Faculty Senate Minutes
10/7/2024
3-4 p.m.
Mill 201

Senators in attendance: S. Risser, D. Autenrieth. S. Rosenthal, L. Granger, C. Faught, G. Southergill, A. Mitra, D. Galarus, L. Buckley, M. Egloff, S. Perduss, J. Herndon, R. Nagisetty, S. Juskiewicz, B. Pramanik, C. Young, G. Wyss, J. Kirtley

I.   The meeting was called to order and the minutes were discussed. A motion was made to approve the minutes. That motion was seconded and passed without further discussion.

Action Items

II.   CRC Recommendations were not discussed.

III.   Emeritus Application for Steve Tarrant was discussed. A motion was made to recommend Steve for emeritus. That motion was seconded and passed.

IV.   Review of Published Materials to Assure Institutional Integrity (Policy Review) was discussed. The policy was revised per discussion at the previous Faculty Senate meeting. A motion was made to recommend the policy as revised. That motion was seconded and passed without further discussion.

Informational Items

V.   Committee Updates were provided and discussed.
   a. Budget
   b. Safety
   c. The Chancellor search has been published. It can be found at the following link:
      https://www.mtech.edu/chancellor-search/

Discussion Items

VI.   The prior request for administration to provide an update to faculty senate on all accreditation activities was addressed. The accreditation update was discussed.

VII.   The full faculty meeting for fall semester was discussed.

VIII.   For the Good of the Order - no new items were discussed

The meeting adjourned at 3:37PM

Call for Academic Year 2022-23 URP/PHI ProposalsGoal 1: Student Success (Strategic Plan)

- Continue to develop and refine a strong strategic enrollment plan
- Create an immersive orientation and first-year experience program
- Build a comprehensive advising structure
- Develop a comprehensive support network for mental health and wellness
- Enrich and expand student employment opportunities
- Enrich opportunities for students to engage in co-curricular programming and community engagement
- Develop more focused support for at-risk students and underserved student populations
- Provide a high-quality and healthy dining experience

Goal 1: Student Success (Accreditation Report)

Objective 1: Utilize case management systems to centralize data to support success and retention.
a) Expand Navigate360 use by faculty and staff
b) Invest in non-clinical case resources to be housed within the Academic Center for Excellence
c) Expand student participation in Mantra Health

Objective 2: Expand programs and resources to close equity gaps, increase access, and remove barriers to success.
a) Complement the Lance Scholars Program with additional scholarship opportunities
b) Grow the Kasperick Emergency Fund to provide emergency/finishing scholarships.
c) Expand the Associated Students of Montana Tech (ASMT) Food Pantry
d) Create and expand the summer bridge program in math and writing for underprepared students

Objective 3: Invest in cocurricular opportunities to create a holistic student experience.
a) Increase student wellness programming and initiatives
b) Launch a training series for student club/organization advisors focused on support strategies

Objective 4: Invest in professional development opportunities that support academic programming
a) Deliver a regular schedule of professional development in instruction to include multiple modalities
b) Create a formal program to train faculty in best practices advising strategies.

Objective 5: Enhance the sense of belonging for the campus community.
a) Provide an immersive, five-day orientation experience for new students that emphasizes academic and personal resources.
b) Organize a centralized check-in and move-in processes to all new students that involves student orientation leaders, volunteers from the campus and Butte community, and faculty/staff.
c) Create a physical space to serve as the foundation for future "inclusive excellence" resources.
d) Create a new position focused on student outreach and belonging.
e) Renovate/improve the designated veteran lounge spaces

Goal 2: Programs of Distinction (Strategic Plan)

- Strengthen multi-disciplinary approaches across all academic programs (including increased collaboration between departments, curriculum, teaching, service & research)
- Establish a progressive and service-oriented Center for Academic Innovation to support faculty instruction
- Expand partnerships between academic departments and industry to create endowed chairs, fund new programs (e.g., Black Butte Mines), named centers/institutes, and provide students transformative learning opportunities
- Advance clusters of distinction and thematic synergies in academic areas- energy, technology, health, natural resources, workforce, etc.
- Create stackable credential opportunities from certificate through graduate level
- Develop and implement initiatives that foster belonging and support for diverse populations

Goal 2 Programs of Distinction (Accreditation Report)

Objective 1: Increase the number of opportunities in experiential learning
a) Percentage of seniors experiencing two or more HIP to exceed the NSSE average
b) Increase the number of faculty engaged in research projects that engage students

