

FACULTY SENATE
March 25, 2009
REID HALL 104
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Amin, Becker, Cherry, Eitle, Fischer, Jacobsen, Merzdorf for Jacobs Lei, Livingston, Lynch, Marshall for D. Weaver, Mokwa, Neumeier, Osborne, Prawdzienski, Simpson, Sowell, Varricchio, Wisner, Wojtowicz, Yoo for Zhu

Members Absent: Bangert, Bennett, Chem/Biochem, Fields, Fleck, Gee, Gerlach, Igo, Jackson, Lansverk, Larson, Maskiell, Political Science, Versaevel, Watson, T. Weaver

Others Present: Craig Roloff, David Dooley, Geoff Gamble, S. Taylor, Gail Schontzler, Greg Durham, Joe Fedock

Chair Wes Lynch called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present. Minutes for January 21, 2009, February 4, 2009, and February 11, 2009 were unanimously approved.

Announcements -Chair Lynch

- BOR
 - Cap and tuition did not come to a vote; the students did not want this issue as *the* highest priority. Rather, they wanted it included as *one* of the highest priorities.
 - The House has decided to add another \$8.2M to the university budget. It is not certain whether this will allow or require us to cap tuition.
 - Faculty met with BOR on the second day and talked to them about:
 - Quality of education as well as capping tuition;
 - Consideration of new course fees consideration. Fees have been capped for about six (6) years; and,
 - How the BOR policy might be adjusted to make post-retirement contracts more likely.
 - The governor spoke about the university system research and how it is administered. To understand the governor's agenda, you may go to the BOR web site and read the 16 questions/answers.
- Construction will begin this summer on a traffic circle at 11th and College Avenue.
- Course Fees - The BOR are willing to consider some fees but do not want to see fees to be back fill for tuition. We will submit a request for some course fees in May.
- Salary data from the COHE's office (submitted by U of M and MSU) was charted. The distribution of salaries for both institutions shows that the median for both is 3.5; the percent of individuals who got more than 3% at the two institutions is identical.

Budget – President Gamble, Provost Dooley

- Tuition
 - When comparing the curve of the research productivity and tuition increases (particularly of MSU and U of M), they seem to match, thus one has a tendency to draw a correlation. Tuition, however, is relative to the cost of education. MSU gets 38% of the funds to educate a student from the state; we receive 45% from the student, but that still leaves MSU short 15-17% on every student. MSU makes up the difference by overcharging students from out-of-state, and the remainder needed to make up the cost of education is taken off the top. There is no way tuition money could be diverted, because MSU does not have enough money to pay for the student's education.

- When viewing the Governor's graph, it depicted the slopes correctly and contributions from the state, and correctly shown that the state has put in more money into the MUS, and the slope for tuition flattens. Thus, the determining factor is the contribution from the state and not the research. You may view this graph on the BOR web site.
- The Pay Bill was signed by the Governor. Because there is an increase in the cost of health insurance, the state is contributing an additional \$50 each year in the next biennium. The Pay Bill has also provided a one-time bonus of \$450 for state employees that make \$45,000 or less. Regarding higher education employees, it still has to go through the Regental and COHE's process. The state pays the entire cost for other state agencies, but will only pay 42% for higher education employees. MSU will have to pick up the rest.
- The good news out of House appropriations is that they added \$8.2M to higher education, bringing the total to \$18.2M. It will give us a little relief for present law adjustment. We do not know if the \$18.2M will be contingent upon a tuition cap, however. The governor would like it capped for the next two years. By the May meeting, the BOR will have made a decision whether to cap it or not.
- Student leadership from Missoula and Bozeman spoke against a tuition cap.
 - The ASMSU president noted that MSU has already gone through a two-year tuition cap, and it did not change inflationary pressures. If nothing is done to adjust this pressure, incrementally, then the next tuition increases will be very large and unfair to incoming students. Incremental increases are more manageable.
 - Missoula raised the issue that by not allowing tuition increases, you begin to erode the quality base of the institution, particularly in the classroom, and it might mean larger classes, but fewer of them. Also, you won't attract the best faculty to teach such classes.
- Part of the budget agreement is that the state has asked us to raise the vacancy savings from 4% to 7%. That means a \$2.8M budget reduction.
- Long range building plans were folded into House Bill 645 – the stimulus money. The legislature is interested in sustainability, energy efficiency.
- The governor had many questions about the research federal non-competitive grant process. There are a series of questions he posed and they may be viewed on the legislative web site.
- The temporary buildings in front of the new chemistry buildings may be upgraded with stimulus money. Students, however, would like the green space preserved and have the temporary buildings removed. Faculty, staff, student and community input will be garnered. The project is still in the conceptual stage.
- The main funding sources of the university for education is state funding; the regents' decision re tuition and allocation (there is a great interest in two-year education now); and enrollment. We are not sure what each entails, yet.
- Applications are up. MSU has had three straight years of retention increases. The sophomore retention rate is 74%; the highest in the state. Numerous variables contribute to this percentage.
- Efficiency, Effectiveness and Stewardship of MSU - According to a study called "The Delta Study", of 163 research universities MSU (and U of M) have the lowest expenditures/student FTE in the nation. Whatever it costs to educate a student, we are the most efficient in the nation. As a research university, MSU faculty teach 26% more credit hours than the national average of other research universities. Copies of the study are in Provost Dooley's and Greg Young's office.

Post Retirement Contracts – Provost Dooley

- There have been no changes to the BOR and MSU post retirement contract (PRC) policy.
- PRC have always been at the discretion at the department and college and contingent on the availability of funding.
- There is no systematic directive and the Provost mandates that BOR policy is followed.
- Practically all PRCs are one year only.

- You may be seeing greater prudence in commitments to PRC, as the next two years are tight budget years.
- If faculty are interested in a PRC and their department does not have funding for it, the Provost has a discretionary fund that he might use to invest in a trial set of senior faculty tutorials. This would involve student/faculty interaction in classic Oxford/Cambridge style which involves 4-5 students reading, writing, and being involved in discussions. They would meet once or twice a week.

President Gamble is Retiring

- President Gamble and his wife, Patricia, had decided several years ago that he would end his 25-year career as an administrator in 2009. Their decision was reinforced by Patricia Gamble's diagnosis with breast cancer in 2008. President Gamble, who holds a doctorate in linguistics, also plans to teach one or two courses annually in MSU's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Montana Commissioner of Higher Education Sheila Stearns will conduct a search for Gamble's successor on behalf of the Montana Board of Regents. Gamble will stay in office until new leadership is found, even if that carries him into 2010. Shared governance is important to President Gamble. He recognizes the important relationship between broad participative governance and the education of students that graduate with the knowledge and skills to be informed, productive, and contributing citizens of Montana and the Nation. Shared governance at MSU is a dynamic set of processes, which provide a critical foundation that actively supports the University's two primary functions: the creation and dissemination of knowledge. Input from all campus constituencies, the faculty (Faculty Senate), professional employees (Professional Council), classified staff (Staff Senate), and students (ASMSU), provides advice, direction, and perspective to the institution's administrative leadership about issues, policies, and procedures that impact the direction and quality of the University's instruction, research/creative activity, and service programs. President Gamble believes many of the goals he has reached on campus are because of shared governance.
- The university is in good financial shape
- President Gamble believes the search for his replacement will take place after the legislative session. He will step away from the process completely, however.

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

Signature

Wes Lynch, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary