

FACULTY SENATE - DRAFT
December 9, 2009
REID HALL 453
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Cherry, Fischer, Kaiser, Lansverk, Lynch, Marshall for D. Weaver, Meade, Mokwa, Neumeier, Schachman, Sobek, Thompson, Versaevel, Waller, Wojtowicz, Zhu

Members Absent: Bangert, Bessen, Chen, Eiger, Eitle, Fields, Fleck, Frick, Gee, Gerlach, Jacobsen, Lawrence, Livingston, Locke, Mosley, Osborne, Political Science, Rotella, Savoie, Sowell, Wisner

Others Present: Fedock, S. Taylor

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present.

Announcements –Chair Wes Lynch

- There is a retirement gathering in the Leigh Lounge for Bruce Morton, former dean of the library today 3-5 pm.
- There is also a farewell party for President Gamble on Thursday, 3:30 – 5:00 pm in the Leigh Lounge and all are invited.
- FA procedure –The dean of Letters and Science has decided not to distribute the 50% that was supposed to go to departments, except in specific exceptional cases. Chair Lynch queried senate if there were any special issues or concerns.
- The BoR Workgroup meeting is scheduled to take place next Wednesday, 10:00- 11:00 am, MNET, Burns 126. The agenda may be viewed by going to the BoR website, clicking on the link in left side bar.
- Chair-elect Lansverk and Chair of Faculty Affairs Taylor crafted three proposals to bring to UPBAC for the OTO Global Investment money (across the university) distribution. (There was an unanticipated tuition influx and \$700,000 has been set aside to invest in proposals that would bring a return to the university next year.) The three proposals included: Increasing the sabbatical pool by \$100,000; increase the buyout funding by \$20,000 (Best Award, Professional Development Award); \$100,000 seed money to develop a mechanism for an equity adjustment salary pool for faculty. This money would go into salary base and the return on investment would be difficult to calculate.
- Provost Fedock stated that some of the proposals not funded via the Global Pool will be funded by an academics pool.

Old Business – Chair Wes Lynch

- P&T: Revised “Bite B: Letters” – If FS passes the most recent modifications, the document is posted in MSU TODAY for 15 days, and this constitutes a “comment period.” After the 15 days, the resolution comes back to FS for any additional comments. If there are major concerns, there is an amendment process. If changes are minor, Fs makes them and then votes on it again; if we approve, it goes forward to administration for final approval and it is published in the handbook.
- Some FS members queried whether FS should wait until the union participation. Chair Lynch stated that this policy affects union and non-union faculty, and it is not clear what the procedure will be when and if the union finally crafts the bargaining agreement. Therefore, Chair Lynch believes FS should move forward; Chair Lynch asked if there were any objections to doing so, and there were none. He stated that union comments and input are welcomed.
- The number of letters has changed from three to five to escape potential bias. There is an escape clause for those departments who cannot get five letters and, if that is the case, an explanation would be required. There was concern that there may be some bias built into gathering these letters. Those concerns were: the method of selecting the letters, variability of enclosures, lack of clarity between reviewer and those being reviewed, and the possibility that many more letters were being solicited and received than actually being sent forward. Seven steps are being proposed that should be carried out by the chair of the primary reviewing committee and are intended to assure transparency; these steps may be viewed in the current P&T draft .

- A sample cover sheet on external letters and suggested language for those letters are included in the P&T draft. Ideally, there should be 5 letters for the primary area; 3 letters in the secondary area (teaching primary/research secondary, or vice versa).
- Extension typically has primary responsibility in reaching with secondary responsibility in outreach or service so language has been inserted to accommodate that scenario.
- The new draft will be posted on the Faculty Senate website and electronic voting will take place for its approval. The voting deadline will be extended for a full week.

The Faculty Senate meeting ended at 5:00 PM, as there was no further business.

Signature

Wes Lynch, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary