

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: April 24, 2003

PRESENT: Audrey ConnerRosberg
George Madden
Randall Gloege
Mark Hardt
St. John Robinson
George White (ex-officio)
Janie Park (ex-officio)

Paul Bauer
Keith Edgerton
Alan Davis
Connie Landis
Dan Zirker (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Doug Brown
Sandie Rietz – *excused*
Matt Redinger – *excused*

John Cech (ex-officio)
Randy Rhine (ex-officio)
Nichole Alley (ex-officio)

Joe Michels (ex-officio)
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)
Curt Kochner (ex-officio)

PRESIDING: Keith Edgerton, Chair

Keith Edgerton called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. on April 24, 2003, in the Chancellors Conference Room.

The April 10, 2003, meeting minutes were accepted.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Summary—Issues in the College of Education and Human Services

It was stated that the University is looking to expand the online program, but it cannot be done on the backs of the current faculty. Part-time instructors that do not necessarily have to come from Billings and surrounding areas can teach online courses. It does not matter where that instructor is located. It was also noted that if there is interest in a course onsite, we make every effort to offer it here instead of online. Currently, there is only one course being taught by a part-time faculty member who does not live in the Billings area.

It was then cited that the University does not have a good, thorough hiring and evaluation process for part-time instructors. The hiring and evaluation of these instructors is up to the department, and every department does it differently. We need a better screening procedure for hiring. Many part-time faculty that don't work out are simply not re-hired. Something should be done before that point. Hiring online instructors works the same way.

It was noted that some department chairs are not receiving online student evaluations. They are only being given to the instructors. This needs to be corrected, as it is in the contract.

It was then cited that the online program seems to be making tenured faculty superfluous. It was noted that the online program is just an option for students. We will always have traditional on-site courses taught here. However, there is an excellent opportunity to grow our non-resident students through the online program. It was cited that if there are too many part-time faculty, and not enough tenured and tenure-track faculty, accreditation issues arise.

It was then noted that all departments should have some sort of hiring process for part-time instructors. Dr. Park stated that she could request the minimums for hiring and criteria from Department Chairs. She also noted that we are very lax with part-time faculty; we don't even have a contract with them.

It was noted that the budget for part-time instructors has gone up. It goes up every year. Dan Zirker, Dean of Arts and Sciences, stated that the College of Arts and Sciences' use of part-time faculty has decreased in recent years. Campus wide numbers are not known. It was noted that MSU-B uses fewer part-time faculty than most public institutions.

It was stated that another issue is lurking here: evaluation of current faculty. We evaluate popularity, not quality of faculty. Reform is needed in the evaluation process.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. MPA Program and College of Allied Health Professions Update – Janie Park. The Master's of Public Administration has hit an accreditation snag. Northwest's first response was that the joint degree will not be approved. The degree and the students must have a home campus. The Board of Regents wants cooperative programs like this, so we must convince Northwest to allow us to do this. If we can't get a joint program, we don't want to have it housed at Bozeman, and Bozeman is not interested in housing the degree anyway. If we offer the program entirely here, we will need a new business plan, which will change the proposal before the Board of Regents (the current proposal comes up for approval at the May 29-30 meeting).

It was noted that the MPA is currently awaiting second reading at the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. There is a large amount of clean-up to be done on the proposal, and when that has been completed, a second reading will be held.

Dr. Park noted that on Monday, April 28 there will be two forums held regarding the College of Allied Health Professions. All staff and faculty are encouraged to attend. They will be held at 9:00 am and 10:00 am in Library 148.

The College of Allied Health Professions Task Force met April 16 to begin building a timeline for implementation. Carl Hanson and Kent Burgess co-chair the Task Force, and they asked for an outline of what decisions have been made. Those are: A college has been created. Bozeman actually recommended we go for a college rather than a school. Second, the current Health Administration Advisory Board will form the transitional advisory board for the College of Allied Health Professions. They will add four new members as well. Third, we will start out with an interim dean, which we will start looking for in the next few months. This will not be a national search, and can be internal or external, as long as the applicants have some experience in Allied Health. The Task Force will help write the position description for the interim dean.

The rest of the details are still undecided, and making those decisions will be a long process. The Task Force has scheduled monthly update meetings through the summer for faculty, staff, and community members. The Task Force is also creating a website, which is not linked from the main page. It will have the Advisory Board members, the Task Force members, the schedule of Task Force meetings, and the Board of Regents proposal.

The list of possible programs in the Board of Regents proposal is not set. There will be lots of dialog before any department is moved to the College of Allied Health Professions, and those discussions have not happened yet. No department will be moved without their consent. We must make sure that we do no harm to the rest of the University in creating this college. We don't want to weaken departments by taking from them. There is no harm in starting small.

It was noted that if any departments want to move as soon as possible, and may want do to it over the summer, the Senate will be available to meet and discuss.

It was also noted that at the Academic Senate fall retreat representation for the College of Allied Health Professions and also the College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning (CPSLL) should be discussed. If the Health Administration program moves out of CPSLL, there will be no academic programs there.

It was cited that if a department is split on whether to move or not, the Academic Senate may be the appropriate venue for such discussions. It was also noted that if any department moves, there will be catalog changes that will come to the Senate.

It was noted that this college will also need to be housed somewhere. It may start with just an office in Apsaruke.

Dr. Park encouraged the Senate to use the website to keep themselves informed, and please attend the forums on April 28 and/or General Faculty meeting on April 30.

B. Weekly Campus-Wide Meeting Time – Keith Edgerton.

Dr. Edgerton noted that at the last ASFAC meeting (April 23), the faculty members discussed a weekly meeting time wherein no classes would be scheduled, such as Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. This time could be used to meet with other faculty.

Dr. Zirker noted that in the College of Arts and Sciences, it could be managed except for science labs, which are scheduled back-to-back.

It was noted that part-time faculty could be scheduled during that time. It was also noted that this would not force faculty to be more involved, just give them an opportunity to talk to one another.

This idea will be further discussed next week.

C. Revision of Change/Delete Course Form, Deletion of an Existing Program Form, Modification of an Existing Program Form, and New Program Cover Sheet to match changes in New Course Form.

⇒ Motion by Connie Landis, seconded by Randall Gloege to **approve the changes to the signature lines on all the forms.**

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Audrey ConnerRosberg, seconded by Mark Hardt to **waive second reading** of the signature line changes.

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Mark Hardt, seconded by Audrey ConnerRosberg to **rephrase the “Other Departments Affected” question** on the Delete Program and Modification of Existing Program Form to read:

Which other departments or programs will be affected by this deletion/change and have you consulted with them? What was the result of that consultation?

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Mark Hardt, seconded by St. John Robinson to **waive second reading** of the question rephrasing.

⇒ Motion carried.

It was stated that the General Education Committee should have a retreat (separate from the Academic Senate retreat) in the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

rjrm