

Faculty Senate Minutes

January 25, 2022

Attendees: Charie Faught, Sue Schrader, Angela Lueking, Chris Gammons, Courtney Young, Doug Galarus, Jackie Timmer, Jessica Andriolo, Karen Wesenburg, John Ray, Michelle Hardy, Raja Nagasetty, Rick LaDouceur, Ron White, Ryan Stapley, Shamin Aktar, Tamara Harp, Tim Kober, Linda Granger, Dan Autenreith, Rita Lamiaux, Lonnie Horn.

I. Welcome and Minutes

Charie determined there was a quorum, and called the meeting to order.

Charie Faught requested volunteers to take minutes. Angela Lueking volunteered to take minutes.

John Ray moved to accept minutes; Linda Granger seconded.

Friendly amendment: Courtney requested to reword informational item III on the 4+1 program. Changed to: "...attract current BS students to the graduate school".

Unanimous approval of minutes by voice vote.

Action Items

III. Secretary Nomination

- Responsibilities: Takes minutes; Confer with Chair/Vice; Performs other leadership duties as needed.
- Request for nominations; No nominations received
- Follow-up: Charie will request nominations via e-mail prior to the next meeting. Please consider!
- Leadership position for promotion and tenure

IV. Faculty Satisfaction Survey

- Charie briefly discussed past surveys
 - E.g., Last year: Was conducted jointly with staff senate (3+3)
- Bylaws state survey conducted every Spring
- Starting point: review past surveys, make modifications
- Volunteers to serve on this committee:
 - Sue Schrader
 - Jackie Timmer
- One senator asked about the possibility of permanent third party with admin/Chancellor
 - This led to the "Great Places to Work" survey last year
 - Cost is a concern
 - Small group is still assessing results, and will implement workshops and leadership training; possible policy changes (esp. on-boarding)
- Follow-up: Charie will request additional volunteers for the committee via e-mail.

V. Faculty emeritus, presented by Hilary Risser

- Rick Rossi nominated for Emeritus status
 - Was department head of math
 - PD of stat dept; co-director data science
 - Exceptional leadership as department head; positive and professional
 - Accomplishments for Math and Stats:
 - Increased undergraduate research
 - Shift to modernize department
 - Grow majors and minors
 - Additional comments:
 - CF: Served as resource for young faculty members, offering advice and leadership
- Dan Autenrieth moved to recommend Emeritus Status; Courtney seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
- Next steps: Charie will forward recommendation to administration; will then be sent to BOR.

Information Items

VI. Angela Lueking discussed the new research buyout policy, highlighting major changes from the prior research compensation policy.

- Competitive funding does this include industry? Will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Appeals to the RAC.
- RAC will advise on distinctions between competitive vs. non-competitive
- Direct any additional questions to Angela Lueking (alueking@mtech.edu)

Discussion Items

I. Communication

- Two senators indicated issues with new ap (using; uploading new aps; continued use). This has hindered communication at MT.
 - Is the ap still being supported? Jackie asked who oversees the ap.
 - Leads to: Loss of connectivity, and knowing what's going on.
- Others noted not trying to download ap.
- Communications are being missed (e.g. meeting schedules; closure and use-policies of facilities / coffee shops / cafeteria; room changes)
- One senator asked about UM affiliation, in particular P&T procedures
 - Contract retained language about P&T
 - Angela noted Chancellor is preparing a statement
- Conclusion: Layers of dissatisfaction in communication. Charie will communicate with Chancellor and Provost. Charie will ask questions about any technical difficulties with the ap.
- Request to have Budgeting / CFO follow-up discussion with FS. How will this work, in particular this year. Transparency is desired. Charie will invite to a future meeting.

II. Moodle and other on-line tools

- Background: MUS-FAR discussed single learning management system for system. OCHE mandated.
 - RFPs to be issued; formal process for selection (Charie may serve as a faculty representative to this group)
 - Changes not expected until (likely) AY24
- Discussion:
 - One senator noted PhD courses (with MSU) that D2L system is simpler and easier, with more functionality
 - Feedback from additional constituents will be solicited by the committee
 - Cost questions raised
 - Another senator noted some software is compatible with Moodle (e.g. Penapto, H5P). Request to Charie that compatibility be considered for any new LMS platform.
 - Changes / conversion to new platforms should be coordinated with class schedules (e.g. not during finals week). Transferability from existing systems in use also critical.
 - Summary: A single LMS will be a work in progress, and start with an RFP process.

III. Items of Interest for Alumni Board

- Courtney will present to alumni board
- FYI: Past reports include major events, e.g. departure of Joe McClafferty; new hires; discussion of graduation
- Sections have regional ties (e.g. Utah), and love to hear major events
- Initiatives noted to share:
 - i. Single LMS
- FS encouraged to pass along other major events to Courtney

IV. Update on review of F/S handbook

- Charie Faught noted small group recommendations to changes in the FS handbook, in particular committee structure, are forthcoming (“pretty soon”).

V. Nearing completion on strategic plan.

- Final strategic initiatives will be selected soon.
- Next meeting 1/26/2022
- Anticipate Chancellor announcement and details at next Advancing Tech Forum

VI. Other items, for the good of the order

- In relation to the upcoming Faculty-Staff survey: Deans are on the survey; Department Heads are not. For DHs, contract states mechanism is selected by the DH.
- Next step [for union]: Notify Dean first that evaluations need to be done
- Charie noted: Satisfaction survey is not the same as an evaluation survey

VII. John Ray moved to adjourn; Courtney Young seconded. Meeting adjourned by FS President Charie Faught!

