

FACULTY SENATE
September 10, 2014
346 LEON JOHNSON
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY – BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Adams for DeWeese (Art), Arnold (Ag Ed), Babbitt (Physics), Black (JJCBE), Bolte (Music), Bonnard (Library), Brester (Ag Econ), Brown (JJCBE), Burrows (Ext), Eiger (Cell Bio & Neuro), Franklin (Micro), Gannon (Bio & Chem Eng), Geyer (Math), Hendrikx (Earth Sciences), Herbeck (Ed), Hostetler (GC), Kaiser (ECE), Kohler (Chem/Biochem), Larson (M&IE), Lawrence (Chem/Biochem), Lu (PSPP), Martin (Mod Lang), McMahon (Ecology), Miller (CE), Mosley (ARS), O'Neill (Arch), Reidy (Hist, Phil & Religious Studies), Rossmann (Library), Shanahan (Political Science), Swinford (Soc), Waller (Hist & Philosophy), Wathen (HHD), Zabinski (LRES)

Others Present: Ed Adams, Kenning Arlitsch, Larry Carucci, Nancy Cornwell, Tracy Ellig, Chris Fastnow, Joe Fedock, Ron Larsen, Marilyn Lockhart, Dana Longcope, Aurelien Mazurie, David McKenzie, Helen Melland, Renee Reijo-Pera, Martha Potvin, Nicol Rae, Melissa Ragain, Linda Ransdell, Aleks Rebane, Brian Rossmann, Alice Running, Colin Shaw, Gail Schontzler, David Singel, Leila Serman, Robert Swenson, Anton Vorontsov, Brett Walker, Mark Young, Robert Mokwa

Chair Reidy called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm, and a quorum was present. Minutes from the September 3, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Announcements – Chair Reidy

- Reidy announced the Faculty Senate Steering Committee (SC) members: Michael Reidy, Randy Babbitt, Gary Brester, Cathy Zabinski, Doralyn Rossmann, and Larry Carucci. He is in the process of recruiting a member from Engineering.
- Course and Program Approval Process:
 - Courses will come to senate from Curriculum and Programs Committee (CPC). Reidy will announce that they are posted on the FS web site; Senators will be required to review them and make comments/recommendations to Reidy. Courses with unaddressed comments/recommendations will be brought to Senate for discussion and vote. SC will vote to accept the other courses after being posted for 10 days.
 - Programs will be voted on in senate after being vetted through CPC or UGC and the Academic Programs and Working Group and after being posted for two weeks on the FS web site.
- Reidy would like to faculty to bring topics to senate for discussion. An open floor time period will be included on the agenda. Topics will first be presented in Steering Committee and then brought to senate.
- Reidy presented the New Asian Studies Major and Minor
 - The program was proposed last semester;
 - It was vetted thoroughly through CPC and APWG; and,
 - A motion to vote to accept the program was made→seconded→all in favor→majority approved with four (4) abstentions.
- Due to the BoR meeting Senate will not meet on September 17, 2014. Karlene Hoo, Dean of the Graduate School, will be speaking at the September 24, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting.

Renee Reijo-Pera, Vice President for Research

- Dr. Pera's top two goals are:
 - Ensuring that MSU maintains its research excellence, and
 - Maintaining MSU's classification and high-research activity as a Carnegie One Research Institution.
- MSU is providing the research base for the state and, we contribute nationally and internationally as well.
- Reijo-Pera would like to expand MSU's base foundation to include all disciplines.
- Reijo-Pera presented a brief history of why research takes place in universities across the United States:
 - Research began to expand after WWII;
 - A commission was assembled by Vannevar Bush, who wrote a letter to President Truman outlining reasons why research should be housed in universities;
 - Preservation of technological advantage that had been gained during the war;
 - Recognition that health care was a major burden across the US; and
 - The need to train the next generation of Americans in science and technology.
 - With that document, there was modest research investment. In the following decades, research investment exploded in the 1960's continuing on into the early 21st century.
- Research creates knowledge and enhances faculty lives.
- Research teaches students to think more deeply.
- Research changes the world.
- MSU outperformed many well-established universities due to the base of our funding and how we maintain it. We are at a crossroads, however.
- A snapshot of MSU's OSP managed expenditures:
 - At the height of MSU's funding, which also included stimulus money, we had \$112M. At that time, the campus was undergoing a lot of renovation and new construction.
 - Last year funding was \$93M.
 - This year it is \$90.5M.
 - \$1.6M comes from the Foundation, private gifts and other outside sources.
 - State appropriation research funding is \$3.4M
 - Agricultural and experiment station funding brought in \$14.1M making the total \$109.6M.
- Reijo-Pera showed a pie chart illustrating the breakdown and distribution of MSU funding where the NIH constitutes 20%. In past years, however, it was 7% and included stimulus money. The next largest sponsor of research shows the NSF, constituting 14.8%, followed by the Department of Energy at 14.5%.
- Reijo-Pera told human interest stories of two research scientists who left their fields because they could not get funding for their labs and/or competition was so fierce, most proposals receiving grants were conventional; innovative research was difficult to fund.
- An NPR analysis of NIH data shows that 3400 scientists lost their grants between 2012 and 2013.
- Research investments will decline in the coming years according to the NIH. The NIH budget shot steadily upward from 1998 to 2003. Since 2004, the NIH budget has decreased by more than 20% (Not counting the two-year increase the budget got from stimulus funds via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.) as noted in charts displayed in senate.
- Reijo-Pera would like faculty to set goals about their research, the best path to take to do so, and decide how much MSU wants to accomplish.

