

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 3, 2023

In attendance:

Charie Faught (Nursing), Courtney Young (Metallurgical and Materials Engineering), Jessica Andriolo (Adjunct Faculty), John Kirtley (Chemistry), Tim Kober (Business), Hilary Risser (Mathematical Science), Chris Gammons (Geological Engineering), Matt Egloff (Civil Engineering), Rick LaDouceur, (Mechanical Engineering), Doug Galarus (Computer Science), Linda Granger (Business and Industry), Dan Autenrieth (Safety, Health and Industrial Hygiene), Jason Herndon (Trades), John Ray (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences), Chris Roos (Mining Engineering), Luke Buckley (Research Faculty (MBMG))

Welcome (12:03 p.m.)

It was determined that there were enough senators present at the start of the meeting to constitute a quorum.

Chairperson Charie Faught opened the meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes from the December 1, 2022 meeting. This motion was seconded and passed without discussion.

Action Items:

- I. There were no action items presented to the Senate at this time.

Informational Items:

- II. Course Modality (Heather Skocilich – Registrar)
Information was provided by Ms. Skocilich related to the scheduling of courses beginning with the Fall 2023 schedule. A column will be added to the schedule submitted by Department Heads related to course modality. Courses will be identified as; (1) face to face; (2) Online; or (3) Hy Flex
- III. Chair/Vice Chair Reports
 - a. Adjunct pay: Chair Faught reported that she had reached out to Ron Muffick (Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance) with regards to the costs associated with various proposals for changing adjunct pay. Mr. Muffick was willing to meet to discuss but no meeting has been set up at this time.
 - b. Updated website: Chair Faught reported the Faculty Senate website has been updated and information related to past meetings has been posted to this site. It will be the role of the Senate Secretary to get information related to future meeting to this website.

- c. Provost Search: Senator LaDouceur reported that the search committee was currently reviewing applications with the plan to start on campus interviews by March 20.
- d. Future Searches: There was no discussion related to future items.

Vice Chair report:

Vice Chair Rosenthal was unable to make the meeting but passed along information related to a budget meeting that was presented to the Senate by Chair Faught. Included in the summary was the statement that Possibilities Funding was scheduled to end next academic year. Additionally, if faculty raises were to increase by the 4% proposed by the Governor for state employees, the state would fund 40% of this increase leaving the school to fund the remaining 60% of the raise.

Discussion Items

IV. Old Business (from previous meetings)

a. Adjunct Faculty Pay (from 9/28/22 meeting)

Chair Faught again stated that there was a plan to formally meet with Vice Chancellor Muffick to discuss the financial implications of changes to the current adjunct pay model. Senators Andriolo and Buckey agreed to be a part of this meeting.

b. Changes to the Faculty Staff Handbook (from 12/01/22 meeting)

A formal presentation was made to amend the FSH related to the Safety and Health Committee (specific information was included with the agenda). The proposal included changing the title from Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Research to Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Also, the proposal included a change in the citation of the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) to 24.30.2542.

A motion was made to accept the proposal as presented. The motion was seconded. Discussion included whether this applied to labs. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

V. New Business

a. Commencement input

The current plan for the spring 2023 commencement is to hold it inside the HPER with the possibility of moving it outside, weather permitting.

Heather Skocilich, Registrar, asked for input regarding two options should the event be held indoors. The first was to hold one ceremony and limit each

graduate to four guests. The second option was to hold two ceremonies, one for each college, with unlimited guests for each graduate.

b. Non-compliance BOR 705.3 course evaluations-see below

Senator Egloff presented a number of perceived issues with the student evaluation process (included in the agenda). Discussion included the student evaluation approach where students are required to complete evaluations prior to receiving their final grades. It was stated that the Senate had previously attempted to shorten the evaluation instrument. It was also stated that the current process is not in compliance with BOR policy. It was asked if an individual from the I.T. Department attend a Senate meeting to describe the process.

A motion was made to form a committee to review the evaluation process. The motion was seconded.

The question of the scope of the committee came up during discussion and a motion was made to amend the original motion. The amendment called for the formation of two committees: one committee to address the questions on the evaluation form and a second committee to review the evaluation process and determine if and how to bring it into BOR compliance. The motion to amend the original motion was seconded. A vote on the amendment was taken and passed.

A vote was taken on the original motion, as amended to include two committees. The vote on this motion failed.

A new motion was made to bring individuals to the Senate, considered to be experts, to provide information on the evaluation process. This motion was seconded. After minimal discussion this motion passed.

A motion was made to adjourn.

c. Filling administrative roles

The meeting was adjourned before this was addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Tim Kober, Secretary