senate chairs in the MUS system. Topic of discussion- Dual-credit courses; do they benefit the university and faculty? Lack of quality control. More work on part of faculty who don't end up having a role in teaching the class. Sue will follow up the MUSFAR group about the outcome of the discussion.
8. Next meeting: Wednesday, 4/20
    a. Discuss FOSS results
    b. Update Senate Roster
        i. Before the next meeting Sue will send out a request to update Senate representation for each department. Please update and respond.
    c. New members/officers (If you are rotating off the senate and know who will replace you in your department, please invite them)
    d. Approve graduates
9. Adjourn