- Reijo-Pera would like to see a 30% increase in grant writing which would produce 10% more funding from the NSF and the NIH.
- Reijo-Pera provided updates from the Office of VPR during the past seven months since her arrival at MSU.
 - The Office of VPR sent out requests for proposals which resulted in 175 submissions from 300 faculty, of which 14 have been funded.
 - The Office of VPR continues to find money for new faculty start-ups and retention.
 - The Office of VPR has developed a strategy to match research and would like to hire 3-4 senior research faculty.
 - The Office of VPR is reviewing additional requests for proposals and tapping into multiple funding opportunities.
 - A newsletter originating from the Office of VPR, and distributed to faculty, lists funding opportunities.
- Discussions ensued:
 - Based on the NPR NIH institution funding charts presented in senate (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/09/09/342196432/by-the-numbers-search-nih-grant-data-by-institution>), a faculty member referred to the Arizona State University (ASU) funding and asked Reijo-Pera if she has been able to determine what contributed to the institution's success. Reijo-Pera believes ASU's funding chart shows the university lagging behind in funding and lack of stabilization.
 - Referring to the pie chart presented in senate, a faculty member asked what the "Private" wedge included and if that is where research opportunity lies in the wake of declining funding. Reijo-Pera explained the "Private" wedge included funding entities like the Gates Foundation. However, money coming from such foundations does not include overhead, minimally 8%-10%, allowing the institution to do the project but without infrastructure needs; this process does not enrich the university as much as we would like.
 - Reijo-Pera suggested that MSU engage in program projects, providing more funding and a collaborative endeavor where scientists are able to work in each other's labs.
 - She believes the current funding should be targeted towards improving the quality of research.
 - When faculty propose goals for MSU's research, how will Reijo-Pera decide what those goals will be? Reijo-Pera stated she and the new Assistant VPR, Mark Young, would determine them.
 - Reijo-Pera encouraged faculty to continue to write grants before current grants wind down.
 - A faculty member asked if there is a way to submit grants that showcase unusual or risky research ideas. Reijo-Pera stated that any ideas have to be bolstered with evidence, which might be hard to do.
 - Reijo-Pera envisions investing expansion funds to novel ideas before others believe in them.
 - A senate member asked Reijo-Pera to comment on the 25% increase in student population in the last five years, stagnant lab facilities and the extra burden placed on researchers to take on more undergraduates. He noted that researchers cannot keep pace with providing research opportunities (one of the strengths of a research university) for our students to engage in.
 - A faculty member asked, "How important is hiring research faculty?" Reijo-Pera stated that the Provost is working diligently on addressing faculty and that she would like to hire research-active faculty. However, pay in Montana is not good and start-ups might have to be used as an incentive. She also believes in more grant writing.

- A faculty member asked what the MSU research strategy is with declining federal dollars and researchers leaving their labs. It is not clear how MSU can arrest the decline in research dollars by not hiring new research faculty. He noted that MSU needs to integrate all research and academic entities - not just science IDC's - as MSU deserves to have a vibrant humanities component. MSU needs an overarching research vision and to reinstitute the interdisciplinary aspects that used to thrive on this campus. He believes Arizona State University succeeds because they have interdisciplinary programs such as sustainability and think tanks, to address real world problems in the community. Reijo-Pera believes there is opportunity and views the severity of funding decline across the country as a vehicle by which MSU can be the model to make a positive difference. A vibrant financial structure might be structured so that MSU lives within the means of the \$90M coming in. Reijo-Pera will examine what research activities are taking place in the different schools and departments to develop a plan for centers and institutes, thus expanding our interdisciplinary research. If MSU is going to expand, however, it requires more funding.
- Reijo-Pera encourages faculty to visit her office and talk with her about their ideas.
- Reidy ended the meeting saying that Reijo-Pera is working closely with Potvin and Leist to determine how we invest funds. Faculty Senate should set the priorities within the Strategic Plan, as they know what they are, and the students, better than anyone else.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Signature,
Michael Reidy, Chair

Signature
Randy Babbitt, Chair-elect