

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: February 15, 2007

PRESENT: Agnes Samples
Sandie Rietz
Audrey ConnerRosberg
Keith Edgerton
Craig McKenzie
Rakesh Sah
Bruce Brumley
Johanna Mitchell
Gershon Bulgatz

ABSENT: Mark Hardt – *excused*
Noreen Lee – *excused*
Dave Decker (student)
David Garloff (ex-officio)
Gary Young (ex-officio)
Karen Heikel (ex-officio)
George White (ex-officio)
Stacy Klippenstein (ex-officio)
Lorrie Steerey – *excused*
Matt Redinger – *excused*
Tedee Cuomo (student)
Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)
John Cech (ex-officio)
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)

GUEST: Cheri Johannes

PRESIDING: Audrey ConnerRosberg, Chair

Audrey ConnerRosberg called the meeting to order at 3:49 p.m. in room B028 of the College of Technology.

The minutes of February 1 were accepted as presented.

I ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 42 AS Program of Study in Human Resources General Applied Emphasis. Modification of an existing program.

Item 42.a AS Program of Study in Applied Supervision. Modification of an existing program.

Item 42.b HR 250 Employment and Compensation Strategies. New course.

Item 42.c HR 280 Compensation and Benefits. Delete course.

Item 42.d CTBU 266 Effective Work Groups. Delete course.

Item 42.e HR 283 Human Resource Applications. Delete course.

Item 42.f HR 181 Recruitment and Selection. Delete course.

Item 42.g AS Program of Study in Human Resources College of Business Articulated Emphasis. Modification of an existing program

Item 42.h Certificate of AS in Human Resources Management. Modification of an existing program.

Item 42.i HR 281 Risk Management, Safety, and Security. Change credits from 2 to 3.

Item 42.j HR 180 Employment Law and Practices. Change credits from 2 to 3.

Item 42.k HR 282 Organizational Training and Development. Change credits from 2 to 3.

Item 50 MATH 112 Calculus I. Change course description.

Item 50.a MATH 121 Finite Mathematics. Change course description.

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton, seconded by Craig McKenzie to **accept Items 42, 42.a, 42.b, 42.c, 42.d, 42.e, 42.f, 42.g, 42.h, 42.i, 42.j, 42.k, 50, and 50.a for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 52 Minor in Native American Studies. Modification of an existing program.

⇒ Motion by Bruce Brumley, seconded by Keith Edgerton to **accept Item 52 for information.**

Gershon Bulgatz noted that he spoke with Dr. Jeff Sanders, Native American Studies, who stated that NAMS/PSYC 385 should be moved from one list of restricted electives to another within the minor. It was cited that this curriculum change should probably be returned to UCC for discussion.

⇒ Motion withdrawn by Bruce Brumley. Second withdrawn by Keith Edgerton.

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton, seconded by Bruce Brumley to **return Item 52 to the UCC for discussion of moving NAMS/PSYC 385.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 54 EVST 490 Environmental Studies Internship. New course.

⇒ Motion by Bruce Brumley, seconded by Craig McKenzie to **accept Item 54 for information.**

It was noted that this course will only be an elective for Environmental Studies majors, not a required course, so a program change is not necessary at this time.

⇒ Motion carried.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. New Graduation Form – Cheri Johannes, Registrar

Ms. Johannes stated that there has often been a problem at the very end of the semester, one or two days before Commencement, when a student just finds out that he or she will not be graduating because of a shortage of credits. This is often due to not having enough upper division credits, or because the student repeated a course. Ms. Johannes has researched both in the Montana University System and nationally and found that MSU-Billings is unusual in allowing our students to apply to graduate the semester they will be graduating. This resulted in a no-win situation.

The Provost set up a task force to deal with the graduation problem, presentations at the Back-to-School conference were done, and feedback was collected from the student government and the Provost Council. Admissions is now asking students to apply to graduate at least the semester before the semester they are to graduate.

Ms. Johannes also noted that Admissions used to process repeats manually and it did not happen to often, resulting in students' total credits dropping unexpectedly. Now repeats are processed automatically using new software.

Ms. Johannes stated that now is the time if changes need to be made on the new graduation form. She noted that the ultimate responsibility now rests with student, because they are to fill out the form in consultation with an advisor. The student and advisor then sign off on the form and it is forwarded to the Department Chair/Team Leader and Dean. Anecdotally, there seems to be a greater awareness of degree requirements among students because of this new system.

It was noted that since the form says "to be done in consultation with an faculty advisor" students want their faculty advisor to fill it out for them. Ms. Johannes noted that ideally the student would fill out the form, and faculty have the option to refuse to do it for their advisees.

It was cited that the form needs to be clearer on when the Chair/Team Leader and Dean sign the form.

Ms. Johannes noted that if a student has switched advisors, the original advisor should not have take responsibility for something he or she knows nothing about.

B. "Intellectual Diversity" Bill (HB525)

Dr. ConnerRosberg noted that the Faculty Senate representatives have discussed HB525 and are in agreement they oppose it. The hearing on the bill is tomorrow (February 16).

It was noted that the University System will be in big trouble if this bill is passed. It seeks to mold the Universities to a certain viewpoint that is anathema of what a University stands for. It also seems to be promoting a certain religious agenda.

It was noted that MSU-Northern has crafted a resolution that seems to cover what we need to say. It was cited that we should add our support to Northern's resolution, but also add something of our own.

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton, seconded by Sandie Rietz **that the Academic Senate supports MSU-Northern's resolution adding the following language as part of our resolution.**

HB525 is a dangerous attempt to impose an ideological agenda through legislative mandate which the faculty at MSU-Billings strongly oppose and find to be completely counter to tradition and academic freedom because it constitutes a full-scale assault on the rights of all Montanans to engage in the free exchange of ideas.

⇒ Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

rjrm