

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 13, 2022

In attendance:

Charie Faught (Nursing), Dave Reichhardt (Petroleum Engineering), Courtney Young (Metallurgical and Materials Engineering), Grant Wallace (Adjunct Faculty), John Kirtley (Chemistry), Tim Kober (Business), Hilary Riser (Mathematical Science), Chris Gammons (Geological Engineering), Luke Buckley (Research Faculty (MBMG)), Shamim Akhtar (Electrical Engineering), Scott Risser (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences), Ryan Stapley (Biological Sciences), Lonnie Horn (Trades),

Welcome (9:34 a.m.)

It was determined that there were not enough senators present at the start of the meeting to constitute a quorum. Chairperson Charie Faught opened the meeting with the New Business item from the Discussion Items.

Discussion Items

- V. New Business
 - a. Online Course Development Policy Pilot

Katherine Fitzgerald-McCormick introduced a draft of the *Online Faculty Survival Guide*. The purpose of the guide is to allow Tech to offer quality online education. It was stated that there are accreditation requirements with online education at the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) level.

The guide will affect new online course initiated by a faculty member (existing online courses and online courses initiated by a Dean or Dual Credit will be exempt from the requirements under the guide). The proposed process for new online courses will include three steps: 1) requesting a course, 2) reviewing a course, and 3) designing a course (not to include content).

It is hoped the guide will be completed in its final form this year and faculty input is desired. It was also stated that Katherine's budget possibly includes funding to pay for faculty members interested in becoming a Quality Matters (QM) peer reviewer.

Informational Items

- III. Chair Report
 - a. Faculty and Staff Satisfaction Survey

The results of the faculty survey have been summarized. Chair Faught and Vice-Chair Rosenthal met with the Chancellor last week to discuss the results. The planned next step is to meet with the leadership team to share the results.

b. All Faculty Meetings

An email has been sent to all faculty members reminding them of the scheduled all faculty meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20 starting at 3 p.m. Currently, the only action item is related to added workload appeal language to the Faculty Staff Handbook. A reminder was given that the faculty must be given 48 hours notice if any faculty member would like to add an additional action item.

c. Confidence and Recovery Plan Kick Off Meeting

The Confidence and Recovery Plan team had a kick-off meeting. The committee is in the process of identifying the real issues present and then planning to provide recommendations to those identified issues.

d. Provost Search

The provost search is getting underway and the committee will be co-chaired by Dean Hardy and Dean Lee. The Faculty Senate is scheduled to have a representative on the committee.

e. Faculty Staff Handbook

It was reported that a small group has been reviewing the current Faculty Staff Handbook for the purpose of updating and making other changes to the document. All proposed changes are being split into one of three categories:

1. Items that have been previously approved but not yet published in the handbook
2. Items to bring to Faculty Senate for their approval
3. Informational items outside of the Faculty Senate

Discussion Items

I. Old Business (from 9/29 meeting)

a. Sabbatical Assignments

Senator Young did not have any additional information to report at this time. There was discussion regarding the proposal as previously presented but no action was taken.

b. Adjunct Faculty Pay- see below

Senator Buckley stated that both the University of Montana and Montana State University operate under a similar approach toward their adjuncts. Both schools have a pay schedule in their Collective Bargaining Agreement (a floor) that they consider to be the minimum amount that can be paid to an adjunct. Both schools are able to negotiate above this floor. Senator Buckley was still waiting to hear from the smaller schools in

the Montana University System and stated that he is planning to present a proposal related to adjunct pay at the next faculty senate meeting.

c. Enterprise Risk Management Committee

There was no discussion or action on this item as Vice Chair Rosenthal was unable to be present at the meeting.

Action Items

It was determined that the senate had reached a quorum and that the action items on the agenda could be addressed.

Approval of minutes from the September 29, 2022 Meeting:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved by vote.

II. CRC Items

There was discussion on the CRC item related to the creation of a Foundations of Healthcare Certificate, specifically with the creation of the course NRS 291 Introduction to Health Careers. The question arose as to whether a program may propose a course that is actually listed under a different program. It was thought that an alternative course was potentially being considered to replace the NRS 291 course in the certificate. It was stated that some senators would rather wait for a final version of this proposal that included the potential replacement for the NRS 291 course.

A motion was made to accept all of the CRC items other than the NRS 291 Introduction to Health Careers course. The motion was seconded. After minimal discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Tim Kober, Secretary