

Montana Tech Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes

April 21st, 2025 • Mill 201 • 12:00 p.m.

Senators Present: Scott Risser, Janet Cornish, Dave Gilkey, Chris Roos, Alan English, Scott Juskiwicz, Doug Galarus,, Gary Wyss, Matt Egloff, Charie Faught, Chris Gammons, Courtney Young, Atish Mitra, Glen Southergill, Jason Herndon, Bryce Hill, John Kirtley and Andrew Trout

I. Welcome and Minutes – The meeting was called to order, and it was established that a quorum had been achieved. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 11th, 2025 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion passed.

II. CRC Recommendations – A motion was made and seconded to reject the proposed changes to the Data Science curriculum. Discussion of this item focused on the proposed removal of the Advanced Writing course requirement in order to allow for more flexibility in this interdisciplinary degree program. The motion failed. Senate members acknowledged the need for more opportunities for consultation in determining curriculum requirements in all majors.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse parts “a” through “o” of the CRC recommendations. The motion passed.

III. Emerit Nominations – The Senate considered nominations for Emerit status for:

- a. Linda Granger, Highlands College and the Business Department
- b. Karen VanDaveer, Director of Nursing and Dean of Highlands
- c. Catherine McDonald, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Professional Practice Faculty
- d. Dr. Les Cook, Montana Tech Chancellor

Motions were made and seconded to nominate each of the four candidates for Emerit status. All four motions were approved. With respect to Dr. Cook’s, nomination, the Senate pointed to the Chancellor’s successful efforts to bring Montana Technical University through the COVID crisis, maintaining the institution’s academic excellence, while supporting students through a difficult time.

IV. Part-Time Faculty Support – The Senate heard from Senate member Janet Cornish regarding support for adjunct faculty members, particularly in light of the recent administrative decision by the IT department to provide licenses for access to downloadable Microsoft programs to full-time faculty and staff only. The online versions, which are limited in their functionality, would remain accessible to adjunct instructors. Provost Tim Elgren will be in contact with the IT department to resolve this issue.

V. Proposed Changes to Course Evaluations – A motion to advance the course evaluation committee report presented at the April 11th, 2025 meeting to the full faculty was made

and seconded. The motion passed. It was acknowledged that the evaluation process would be reviewed with respect to Departmental Standards, and by the Faculty Union Bargaining Units.

- VI. Reserved for Provost and Montana Tech Administration – Nothing was brought forward.
- VII. Full Faculty Meeting – The Senate will forward the following items to the full faculty, which will meet on April 30th:
 - a. Approval of graduates
 - b. Merit pay for the Bureau
 - c. Course Evaluation proposals
- VIII. Adjournment – 12:55 p.m.