

# Faculty Senate Minutes

March 22, 2022

In attendance:

Charie Faught (Nursing), Peter Lucon (Mechanical Engineering), Sue Schrader (Petroleum Engineering), Courtney Young (Metallurgical and Materials Engineering), Doug Galarus (Computer Science), Jessica Andriolo (Adjunct Faculty), Karen Wesenburg (Chemistry), Raja Nagasetty (Environmental Engineering), Ron White (Research Faculty – CAMP), Tim Kober (Business), Linda Granger (Business and Industry), Dan Autenreith (Safety, Health and Industrial Hygiene), Rita Lamiaux (Cybersecurity and Network Admin), Chris Roos (Mining Engineering), Matthew Haynes (Writing Program), John Ray (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences), Ryan Stapley (Biological Sciences), Tamara Harp (Health Programs)

I. Welcome and Minutes (1:00 p.m.)

It was determined that there was a quorum and Charie Faught called the meeting to order.

Approvals for February 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Linda Granger moved to accept the minutes; the motion was seconded; there was no discussion; unanimous approval by voice vote

**Action items:**

II. Curriculum Review Committee items from February and March were presented in a separate attachment.

John Ray made a motion to approve the items presented by the CRC; the motion was seconded; there was no discussion; unanimous approval by voice vote

III. Four Part Resolution and

IV. Additional Resolution Regarding Budget Process at Montana Tech

John Ray was asked to present the four-part resolution regarding the budgeting process (included with the agenda). It was stated that the current budget crisis called for a shared governance approach to the budgeting process.

John Ray made a motion to adopt the resolution. Sue Schrader seconded the motion.

Discussion:

It was mentioned that the faculty senate consider requiring senators to have tenure for fear that nontenured members may be scared to voice their concerns.

Peter Lucon stated that the Faculty Senate has been offered a seat at future budget discussions. This position was to be filled by either the President or Vice President of the Faculty Senate. Peter had accepted the position and would be receiving release time from one course.

It was mentioned that Part I of the Four Part Resolution appeared to be modeled for universities without union representation.

The question was asked regarding the goal of this resolution. This question included the projected time frame and the level of detail.

Scott Risser was asked to present the Additional Resolution Regarding Budget Process at Montana Tech. It was mentioned that this resolution was asking for more than a seat on at the budgeting table. This resolution is asking for a specific action plan to address the budget crisis.

The question arose as to the composition of the Budget Committee. Provost Steve Gammon stated the committee consists of himself, the Chancellor, Michele Hardy (Dean), Dan Trudnowski (Dean), Carleen Cassidy (Director of Finance and Budget), Stephen Malott (Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance), Angela Lueking (Vice Chancellor for Research), and Melissa Kump (Director of Institutional Research). It was mentioned that this is a nonvoting committee. The role of this committee is to share information and discuss with the Chancellor making the final decisions.

It was believed the inclusion of a member of the faculty senate on the budget committee did not preclude the resolutions presented to the senate.

It was decided to use a private vote on the resolutions. Specifically, there would be two votes; one vote for the four-part resolution presented by John Ray and a separate vote for the resolution presented by Scott Risser. It was mentioned that all faculty senate members would be eligible to vote (not just members present at this meeting).

Charie Faught agreed to prepare a private vote using a Qualtrics survey for each of the two votes and planned to have this survey available to the senators by the end of this week.

**Information Items:**

- V. There were no informational items presented to the senate

**Discussion Items:**

- VI. Faculty Senate Roster Updates

Charie discussed that many senator's terms were ending in 2022. It is believed that each department may elect senators into 2-3 year terms. Also, there are no term limits under the by-laws making current senators, with expiring terms, eligible to stay in the senate. Charie stated that a full senate roster was necessary for senate leadership elections and will reach out to those senators with terms expiring after this semester.

- VII. UM Affiliation

The question was posed as to what was the significant impact to Tech in regards to the UM affiliation. Steve Gammon stated that Tech was never truly out of its affiliation with UM and was convinced that Tech rules will apply to all decisions regarding Tech and that UM would not be able to apply their standards. He also stated the affiliation would allow for opportunities for collaboration where it would be beneficial.

- VIII. Faculty Satisfaction Survey Team

Charie mentioned that a small subcommittee had been formed including Charie, Sue Schrader, Ryan Stapley, Jackie Timmer, and Peter Lucon. This committee has had one meeting and will also be joining forces with the staff senate in working on a measurement instrument. The committee has not yet developed a draft instrument but it is the thought that the final instrument will be short and sweet and could have a different look than past instruments.

- IX. LMS and Moodle  
Charie stated that the MUS was looking to adopt a single Learning Management System (LMS) for all member schools. The committee has a meeting scheduled today (3/22/2022). The committee is in the request for information stage. The plan is to continue with a request for proposal with the hope that interested faculty members (referred to as super users) would be allowed access to a sand box to test various LMS. Charie asked those interested in volunteering to be sand box users to contact her.
- X. BOR meeting  
Peter Lucon attended the most recent BOR meeting. Items of interest included performance funding. It was also mentioned the Faculty senate reps from all campuses were able to have a breakfast meeting with the BOR. Items of discussion during this meeting included wage concerns related to the cost of living and the potential of faculty members of overwhelmed as they were asked to do more during COVID. Faculty would like some support but they were not sure what this support would look like.
- XI. NWCCU Program Reviews  
Charie Faught and Sue Schrader attended a NWCCU seminar and have been charged with leading the Tech program reviews in the fall. It is believed the program reviews will be aligned with the ABET review next semester.
- XII. Spring All Faculty Meeting  
The spring all faculty meeting has been tentatively set for Tuesday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m. It was thought the meeting would be live and not held via Zoom. Charie will work on a location.
- XIII. Future Meetings- Virtual or Live?  
Charie stated that all remaining senate meetings this semester are scheduled to be virtual. She asked whether the senate would prefer meeting live since the mask mandate has been lifted.  
Limited discussion was in favor of live meetings.  
Charie will send out an email to determine the senate prefers Zoom or live meetings going forward.
- Courtney Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Linda Granger seconded the motion, and President Faught adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Tim Kober, Secretary