

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 29, 2022

In attendance:

Charie Faught (Nursing), Rick LaDouceur (Mechanical Engineering), Dave Reichhardt (Petroleum Engineering), Courtney Young (Metallurgical and Materials Engineering), Doug Galarus (Computer Science), Jessica Andriolo (Adjunct Faculty), John Kirtley (Chemistry), Tim Kober (Business), Dan Autenreith (Safety, Health and Industrial Hygiene), Scott Rosenthal (Mining Engineering), Hilary Riser (Mathematical Science), Chris Gammons (Geological Engineering), Luke Buckley (Research Faculty (MBMG)), Bret Robertson (Civil Engineering), Shamim Akhtar (Electrical Engineering), John Ray (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences), Matthew Haynes (Writing Program), Raja Nagisetty (Environmental Engineering), Gary Wyss (Research Faculty (CAMP))

I. Welcome and Minutes (9:30 a.m.)

It was determined that there was a quorum and Chairperson Charie Faught called the meeting to order. Approvals for September 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

John Ray moved to accept the minutes; Hilary Riser seconded the motion; there was no discussion; unanimous approval by vote

Action items:

II. Faculty for non-union grievance committee

The Committee is looking for one or two people. Chairperson Faught asked if there was any interest among the senators in joining the committee. There was no interest among the senators present at the meeting to join this committee, Chairperson Faught will get more information and send it to the Departments.

Information Items:

III. Budget Report

It was reported that Montana Tech's current Budget (for AY 2022-23) had passed at the BOR meeting last week. A summary version of the budget is available at the BOR website. Chairperson Faught will send out the summary version to all senators after the meeting.

Discussion included whether the budget was based on no increase in enrollment. It appears the budget was based on a 3.2% decline in enrollment. Discussion continued regarding the date that the official enrollment would be known (October 15, 2022). It was stated the enrollment could possibly increase with the addition of Dual Enrollment numbers or enrollment could possibly decrease with student withdrawals.

IV. Chair Report

a. BOR MUSFAR discussion

Chairperson Faught stated the MUSFAR group was able to meet with the BOR at the planned breakfast meeting. While there was no specific agenda, the discussion centered on budgeting and establishing relationships with the State Legislature.

b. Faculty and Staff Satisfaction Survey

Chairperson Faught reported that the survey is not yet ready to be shared but the plan is to make it available for all by the all faculty meeting.

c. All Faculty Meeting

Discussion continued as to the best date for the all faculty meeting and it was decided that Thursday, October 20, 2022 would be the tentative date for the meeting.

d. Faculty Senate Meetings

Chairperson Faught reported that she had received a few responses to her Doodle poll related to senate meetings outside normal working hours. There was some discussion related to the idea of off hour meetings but no action was taken.

Discussion Items:

V. Old Business (from September 8, 2022 meeting)

a. Two Faculty Staff Handbook Resolutions

The two resolutions related to the policy for changing the faculty staff handbook were not addressed at this time as the sponsoring senator was not present.

b. Timecards for Faculty Policy

There was no discussion related to the faculty time card policy.

c. Workload

d. There was no discussion related to the workload.

VI. New Business

a. Faculty Staff Handbook – Workload Appeals

Senator Risser introduced resolution related to workload appeal. She stated the language was taken from the MTF Contract with some minor changes.

Senator Autenrieth made a motion that a recommendation be made to include this language in the Faculty Staff Handbook. Senator Risser seconded the motion.

Discussion included the next step in the process should this motion be passed by the senate and it was thought it would be presented to all faculty at the all faculty meeting for their approval.

A vote was taken and the motion passed.

b. Sabbatical Assignments

The resolution related to adding an additional sabbatical category for faculty members working with graduate students was not addressed at this time as the sponsoring senator was not present.

c. Adjunct Faculty Pay

Senator Buckley introduced the issue of adjunct pay. There was considerable discussion related to the idea that adjunct pay was relatively low and had not changed for at least 15 years. Senator Buckley stated that he would continue to get information from other campuses related to adjunct pay and asked to keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

d. Four Faculty Senate Bylaw Resolutions

Senator Ray introduced the following four resolutions (the complete wording is in the agenda)

1. The faculty senate meet no more than once a month, during regular working hours, if and only if there are action items to consider
2. The faculty senate be removed from having to vote to approve items passing the Curriculum Review Committee
3. The faculty senate shall monitor and participate in appropriate actions to defend academic freedoms and free speech rights of faculty, staff and students
4. Faculty senate meetings should not be cancelled and rescheduled due to the absence of the Chairperson

There was discussion related to the four resolutions.

Senator Risser moved to end the discussion to the first resolution and Senator Young seconded the motion. The motion to end discussion passed. A vote was taken on resolution 1. The resolution did not pass.

Senator Risser moved to end the discussion to the second resolution and Senator Haynes seconded the motion. The motion to end discussion passed. A vote was taken on resolution 2. The resolution did not pass.

Senator Risser moved to end the discussion to the third resolution and Senator Haynes seconded the motion. The motion to end discussion passed. A vote was taken on resolution 3. The resolution did not pass.

Senator Autenrieth moved to end the discussion to the fourth resolution and Senator Risser seconded the motion. The motion to end discussion passed. A vote was taken on resolution 4. The resolution did not pass.

e. Enterprise Risk Management Committee

Currently Vice Chair Rosenthal is a member of this committee. The discussion centered around the question of whether the senate believed a second representative from the faculty would be beneficial. Any additional representative would not be required to be a senator. It was decided we could ask others for interest and no action was taken.

Senator Young introduced his proposal to create a new category of sabbatical. (item VI. b. above). The new category would allow faculty members to receive full pay for a full year sabbatical if the faculty member is doing research with at least one graduate student (complete wording in the agenda). After discussion there was no action taken at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Tim Kober, Secretary