

**FACULTY SENATE
JANUARY 25, 2012
LEON JOHNSON 346
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes**

Members Present: Bolte (Music), Burrows (Ext), Caton (COB), Copie (Chem), Eitle (Soc/Anthro), Greenwood (Math), Herbeck (Ed), Hostetler (Gallatin College), Igo (Ag/Ed), Kaiser (EEC), Lansverk (Eng), Larson for Sobek (M&IE), Lawrence (C&BC), Letiecq (HHD), Lynch (Psych), Lynn (HHD), Martin (Mod. Lang), Maxwell for Engel (LRES), Neumeier (Physics), Newhouse (Art), O'Neill (Arch), Rossmann (Library), Sarchet (Ext), Schachman (Nursing), Walker (Math), Zhu (CS)

Others Present: President Waded Cruzado, Provost Potvin, Larry Carucci, David Singel, Dave Mogk, Ron Larsen, Doug Downs, Hugo Schmidt, Jane Heiss-Arms, Bob Hietala, Peter Fields, Lynn Kelting-Gibson

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

Spring Conversation with President Cruzado:

President Cruzado welcomed faculty back, providing an report on the recent Spring Convocation, where sixteen faculty were honored for their excellence in teaching, research & creativity and for contributing to the land grant mission. Final numbers for students attending in spring semester are not yet available, but they have exceeded expectations. Additionally, MSU is transferring in more students. Cooley Lab in is the final stages of renovation and is on schedule/budget. Last fall the BoR approved a bonding bill for the residence halls. Four million dollars was used from Auxiliary Services reserves to purchase new furniture for Hapner and Langford residence halls; an additional eight million is needed to complete the renovations. A proposal for a new residence hall with suite-type accommodations was proposed and would require seven million dollars to complete. Rating agencies have awarded MSU a very positive affirmation due to prudent management and investments, and, interest rates for money borrowed are at 3%. Twenty five million dollars has been donated to the College of Business (COB); \$20M will be used to construct a new building and \$5M has been set aside for faculty support, professorships, endowed chairs, and scholarships. Committees have been established and faculty/student reps will provide input and explore where the new building will be located.

MSU is preparing for the upcoming legislation and setting priorities. The Long-range building plan will include focusing efforts on Reid Hall, now that it will be vacated by the COB, to energize the College of Education. Discussions about salaries (which make up 75% of the Montana University System), compensation or pay plan should be a priority. The BoR approved and replicated components of HB 13 for faculty (1% increase in the first year; 3% increase in the second year) using tuition increases, but Pres. Cruzado does not believe students should continue to shoulder these increases. For the next legislative session, affordability, need-based scholarships and aid for students will be the focus of conversations between MSU and the BoR. Pres. Cruzado will make a request to the legislature, for one-time dollars to be endowed. This money may be challenged with matching funds from donors and would double our investment.

After a season marked by a second straight trip to the Division I-FCS playoffs, Montana State University Head Football Coach Rob Ash received an award for his inspirational leadership both on and off the field. Liberty Mutual Insurance announced the fifth-year Bobcat head coach as 2011 Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Award winner for the FCS. The Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Award is the leading college football honor recognizing coaches for their sportsmanship, integrity, responsibility and excellence, on and off field.

Discussions ensued and queries were made about conversations with the BoR regarding balancing affordability/access/salaries for faculty. It was noted that for every in-state student, MUS loses \$3000 and if there is a way of breaking even and making student loans easy and

accessible. President Cruzado stated that funding sources come from a variety of places and that federal initiatives may be tapped. The President reported that during a recent speech, Obama set priorities for two-year education, research opportunities, degree completion, via the federal government, and how strategic initiatives at universities included freeing up resources to conduct business differently. On the state level, the proposed executive budget received a backfill from ARA funds however, one of the first actions of the legislative session was to cut every state agency 5% (funding that goes into the operational budget), a phenomenon being witnessed now.

FS expressed concern over the process and the method used to hire the new COHE, Clay Christian. The President stated that Christian understands, and is advising the BoR on, issues that are important to MSU and he has already scheduled time to meet with the presidents of flagship universities.

In reference to the recent events at U of M, the President asked employees to participate in learning about the sexual harassment policy and hopes they will become educated about how these events occur. Legal counsel is putting together a task force.

