

Faculty Senate Minutes

March 31, 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), John Ray (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences), Scott Rosenthal (Mining Engineering), Gary Wyss (Research Faculty (CAMP)), Bryce Hill (Electrical Engineering), Courtney Young (Metallurgical and Materials Engineering), David Reichardt (Petroleum Engineering), Linda Granger (Business and Industry), Atish Mitra (Mathematical Science), Matthew Haynes (Writing Program)

Welcome (12:00 p.m.)

Chairperson Charie Faught opened the meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes from the March 10, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed without discussion.

Informational Items:

I. Tara Policy, Effective Fall 2023 (attached in agenda)

Angela Lueking, VC for Research & Graduate Studies, addressed the Senate regarding the changes in the policy. Items presented included:

- Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) and Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA) must be treated equivalently and may not have separate policies
- For state budget purposes, GTA tuition waivers are considered to be both a revenue and an expense
- There will be no change to the GRA tuition waivers
- There will be a slight change in the buyout process to clarify the process

Discussion included whether the amount paid to a GTA for a class (\$4,000) was enough

II. Chair/Vice Chair Reports

- a. All Faculty Meeting Scheduling- potential dates in the afternoon- Friday April 14, Tuesday April 18, Wednesday April 19, Wednesday April 26, Thursday April 27, Friday April 28

It was stated that an all faculty meeting would be required as there would be at least one item that would require a vote (that being the change in the bylaws for the safety committee).

The potential dates listed were discussed. It was mentioned that Techxpo was scheduled for April 27 and the SPE Spring Symposium was scheduled for April 14. It was determined that Friday, April 28 would be the best date for the all faculty meeting. The time and location of the meeting will be announced at a later date.

b. Updating Senate Roster/Future Elections

It was reported that all but two positions expiring at the end of this academic year (Biology and Adjunct Faculty) will have Senators in place for the new academic year. A motion was made to hold Senate officer elections at the April 28 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without discussion.

Discussion Items:

III. Old Business (from previous meetings)

a. Adjunct Faculty Pay (from 9/28/22 meeting)- attached with agenda

Chair Faught started the discussion stating that the administration has stated that adjunct pay will not be raised at this time under the current budget constraints.

After discussion, a motion was made to raise adjunct pay to \$3,000 per credit. The motion was seconded. Discussion included the approach used at the University of Montana; adjunct pay with a minimum floor but with the ability of individual departments to negotiate a higher amount. Individual senators discussed the possibility of bring this approach to the Senate as a motion in a future meeting.

A motion was made to table the motion to increase the adjunct pay to \$3,00 per credit. This motion was seconded and passed without discussion with one nay vote.

b. Confidence and Professionalism Recovery Plan Recommendations- (attached in agenda)

It was reported that the Staff Senate unanimously approved the recommendations as presented previously to the Faculty Senate. Chair Faught stated she had met with the Chancellor and the Chancellor was willing to work toward improvement.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations. The motion was seconded and passed after minimal discussion.

c. Update Information on Student Evaluations- (attached with agenda)

Senator Egloff stated he sent out articles related to the student evaluation process to the senators. Discussion included:

- Error rates in existing paper forms as stated by Jennifer Simon in a previous Faculty Senate meeting
- Consideration to the potential of revising the current form
- The possibility of proceeding with a sub committee
 - Senators Egloff, Rosenthal, and Haynes agreed to serve on this subcommittee. Senator Young also nominated Professor Mario Caccia to serve on this committee.

It was mentioned that the subcommittee continue to seek input from the ASMT.

Provost Gammon stated the University of Montana has hired an external party to help them review their student evaluation process and it may be possible to gain input from them.

IV. New Business-

a. Library Concerns

Scott Juskiewicz, Library Director, presented information, designed to be informational, stating the current library budget and staffing was not sufficient to sustain needed quality. Items made in this presentation included:

- Decisions related to the library have been made without library input including the decision to remove 26 computer stations
- The library staff currently has 4.5 FTE positions, including Scott, which has resulted in a cut back in the hours which the library is open to students
- The library needs a minimum of \$140,000 to keep up with its base subscription costs. This amount will increase each year by 5-7%. The total budget for books and journals this year was \$184,000 with approximately \$154,000 going to the University of Montana.
- There are a number of journals on the edge of cancellation, some of which are necessary for department accreditation
- Comparable budget and personnel information was presented from peer institutions designed to support the argument that the Montana Tech library is both underfunded and understaffed

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.

The next meeting of the Senate will occur on Friday, April

Items on the Agenda that were not addressed at this meeting:

- a. Filling administrative roles- see below

- b. Change to Faculty Staff Handbook under Chancellor's Duties- see below
- c. Research Roles Committee, Agenda Item for Faculty Senate- see below

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Tim Kober, Secretary