

Faculty Senate Minutes

12/1/23

1-2 p.m.

ELC 202

Senators in attendance: S. Risser, D. Autenrieth, M. Egloff, C. Gammons, S. Rosenthal, A. Traut, R. LaDouceur, G. Wallace, C. Young, L. Granger, D. Galarus, L. Buckley, D. Reichhardt, J. Herndon, B. Hill, A. Mitra

- I. Welcome and minutes – The agenda was presented without objectives. A motion was made to approve the two prior meeting minutes. Those motions were seconded and passed without discussion.

**Action Items**

- II. Proposal from the Employee Relations and Confidence Committee (formerly the Confidence and Professionalism Recovery Task Force) to amend the Faculty/Staff Handbook Appendix was discussed. This was an attempt to make the committee permanent and define ongoing responsibilities. A motion was made to propose the appendix be added for the FSH at the next full faculty meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without further discussion.

**Informational Items**

- III. Update from the Student/Course Evaluations Subcommittee was discussed.

**Discussion Items**

- IV. Proposal to restore e-mail privileges (all\_faculty, all\_staff) to department heads and administrative associates was discussed.
- V. Request that all faculty be provided with complete ABET reports for 2016, 2019, and 2022, including the preliminary results and documentation of how deficiencies, weakness, and concerns were addressed before final results was discussed.
- VI. Request that faculty be provided with all FE exam reports dating back to 2016 was discussed.
- VII. For the Good of the Order – There was a news story about a Montana Tech researcher being discredited by the EPA. No motion was brought forth. – An accreditation update was also provided.
- VIII. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 1:53PM



Faculty Senate Minutes

10/10/2023

4-5 pm

SUB 113 AB

Senators in attendance: S. Risser, D. Autenrieth, J. Kirtley, S. Rosenthal, R. LaDouceur, G. Wallace, C. Gammons, D. Galarus, M. Egloff, C. Faught, A. Traut, L. Granger, D. Reichhardt, J. Herndon

- I. Review of 9/29/23 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion was approved without discussion.
  - a. Aaron Frale, Director of Career Services introduced himself and asked about Monday as a possibility for the spring career fair. Nearly 200 employers responded to a survey indicating Monday would work. A comment was made that many restaurants are closed on Monday. It appears the spring career fair would be fairly large and HPER would be available for interviews on Tuesday. Employers were turned away from the fall career fair due to HPER space, additional overflow space is being planned to avoid turning away employers in future career fairs. It was considered to divide employers by discipline, but one large career fair was approved.

**Action Items**

- IX. CRC Recommendation to realign the courses of the Civil Engineering Technology AAS with the Construction Management BS was discussed. The proposed changes allow students who finish the AAS to transfer to the new BS in Construction Management and finish both degrees in four years. A question was asked about enrollment. Around 6 students are enrolled in the AAS at the moment. A question was asked as to whether students who already completed the AAS can also transfer and finish in 2 more years. It depends on when they graduated. A motion was made and seconded to accept the CRC recommendation, and the motion then passed without further discussion.

**Informational Items**

- X. IT – Cloud Migration update was discussed. Jennifer Simon provided an informational update on the Banner cloud project. She expects no change for faculty as long as they login through MyMTech directly. Faculty who have old links saved will need to update them. The go-live date is spring break on March 18<sup>th</sup> with summer targeted as a backup. Everything should look the same for faculty users.

A few housekeeping items were brought forward by Jennifer Simon. 1) If you see projectors left on, please turn them off to save bulbs/money. 2) It is cybersecurity awareness month, so please complete your training. 3) If moving offices, please contact IT for computing, networking issues and to update the 911 database.
- XI. Full Faculty Meeting – Tentative October 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm was discussed. Why was the date chosen? To coincide with the Chancellor's celebration on 10/25. Planned/possible discussion items for this meeting include:
  - a. Revision of Merit in Faculty Staff Handbook is expected to be a topic of interest. A request was made to bring forward any alternate proposals prior to the full faculty meeting so we can present them.
  - b. Enrollment Fall 23 Deep Dive
  - c. Transition of Learning Management System, Moodle to Canvas

- XII. Learning Management System (Moodle/Canvas) was discussed.
- a. Request to make classes hidden or unavailable to students before the semester starts as a default was discussed. When classes first become available in MyMTech they default to visible to students, and is it possible to default courses to be hidden? Yes, we've done that before, but some instructors didn't unhide the course, which frustrated students. A question was asked, can you hide/unhide entire course as well as individual items? Yes, you can. A question was asked, does course start date do anything, or could it? That is up to Open LMS and we can't change that.
  - b. Request for timely notifications of updates and major changes (e.g. Summer 23 update) was discussed. Could the latest Moodle update have come with training, education, warning, etc., to allow faculty to adjust? The transition did not go the way IT would have liked, they had limited lead time from the Open LMS people. However, there should be plenty of warning and training for the transition to Canvas. A question was asked, where do updates about major LMS changes come from? The Center for Academic Innovation or both them and IT. A question was asked, when we switch to Canvas, will we be able to backup and retain our old classes? It seems we should be able to but it is unclear. There should be a process to convert Moodle classes to Canvas courses. Some faculty with experience with Canvas stated that old classes remain accessible and that it is easy to copy old classes, and it is more user friendly in general.
- XIII. Request that future semester begin no earlier than five business days after the contract start date was discussed. The current school year started only three business days after the contract start date which left inadequate time for some faculty to prepare for their classes. Next year the start date is the 26<sup>th</sup>, so there is more than 5 days after contract starts. There are also a minimum number of instructional days required and administrative considerations to think about when scheduling the start and stopping of semesters. Dean's Council and the Provost are consulted, not faculty. In the past, faculty were consulted. A motion was made that faculty senate be consulted for future academic calendars. This motion was seconded and passed without further discussion.
- XIV. Request that "MT Tech provide faculty senate and faculty with all ABET reports for 2016, 2019, and 2022, and FE & PE exam reports for 2015-present. This would be for ALL MT Tech ABET degrees and ALL MT Tech FE and PE result reports." was discussed. The request is proposed because the information can be used for continuous improvement and this information is not being shared currently. A motion was made that FE results be provided to Department Heads. The motion was seconded and passed without further discussion.
- A question was asked as to what happens to the ABET request? That part of the request dies on the floor.
- XV. For the Good of the Order - no new issues were raised
- XVI. A motion was made to adjourn, that motion was seconded and Senate adjourned at 5:00 PM

## II. Mansfield Library-UM Cancellations That Will Affect Campus

**From:** Juskiewicz, Scott <Sjuskiewicz@mtech.edu>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2023 3:42 PM

**To:** All Faculty <all\_fac\_users@mtech.edu>; All Staff <all\_users@mtech.edu>; All Bureau (MBMG) <MBMG@mtech.edu>

**Subject:** Mansfield Library-UM Cancellations That Will Affect Campus

Hello All,

Below you will find a memo from the Mansfield Library-UM about database/journal package cancellations that will affect MT Tech and the other affiliates of UM-Missoula.

The Mansfield Library and its affiliates have been struggling to pay for library subscriptions for a number of years. The reasons for these struggles are due to inadequate library budgets, increases in base costs for library resources coupled with yearly price increases of 5-7% and continued untenable budget reductions.

Please know these decisions are not done in haste or without considering how the loss of library resources will impact teaching, learning and research on all campuses.

As we move forward the MT Tech Library will be conversing with vendors to investigate the possibility of purchasing these extremely expensive databases/journal packages on our own.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Scott

### **Fall 2023 Proposed Adjustments to Library Collections**

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library is currently facing a budgetary challenge, with a funding gap of \$325,000 for library collections, in the current fiscal year. To address this gap, we have carefully reviewed collections and subscriptions and must soon make some hard decisions and adjustments to ensure the sustainability of library services.

**Effective January 2024, we regrettably need to cancel three large e-journal packages: Elsevier ScienceDirect, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley.** We have worked with the package publishers for many years to reduce costs and downsize collection holdings to better fit the library budget. Despite these efforts, the continually increasing costs of these packages have made them unsustainable given our reduced budget. It has now become necessary to cut these packages to meet the latest budget challenges.

As we transition away from these three package subscriptions, we are committed to maintaining current and back file access to the most essential journal titles. We will be switching to individual journal subscriptions from each package for the most heavily used titles, those with 350 or more average annual uses. Below you will find complete title lists of journals currently available through the three packages, as well as those planned for cancellation, and those planned for individual subscription. Thank you for your understanding and continued engagement in ensuring that our library remains a valuable resource for the university community.

Title Lists

- [Complete A-Z List of Titles in Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley Packages\\*](#)

Use the links below to narrow the list to a specific publisher.

- [Ejournal subscriptions that will be added for 2024 from cancelled packages](#)

Journals that received over 350 uses per year averaged over the past 3.5 years. Access to these titles will continue for 2024.

- [Elsevier ScienceDirect A-Z List](#)

Contains over 1,800 titles. Post-cancellation access: The library will offer access to pre-1995 content for a large number of titles due to previous investments in online backfile collections. Perpetual access to content published 1995 through 2023 will be limited to a couple hundred titles, date ranges will vary. The library will continue subscribing to the ScienceDirect Book Series package.

- [Taylor & Francis A-Z List](#)

Contains over 2,100 titles. Post-cancellation access: The library will offer pre-1997 access to a large number of titles due to previous investments in online backfile collections. Perpetual access to content published 1997 through 2023 will be limited to a couple hundred titles, date ranges will vary.

- [Wiley A-Z List](#)

Contains over 1,300 titles. Post-cancellation access: Content published from 2017 through 2023 will remain available for most titles. Access to earlier content published 1996 to 2016 will be more limited (to approx. 300 titles).

\*Title lists include subject and subscription cost information supplied by the [Ulrich's Periodicals Directory](#) if available. This gives you some idea of what it costs to individually subscribe to journals. Package deals, like the ones we are cancelling, allow institutions to license significantly more titles at a greatly discounted cost.