

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: October 12, 2006

PRESENT: Agnes Samples
Rakesh Sah
Bruce Brumley
Johanna Mitchell
Matt Redinger
Alicia Esteves (student)

Mark Hardt
Sandie Rietz
Audrey ConnerRosberg
Gershon Bulgatz
Janii Pedersen (student)

ABSENT: Craig McKenzie – *excused*
Lorrie Steerey – *excused*
David Garloff (ex-officio)
Mary McNally (ex-officio)
Stacy Klippenstein (ex-officio)
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)

Noreen Lee – *excused*
Keith Edgerton – *excused*
Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)
John Cech (ex-officio)
Bob Carr (ex-officio)
George White (ex-officio)

PRESIDING: Audrey ConnerRosberg, Chair

Audrey ConnerRosberg called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m. in the Missouri room of the SUB.

The minutes of October 5 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Student Evaluation Group

It was noted that the group that signed up at the Back-to-School conference has not met yet this semester. Dr. ConnerRosberg stated that the COT is piloting a new student evaluation, and that group should see it. The results of the new evaluation are compiled by a national company. For the pilot project, COT faculty can choose to use the evaluation and the results will be returned the faculty, not the administration, so the faculty can decide if they like the evaluation and want to use it.

B. Letter from CAS Curriculum Council Regarding this Fall's Deadlines

Dr. Deborah Schaffer, chairperson of the CAS CC, stated in her letter that the Council is concerned that the deadline for UCC (October 25) is too early, especially since the CAS will have some entirely new programs proposed this fall. It was noted that we always accept things late anyway. It would not be a good idea to officially move the deadline.

Dr. ConnerRosberg stated that she would meet with Vern Gagnon, chairperson of the UCC, and advise him that the Senate does not plan on changing its expectations.

C. Email from Rodger Barber, Deputy Commissioner of Academic & Student Affairs

Dr. ConnerRosberg stated that she received an email from Commissioner Barber that the BOR is planning on reviewing remedial education. A workgroup will be organized and they would like faculty representation from all units of the MUS. Dr. ConnerRosberg noted that this is an important committee and asked the Senate if they have any suggestions of who might be interested. Sandie Rietz stated that she was interested. The Senate agreed to send out Dr. Barber's request to the faculty and ask if anyone else is interested.

D. Organizing Principle of the Academic Senate

Dr. ConnerRosberg stated that she wants to push for transparency with the administration, and the Senate needs to do the same. We need to toot our own horn more as well.

Dr. ConnerRosberg suggested that the Senate request monthly or bi-monthly reports from its standing committees. If there is something a committee needs from the Senate, the Senate needs to know.

E. Sabbatical Committee Nominees

It was reported that we already have nine responses of interest. It was cited that faculty in their first year at MSU-Billings should not serve on the Sabbatical Committee.

F. The 51% Rule: Transfer students for AAS degrees and Certificates must complete 51% of core program requirements at MSU-B COT

Dr. ConnerRosberg stated that this rule seems unfair to students transferring into the COT, because they may have to repeat courses in order to get 51% of their credits here. This rule is not based on a BOR or NWCCU requirement, so we can change it if the faculty want to. It has been suggested that the 25% rule for the main campus be expanded to the COT.

It was noted that the 51% guarantees that students have to spend at least one year at MSU-Billings, just as the 25% rule on the main campus does. If they only spend one semester here, how can we say we have granted them a degree? This rule seems important to our credibility. Graduates of MSU-Billings should be able to conduct themselves as professionals. We probably can't do that in just one semester.

It was cited that students needing to meet the 51% would not need to repeat courses; they could take electives. However, if the student began the program many years ago, they may need to repeat some courses, especially in fast-moving areas of health care. It was noted that if you want students to retake courses, you should specify it, as well as time limits on course relevance.

It was observed that the COT faculty have not discussed this as a whole. The Senate cannot make a statement or recommendation until we hear from the COT faculty.

G. SCIN Integrated Science Courses

Janii Pedersen, ASMSU-B Senator, stated that there have been many concerns from the students about the integrated science courses being too advanced and disjointed, since the courses are taught by multiple instructors.

It was noted that the same problem occurred when the course was first offered.

The Senate suggested the ASMSU-B first talk to the coordinator of the course, and then the department chair and dean.

H. Managing Enrollment

Dr. ConnerRosberg noted that Provost George White brought up in a recent Provost Council meeting that it is important to know your class roll, as instructors are responsible for those students in case of an emergency like a fire. It was noted that this is not true—our students are adults and we are not responsible for them. A requirement to take role is not in the CBA, so faculty cannot be required to do it.

I. Communication Audit

Dr. ConnerRosberg stated that she is still very interested in finding out how both faculty and students get their information. However, since the portal is just being started this fall, we will wait on the audit until spring so the portal gets rolling.

It was noted that COT students who mess up their password four times attempting to log into the portal are required to come to the main campus and present their ID to reset their password. There should be a place at the COT to do this.

J. Inequities between the COT and the east campus

It was noted that all the COTs in the University System have the same complaint: they are not paid equally with their main campus' faculty. It was cited that unless the MSU-B COT and the main campus have the same contract, the pay between the two will always be different.

It was observed that the salary data presented by President Gamble seemed misleading—all of a sudden MSU-Billings was on par with other units like Bozeman. Most likely, those were some very carefully chosen statistics.

K. Governor's Budget

Dr. ConnerRosberg handed out some information on the Governor's budget for discussion next week.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

rjrm