

**FACULTYCOUNCIL**  
**February 7, 2007**  
**REID 103**  
**4:10 AM – 5:00 PM**  
**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Amin, Ashley, Bailey, Bandyopadhyay, Becker, Cherry, Christopher, Gipp, Jacobs, Jones, Lei, Levy, Livingston, Lynch, M. McClure, Neeley, Peed, Pinet, Prawdzienski, K.A. Scott, Seymour, Taylor, Watson, D. Weaver

**Members Absent:** Ag Econ, Ag/ED/AOT, Chem/Biochem, Croy, Dyer, English, Ecology, Erickson, Idzerda, Jackson, Johnson, Nursing On-Campus, Political Science, Starkey

**Others Present:** Dooley, Fedock, Lansverk

Chair Shannon Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present. The minutes from December 6, 2006 were unanimously approved.

***OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PLAN RESOLUTION – Chair Taylor***

- Following FC approval on January 31, Chair Taylor sent a letter to Montana state legislators about the inequity of the TIAA-CREF optional retirement plan. Although Chair Taylor's letter had language that demonstrated that there was a serious liability, Faculty Council believed action should be taken, and resolution language was crafted for FC members to vote on. The two outstanding ORP issues are parity and, that MSU faculty are the lowest paid retirement compensated in all 50 states.
- Chair Taylor read the contents of the resolution to FC members. It states that Faculty Council requests that legislators correct the TIAA-CREF/TRS inequity. Motion was made to approve the resolution and forward to legislators →seconded→all in favor→passed.
- HB95 is a retirement bill supported by the unions to increase TIAA CREF contribution by 1%. Currently, it is in committee. To view legislative activities, you may click on <http://www.montana.edu/cpa/marketing/govrelations.html>

***OTHER BILLS IN LEGISLATURE – Chair Taylor***

- HB13 - How is the 3.6% pay plan to be distributed? In the past the Provost's office held back ½ of 1% for market equity disparity. How the .6% will be distributed this pay plan, will depend on final passage of language of HB13 and whether the governor's prescriptive understanding of how the money is divvied up is understood by legislature. The governor is trying to construct this pay plan in such a way that it would set aside money out of general operating budget for raises on promotion as well as for market and merit/equity raises without effecting tuition. The President and Provost will be in discussions with Faculty Council when more about this bill is known.
- HB 525 – Academic Bill of Rights. Representative Roger Koopman proposed an Academic Bill of Rights that says that the state will take an interest in guaranteeing that students have the right to hear diverse opinions and give diverse opinions and not be punished; and, that establishes annual hearings from the Education Subcommittee for each MUS campus, who must prepare reports supporting academic diversity. There is a hearing at 3:00 on February 16, 2007 in Helena, and Chair Taylor will attend to present talking points:
  - The diversity problem does not exist in the Montana system to the extent that it needs a solution this powerful. We celebrate diversity on this campus.
  - Knowledge presented in classrooms are not based on opinions, it is based on truth that is scientifically analyzed. We have in place a grievance procedure if that is not the case.

- If the bill is passed, there may need to be 2 FTE on each campus to enforce this ideology.
- Inquiries about what the data is present that demonstrates lack of intellectual diversity on the MUS campuses.
- Similar legislation has been introduced in 25 other states and endorsed by the American Council for Trustees and Alumni. The president of the council, Anne D. Neal, is a proponent of the bill and believes that we are not accountable nor self-policing enough and have inherent bias's that we are subjecting our students to. She worked with the Roger Koopman to help craft the language of HB525.

***FACULTY AFFAIRS – Marvin Lansverk***

- The Research Misconduct language was distributed to FC members for approval. Faculty Affairs has reviewed the document and approves of it. Motion was made to publish the Research Misconduct language in MSU TODAY → seconded → all in favor → motion passed.
- “Who can be a PI?” is being reviewed by Faculty Affairs and will be presented to FC soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM, as there was no other business.

*Signature*

Shannon Taylor, Chair

*Signature*

Gale R. Gough, Secretary