The President closed with highlighting how the Lumina Grant will enhance GCP. She is hopeful that MSU and GCP will work in collaboration, and extended an invitation to all to participate in the Strategic Plan charette process on February 8, 2012.

Gallatin College Programs: Neumeier recapped the FS AA Committee's recent actions. They have approved the GCP AA and AS degrees, but continue to have concerns about the GCP Core Certificate, summarizing their analysis, which creates a certificate of completion for finishing the Core classes, perhaps incentivizing that they all be taken in one year. In response, the AA committee observed that:

- Never is the case that all MSU CORE classes be taken in 4 semesters. MSU students typically take 6-9 credits of core classes in each of their four semesters.
- Interspersing major classes with core classes allows students to grow, sample a broader array of subject areas, hone skills and, at the same time, work on their degrees.
- It also allows students to grow intellectually, they partake in campus life and the experience provides a liberal and practical education; the AAC does not feel the GCP CORE certificate is in the spirit of that philosophy.
- The AAC believes that this certification would not help students attain the goal of completing a four-year degree in four years; likely, it would extend the period of time for completion, because an investment of time in the Certificate still wouldn't preclude needing to be at MSU for an additional four years, due to pre-requisites in most majors.
- This certification sends a message to students that they would be able to complete their degree in four years when, in fact, this is not the case.
- All individual courses may be transferred among all MUS campuses already, and therefore, the AAC did not believe it was necessary to offer certification to have all CORE classes transfer in a block. If a student were to receive a CORE certificate and transfer out of state, it might not be easy for the student to do so.

A FS member stated that the MSU CORE is an array of diverse courses that change semester-to-semester and are not comprised of a random grouping of 30 credits of similar courses. Faculty queried about the make-up and whether GCP courses would consist of a smaller set of courses. GCP stated that it was just beginning to craft their CORE class program, that there would be a smaller selection/limited offering to begin with. Some faculty believe a certificate in general studies would send the message that the CORE curricula is just a requirement that could be checked off when, in fact, it should be beneficial to students and should be integrated into their educational experience in a complimentary manner. Collaboration between MSU and GCP in the development of Core classes should be encouraged.

Bob Hietala then presented information about the GCP certification program:

- The certificate in general studies is a 30-credit certificate and is based on the MUS CORE.
- It was developed as a component of the transfer mission and in conjunction with the associate of arts and associate of science degree proposals.

As an MUS two-year education unit, GCP is working to implement the comprehensive two-year education mission/vision, which the BoR approved in 2011. Providing general education courses through the associates degree is one of the five key mission attributes.

The program is designed to be taught evenings and weekends in the community. The students it will serve, will best fit their transfer capabilities:

- Many students are working full time and will be attending part-time;
- Non-traditional age or adults many with families; at MSU GF, 40% are 25 or older;
- Underprepared and have experienced limited success in other schools and require developmental course work;
- Many have a low to modest income and unable to assume significant debt to pursue their education goals.
- Creates a pathway for students who may not want to complete higher education and a certificate it represents a goal and sense of achievement of completion.
- A certificate helps the students to focus on transferring and engages the student in the advising process in a timely manner. This is beneficial for students who would like to transfer to a four-year university and then there are students who merely want to take two-year courses and move on.
- The proposal is in response to the transfer experience that other Montana two-year colleges have seen that is, many students transfer before completing their AA or AS degrees. Last academic year 30% of the GF students transferred before completing these degrees. The proximity of the GCP and MSU campuses might increase that experience.

A FS member who had examined the data, state-wide, reported that the number of students at two-year colleges is within single digits and discussed whether it would be more cost effective to have them attend the four-year campus. GCP concurred that the transfer rate, in Montana, from two-year to four is low; 322 transfers from two to four-year in fall 2011.

President Cruzado imparted information about transfer numbers stating that they are low because MSU does not have the platform to make transfers happen. Numbers are already increasing. There are two different populations of students being addressed. The certification program will not contribute to four-year graduation rates; MSU is at 50.8%. The two-year program provides opportunity to students who are not able to attend a regular baccalaureate institution. Approval of the certification would help the process of GF and GCP, who wanted to propose programs at the same time and proposals/documentation, would not be duplicated.

Due to time constraints, Chair Lansverk would like to continue this discussion next week.

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

Signature

Marvin Lansverk, Chair

John Neumeier, Chair-elect

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