

**FACULTY SENATE**  
**December 10, 2008**  
**REID HALL 101**  
**4:10 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Catoira, Cherry, Clark for Wojtowicz, Eitle, Fields, Fleck, Gipp for Sowell, Jacobs, Jacobsen, Lansverk, Lei, Lynch, C. McClure, Neumeier, Osborne, Prawdzienski, Taylor, Versaevel, Wisner

**Members Absent:** Amin, Bangert, Bennett, Fischer, Gee, Gerlach, Igo, Jackson, Larson, Livingston, Maskiell, Mokwa, Political Science, Snider for Becker, Varricchio, Watson, D. Weaver, T. Weaver, Zhu

**Others Present:** Joe Fedock, Cathy Conover, Senator Robert Hawks

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

***Senator Robert Hawks***

- Senator Hawks is on various educational committees in the House and Senate. He serves on the General Education Committee which addresses higher education policy, starting at K12. House committees are appointed by the Speaker of the House in consultation with the other parties and leadership. The Senate, on the other hand, hires six people to make appointments in consultation with the President of the Senate. Senator Hawks is also a member of the Committee on Committees.
- The majority of educational policy is predicated on the budget. Combined committees from House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Claims (three members from each group), work together as the “Joint Education Appropriations Subcommittee” (“JEAS”) on the education section of the budget. The education budget includes the universities and other entities such as: Office of Public Instruction, Montana Arts Council, Commissioner of Higher Education, the greater university system, community colleges, Bureau of Mines, experiment stations, Fire Services, etc.
- Members on the JEAS are:
  - Rep. Dan Villa, Anaconda - Chair
  - Rep. Bill Glaser, Huntley
  - Rep. Roy Hollandsworth, Brady
  - Rep. Cheryl Steenson, Kalispell
  - Sen. Jim Peterson, Buffalo
  - Sen. Bob Hawks, Bozeman
  - Sen. Debbie Barrett, Dillon
- The governance of the university system is dictated by the Board of Regents, who prepares the budget, which is then approved by the governor, who then gives the JEAS his presentation. It is at this point that Senator Hawks and the JEAS begin their work on the budget.
- Calculating the budget begins with the state’s share of the university budgeting. The JEAS has been trying to increase the portion of state funding from 37.9% to 40% over the last four years. It took a large amount of money last year to move the state’s share a very small percentage amount for such a large budget and fifty million dollars was infused to compensate for the tuition freeze.
- This year the \$68M revenue stream, which would have given a zero increase in tuition, was not feasible.
- To support faculty and staff, the budget is offering a 10% increase on the 39%-40% of the total budget of the university. Complicating the discussions and after examining every line item of expense, the state’s share is down around 30%; that is, 30% for absolutely every dollar is state, and the current unrestricted or operating budget (instruction, academic support, and institutional support) is 40%.
- Currently, the budget is \$50M down and the budgeting cycle is not yet complete. It is challenging to project and make cuts. Some solutions may include hiring freezes.
- The total state budget for the higher education (includes programs funded in the **COHE (also referred to as the OCHE)** office which are federal programs) is 10%-12%. Total state education is over 50% of the state budget.
- Another revenue estimate is coming and will launch another legislative session at the end of December. The session will likely examine positions and discretionary programs may be placed on hold.
- The budget director will place any “extra” money away in the event the economic situation worsens over the next year. That way, the legislature does not have to reconvene and restructure the budget during a special session.
- Discussion ensued;
  - A few years ago, the legislature threw out the governor’s budget and began from scratch. Do you think that will happen again this year? *I am hopeful that the budget is so tight that the format will remain as it is.*
  - Faculty Senate was involved in trying to get the state to increase their portion of the retirement contributions from the ORP to TIAA-CREF by 1%, and we were successful. Do you think there is any chance of the legislature doing that again? *I encourage you to keep the topic coming back for discussion, as sometimes topics must reappear many times to be discussed. You may also want to think*

*about a fallback position; that is, asking the legislature to contribute 0.5% instead of 1%, to keep the momentum going.*

- How would you recommend that Montana State University become more politically active? *Communication channels have moved primarily to email. Usually those emails coming from a legislator's district will be read first. I try to read everything daily and respond to it. Form letters do not work very well in getting across an individual message. With regards to hearings before the JEAS, you are well represented in Helena. If you and others would like to attend legislative sessions, it is beneficial to coordinate your efforts. MSU is well represented in Helena. Student senate representatives and student regents are exceptional and are well informed. Communicate with other community constituents. Speaking about academics in concert with economic development gets attention. Try to remember that term limits and turnover in the legislature is phenomenal and there is a huge learning curve.*
- Can you recommend how MSU may better utilize their resources to address climate change/green solutions? *I have broad titles reserved for legislators to deal with all facets of this area, and I hope that legislation will allow us to calculate our CO2 emissions based on fuel usage. With respect to the federal government, we will be dealing with cap and trade and Montana can join in, nationally, in that endeavor. We have also joined the Western Climate Initiative where we could start our own cap and trade and fold it into a national cap and trade process. The reason for cap and trade is to set emissions levels, push them down and have a source of income coming from those trades. The state will then invest that money into efficiency or incentive measures to cut energy use and bring demand down at the same time. We do not, however, have a state policy and we need that. Colorado and Washington are ahead of us in that regard and have leadership that is very focused. We have a base in both the House and Senate to begin, however.*
- On January 10, there will be an education session 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Three consultants in education will discuss how to make K12 through the university level system work better. One step already taken is the common course numbering.
- **HB2 is the budget for all of state government, including higher education. The pay bill, HB13, is generally introduced once tentative agreement has been reached between the state department of administration and state employee unions. The MUS negotiates with the university unions separately from the state, but HB13 provides state funding for the MUS pay and benefits plan.**
- The budget (HB2) is online: [http://mt.gov/budget/budgets/2011\\_budget/2011\\_budget.asp](http://mt.gov/budget/budgets/2011_budget/2011_budget.asp)
- Progress of HB 13 (state pay plan) may be viewed at this website (cut and paste address):

[http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws09/LAW0203W\\$BSRV.ActionQuery?P\\_BLTP\\_BILL\\_TYP\\_CD=HB&P\\_BILL\\_NO=13&P\\_BILL\\_DFT\\_NO=&P\\_CHPT\\_NO=&Z\\_ACTION=Find&P\\_SBJ\\_DESCR=&P\\_SBJT\\_SBJ\\_CD=&P\\_LST\\_NM1=&P\\_ENTY\\_ID\\_SEQ=](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws09/LAW0203W$BSRV.ActionQuery?P_BLTP_BILL_TYP_CD=HB&P_BILL_NO=13&P_BILL_DFT_NO=&P_CHPT_NO=&Z_ACTION=Find&P_SBJ_DESCR=&P_SBJT_SBJ_CD=&P_LST_NM1=&P_ENTY_ID_SEQ=)

The bill itself may be viewed at this web site: <http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2009/billhtml/HB0013.htm>

- How to contact Montana Legislators: <http://leg.mt.gov/css/sessions/61st/default.asp>

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

*Signature*

Wes Lynch, Chair

*Signature*

Gale R. Gough, Secretary