Objective 2: Ensure sustained faculty excellence
a) Faculty will meet or exceed departmental standards in instruction, research and scholarship/professional development, and service
b) Increase faculty engagement in professional development opportunities

Objective 3: Expand mentoring opportunities for students
a) Expand and formalize peer mentoring programs
b) Increase the number of opportunities for students to engage in mentoring processes through teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and engagement in supplemental instruction.
c) Sustain and expand student success workshops for underprepared students
d) Increase the percentage of senior experiences with faculty as defined by NSSE

Objective 4: Increase the number of community, government, and industry partnerships
a) Increase the number of external partnerships in research, educational and/or workforce development at the 4-year and 2-year campuses
b) Increase the number of sustainable industry partners engaged with Career Services

Goal 3: Healthy and Vibrant Campus Ecosystem (Strategic Plan)
- Create, encourage and support opportunities to build campus community
- Develop a comprehensive professional development program
- Regularly assess, evaluate and improve the campus work environment
- Promote an environment that supports equity, inclusion, and belonging through collaboration, mutual respect and openness, and understanding of others
- Develop a robust onboarding and orientation process for all employees, including faculty, staff, and students
- Ensure policies and procedures are in place that promotes a university-wide culture of safety, efficiency, and responsiveness
- Adopt a comprehensive campus master plan that supports the academic, research, and student learning needs of the campus
- Provide exceptional facilities that support education, research, and innovation
- Leverage technology to modernize all business processes as well as education delivery

Goal 3 Healthy and Vibrant Campus Ecosystem (Accreditation Report)

Objective 1: Regularly assess, evaluate, and improve the campus work environment
a) Decrease the staff turnover rate
b) Decrease the faculty turnover rate
c) Increase participation in employee satisfaction surveys

Objective 2: Develop comprehensive professional development opportunities for staff
a) Offer professional development programing to all staff
b) Provide additional opportunities for staff to be recognized for excellence

Objective 3: Develop a robust onboarding and orientation process for all faculty and staff
a) Increase utilization of recently created onboarding checklists
b) Implement cross-training procedures for key roles
c) Develop a comprehensive policy index to ensure all employees have easy access to current policies and procedures

Objective 4: Adopt comprehensive facilities operations and building plan
a) Implement strategic campus facilities plan for utilization of LRBP funds for Main Hall and Engineering Hall

July 12, 2024

Dr. Les Cook
Chancellor
Montana Technological University
1300 West Park Street
Butte, MT 59701-8997

Dear Chancellor Cook:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 18-21, 2024, concerning the Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Montana Technological University.

Accreditation
> Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation
- Finding Type 1: Spring 2023 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

Commendations
The Commission commends Montana Technological University for:
1. Their deliberately distinctive special focus in science, engineering and technology while honoring the broad purpose of benefiting humanity and meeting workforce needs.
2. Its student services dedication to a collaborative spirit of serving students by listening and responding to student needs.
3. Its collaborative culture and dedication to finding creative ways to offer strong programs and support systems at Highlands Campus.
4. Their commitment to experiential learning which leads to highly employable graduates and engaged alumni.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement
The Commission recommends that Montana Technological University:
- Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Set and articulate meaningful goals, objectives, and indicators of its goals to define mission fulfillment. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.2)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Implement a systematic evaluation and planning process to inform and refine its effectiveness and assign resources. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1;1.B.3)
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Implement an effective system of assessment to evaluate the quality of learning in all programs. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5)
- Recommendation 4: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Demonstrate the use of assessment results to inform academic planning and practices to continuously improve student learning outcomes in all programs. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.7)
- Recommendation 5: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Make available disaggregated student achievement data and document how the institution uses these data to inform, implement, and develop strategies and allocate resources. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.4)
- Recommendation 6: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Complete and adopt policies and procedures for reviewing published materials to ensure accuracy and integrity in all representations about its mission, programs, and services. (2020 Standard(s) 2.D.1)

Future Evaluations
- Ad Hoc Report Spring 2025
    - Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
    - Recommendation 6: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Spring 2026
    - Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
    - Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
    - Recommendation 5: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2027
    - Recommendation 4: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2030
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2031

NWCCU is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your staff liaison, Dr. Ed Harri, at eharri@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,

Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Dr. Michele Hardy, Interim Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor
        Mr. Clayton Christians, Commissioner of Higher Education
        Dr. Constance Tucker, Vice Provost, Educational Improvement and Innovation, Oregon Health and Science University
        Mr. Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System