

FACULTY SENATE
DECEMBER 5, 2012
LEON JOHNSON 346
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Cantalupo (Ext), Burrows (Ext), Dougher (PSPP), Durham (COB), Franklin (Micro), Gibson (NTT), Greenwood (Math), Harney (Music), Herbeck (Ed), Hostetler (GCP), Igo (Ag Ed), Kaiser (ECE), Lansverk (English), Larson (MIE), Leticicq (HHD), Lynch (Psych), Martin (Mod Lang), Merzdorf (Cell Bio & Neuro), Mokwa (CE), Moreaux (A&RS), Neumeier (Physics), Reidy (Hist), Ricciardelli (Film & Photo), Rossmann (Library), Schachman (Nursing), Swinford (Soc/Anthro), Wiedenheft (Biochem), Zhu (CS)

Others Present: Martha Potvin, Clayton Christian, Waded Cruzado, Terry Leist, Tracy Ellig, Pierce Mullen, Joe Thiel, David Singel

Chair Neumeier called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm, and a quorum was present.

Announcements

- FS will meet on December 12, 2012 in the President's Conference Room to consider honorary degree candidates and fall 2012 graduating seniors.
- Provost Potvin announced that the academic strategic plan will be rolled out December 11, 2012 for comment and posted on the provost's web site in the next couple of weeks. Feedback was encouraged.

Commissioner of Higher Education – Clayton Christian

- The top three priorities for the MUS legislative session, which are consistent with those of the BoR, are:
 - Faculty/Staff Pay Plan - Separate from the present law adjustment in the CAP is Governor Schweitzer's proposed pay plan for state employees. This would be contained in House Bill 13 and calls for a 5 percent increase in base pay each year of the biennium as well as a 10 percent insurance contribution increase. State employees -- excluding university system employees -- have not had a pay increase since the 2009 biennium. The Regents funded an increase for university system employees of 1 percent plus \$500 in FY'12 and 2 percent plus \$500 in FY'13.
 - A \$34 million present law adjustment over the next two years.
 - Implementation of Long Range Building Plan projects which include all state buildings totaling \$87M of \$160M and would require a bonding bill. Matching/private funds would be a component in this bonding endeavor. Some of the MUS projects would include:
 - Deferred maintenance
 - Missoula College
 - Billings Science Building
 - Havre Auto and Diesel Technology Building
 - MSU-Bozeman's Romney building renovation
- Other Legislative Initiatives:
 - Support for student financial services and veteran's services;
 - One time money for two-year education and workforce development;
 - Improvement in integrated information across the MUS;
 - An increase, beyond the present law adjustment, to accommodate 10 additional WAMI slots;
 - The new VetMed program;
 - An Energy Institute concept with regards to a Montana Tech PhD program.
- The new Vet Med program and the Materials Science PhD funding are currently bundled together in the governor's budget, in a separate proposed bill, and will move forward in that format. There is a bill draft request that legislators can enact to have the two items separated, however. Commissioner Christian and the BoR are working to see that the two programs are separated.
- Christian noted that a philosophical rebirth is needed in how educational is valued, and that grassroots discussions about the value of education, what it can do for individuals, economy, and society are where substantive exchanges begin.
- The commissioner commented on the following topics brought forward by FS members:
 - Two-year education in Montana.
 - MUS would like to attract Montana citizens to higher education who might not fit into the four-year sector.
 - One tenth of Montana's population ranks high in adult learners with some education without credentials; the two-year program might encourage some to return to school.
 - The Lumina Grant has placed some focus on two-year education.
 - Securing MSU's Carnegie Classification and how research might be strengthened.
 - Focusing on fulfilling PhD demands to maintain, or surpass, MSU's Carnegie research classification, and recognizing that there are structural things that may be done to enhance

- enrollment and production of graduate students through recruiting and retaining world-class faculty, is a priority.
- Supporting retired faculty and how they may continue to support the institution.
 - Retiree issues are just beginning to be addressed.
 - FS members stated that they would like phased retirement to be addressed, as it contains many opportunistic facets such as:
 - Allowing the university to open up faculty positions for younger faculty.
 - In the context of OPR, a self-funded retirement, faculty could potentially fund part of their own phased retirement and the university might provide a partial contribution.
 - How the budgets have been adjusted to accommodate changing enrollments on the different campuses.
 - In March, a new funding formula will be approved by the BoR, which will take into account the FTE's of the MUS, each biennium, the budget as a function of some type of performance-based funding, will be examined. Performance-based funding is still being carefully examined as a means for utilizing resources.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Signature

John Neumeier, Chair

Signature

Robert Mokwa, Chair-elect

Minutes were transcribed by Gale R. Gough, Administrative Associate, Faculty Senate.