

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 17, 2023

In attendance:

Charie Faught (Nursing), Jessica Andriolo (Adjunct Faculty), John Kirtley (Chemistry), Tim Kober (Business), Chris Gammons (Geological Engineering), Matt Egloff (Civil Engineering), Rick LaDouceur, (Mechanical Engineering), Doug Galarus (Computer Science), Dan Autenrieth (Safety, Health and Industrial Hygiene), Jason Herndon (Trades), John Ray (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences), Scott Rosenthal (Mining Engineering), Luke Buckley (Research Faculty (MBMG)), Gary Wyss (Research Faculty (CAMP)), Raja Nagisetty (Environmental Engineering), Bryce Hill (Electrical Engineering)

Welcome (12:01 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 February 3, 2023 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. Chair/Vice Chair Reports
 - a. Future Searches- Vice Provost for Student Success

It was reported that Dawn Atkinson and Julie would be chairing this committee. The question was posed whether the Senate would like representation on the committee.

A motion was made to request that a member of Faculty Senate be a part of the Vice Provost for Student Success search committee. The motion was seconded and passed without discussion.

Senator LaDouceur volunteered to represent the senate on this search committee which was turned into a motion to nominate.

There was a motion to close nominations which was seconded and passed without discussion.

The motion to elect Senator LaDouceur was seconded and passed with no discussion.

Discussion Items

III. Old Business (from previous meetings)

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

Chair Faught reported that she has been unable to set up a formal meeting with Ron Muffick, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance regarding the projected costs of changes to adjunct pay. She will continue in her efforts to set up a meeting with the Vice Chancellor.

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

Jennifer Simon, (CIO and Director of Information Technology), was present to explain the evaluation process. Items included:

- The current process dates back to the 2004 provost
- The opt-in process for on-line evaluations was connected with the Banner system
- Enrollment services prepared the packets for in-class student evaluations
- Administrative assistants were responsible for scanning the in-class evaluations and also copying/inputting the students' comments from the evaluations
- Jennifer believed the majority (60%) of in-class evaluations had some type of "issue." She believed the on-line evaluations did not have issues.

A motion was made to form one committee to investigate the evaluation process. The motion was seconded.

Discussion included the role of the Senate as evaluations were a provost decision. It was thought the Senate should be careful as Senate input may be perceived as a conflict of interest. It was thought that the Senate, and students, would have input on the questions used in the evaluation and Administration would make decisions related to whether evaluations should be on-line or written.

The vote was taken and the motion passed as presented.

Senators Egloff and Rosenthal expressed interest in joining this committee. Chair Faught will reach out to the Deans to look for other interested faculty. Additionally, AMST will be contacted to seek students interested in this committee.

c. Filling administrative roles- see below

Discussion centered around whether the University of Montana could take over a number of Tech's administrative responsibilities thus eliminating the need for some specific administrative type positions on the Tech campus.

There was additional discussion related to enrollment numbers and whether the Senate should postpone and continue this discussion after enrollment numbers are known.

A motion was made to invite a member of administration to a Faculty Senate meeting for the purpose of discussing the need and purpose of the various administrative positions. The motion was seconded and passed without discussion.

d. Request to Administration- see below

Senator Ray briefly presented the questions included in this request (included with the agenda) and stated that the questions should be addressed by the administrator meeting with the Senate as a part of the previous motion (Discussion Items: III. c.)

IV. New Business-

a. Issue with parking on campus- see below

Discussion included the following items:

- The topic of parking had been discussed at this week's AMST meeting
- A "parking enforcer" had only been available to work the night shift due to staffing problems but there will be an individual back for the day shift next week
- Money received from parking tickets goes to added security cameras
- There have been approximately 700 total tickets issued this academic year

There was no action taken, this item will appear on the next agenda.

b. Change to Faculty Staff Handbook under Chancellor's Duties- see below

There was no discussion related to this item.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Tim Kober, Secretary