

FACULTY SENATE
February 6, 2008
REID HALL 103
4:10 AM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Al-Kaisy for Mokwa, Bandyopadhyay, Becker, Cherry, Dyer, Fleck, Gipp, Gerlach, Jacobs, Leech, Lei, Livingston, Locke for Ashley, Longcope, Lynch, Neeley, Pinet, Prawdzienski, Taylor, Marshall for D. Weaver, T. Weaver, Wojtowicz, Zhu

Members Absent: Ag/ED/AOT, Amin, Bailey, Bangert, Bennett, Christopher, Jackson, Johnson, C. McClure, M. McClure, Nursing On-Campus, Peed, Political Science, Watson

Others Present: Marvin Lansverk, Rozier, Hugo Schmidt

Chair Shannon Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present. The minutes from January 23, 2008 were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Char Shannon Taylor

- The union is on campus and Chair Taylor would like them to define “teaching faculty.”
- Provost Dooley was unable to attend today’s meeting because of illness.

FACULTY AFFAIRS – EMERITUS – Chair Marvin Lansverk

- Three emeritus proposals for discussion are: The “no dean” proposal, automatic nomination, and automatic conferral. The first two proposals were authored by Faculty Affairs and were based on opening up the nomination process with a layer of approval by Faculty Affairs and the Provost. The automatic conferral was modeled on the Washington State University policy where retiring faculty names, through a process, are handed to the President, and the President hands it off to the BOR for final decision.
- FS members queried about colleagues who retire because of moral turpitude. Usually, documentation about such incidents are sealed and, as a result, such faculty retire in “good standing” by legal mandate. FS asked whether the automatic conferral process provided a way to give emeritus to such people. Whereas, in the automatic nomination process, layers of approval are involved and dubious behavior might be questioned at a particular step before final approval was granted. Chair Taylor proposed that wording in faculty hire documents might state that should such questionable behavior occur, faculty would not be eligible for emeritus status; or, upon retirement, an exit strategy document would be presented with wording that negates emeritus status. FS members stated that the review process is not definitive; those faculty not in good standing may be able to circumvent the system.
- Conversely, a FS member stated that a retiring faculty member might not want emeritus status or further association with MSU, and therefore policy should not automatically grant it.
- Research on fifty Carnegie class university emeritus status policies revealed that the majority included a nomination process; very few had automatic conferral. Chair Lansverk asked FS members to keep in mind that the BOR policy does not allow automatic conferral, and only allows tenure track faculty emeritus standing.
- Some MSU emeriti believe that automatic conferral dilutes the emeritus status by allowing everyone to get it.
- Current MSU standards leave the emeritus process up to each department, and as a result there is no consistency, and often emeritus is overlooked.
- A FS member proposed a modification on the automatic nomination whereby the process should go through department head, dean, provost, (with no letters of support), and an open comment period may be made at any step along the way.
- It was noted that faculty are being evaluated all the time via annual reviews, tenure reviews, promotion reviews, advising reviews, student evaluations and review for emeritus status is demeaning.
- Motion for acceptance of language for automatic conferral (with some kind of contract signed if you are undesirable)→second→15 in favor→1 opposed→7 abstain→Motion carries.
- Chair Lansverk stated that Faculty Affairs will perfect the automatic conferral language and bring back to Faculty Senate for final approval.

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

Signature

Shannon Taylor, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary