

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: January 18, 2018

PRESENT:	Suzette Nynas	Jim Barron
	Scott Butterfield	Cindy Dell
	Kelly McCoy	Heather Thompson-Bahm
	Joy Honea	Paul Pope
	Sarah Keller	Rachael Waller
	Diane Duin (ex-officio)	Christine Shearer (ex-officio)
	Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)	Florence Garcia (ex-officio)

ABSENT:	Susan Gilbertz*	Vern Gagnon*
	Kelly Shumway*	Katelyn Focht (student)*
	Robert Hoar (ex-officio)*	Matt Redinger (ex-officio)*
	Trudy Collins (ex-officio)	Joe Oravec (ex-officio)
	* <i>excused</i>	

GUESTS:	Ron Larsen	Darlene Hert
	Cheri Johannes	

PRESIDING: Cindy Dell, Vice Chair

Cindy Dell called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

As many of you are aware, faculty member Krista Mougey passed away over the break. The University is deeply saddened by her passing. Dr. Gilbertz will be missing a few meetings, as she and Dr. Mougey were good friends. There will be a gathering this Friday (January 19) to celebrate the life of Krista Mougey.

Joy Honea noted that the Women Faculty Caucus has no mechanism to contact part-time faculty, so she asked that Senators pass on information she distributed.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 14 were accepted as presented.

III. CHANCELLOR REPORT

Dr. Larsen noted that the Montana Coal Board met on campus today. The Foundation made a proposal to request \$500,000 for Yellowstone Hall. The request was approved!

Dr. Larsen cited that he is scheduled for an interview tomorrow (January 19) for the job of Chancellor.

IV. ITEMS – FIRST READING

Item 41 CARE Grants Report on Gender/Tenure/Discipline Bias.

This item will be postponed to the next meeting since Grants Director Cindy Bell could not attend today's meeting.

Item 25.b Academic Senate Bylaws Article IV. Section B. 4. Library Committee.
Revise bylaws.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Jim Barron to **approve Item 25.b on first reading.**

Darlene Hert, Director of the Library, noted that she discovered the bylaws were very out of date, as compared to what the Committee is actually doing. So, the responsibilities are clarified and the very large group has been reduced in number. This is a great committee for junior faculty, so that is explicitly stated in the bylaws modification.

⇒ Motion carried.

It was noted that Item 25.b replaces the earlier item to delete the Library Committee. Second reading will be at the next meeting.

V. ITEM – SECOND READING

Item 25.a Academic Senate Bylaws Article II Section A. Membership. Add Director of the Library to non-voting membership of the Senate. *Requires general faculty vote.*

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Scott Butterfield to **approve Item 25.a on second reading.**

Ms. Hert noted that the librarians are not considered faculty, but they do teach one three-credit course, so this is an excellent way to keep the librarians informed.

⇒ Motion carried.

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Update Change Course Form to Include Outcomes

A request was made by Vice Provost Matt Redinger, who is also the campus Common Course Numbering liaison, that the Senate Change Course Form ask for the course outcomes. Currently, the CCN database does not have outcomes for each course, so in an effort to get all outcomes listed, the Commissioner's Office will only allow changes in courses if the outcomes are supplied. If changes are being made to our courses, faculty should be thinking about course outcomes anyway, so it won't be difficult to supply them.

It was noted that explanation of why outcomes must be supplied should be included on the form. The form also asks users to confirm they have "reviewed the CCN database" but not what for. This should be clarified as well. It was noted that using the CCN database is also difficult if one needs to compare courses across rubrics, since some disciplines have multiple rubrics.

⇒ Motion by Sarah Keller, seconded by Joy Honea that **the Change Course form be clarified regarding what we mean by "reviewed the CCN database" and that we ask for course outcomes on the form, regardless of whether they have been supplied in the past.**

It was agreed that, for a future Senate meeting, a draft form will be prepared and the Senate will talk with Vice Provost Redinger about what we should be asking for to inform the CCN database.

⇒ Motion carried.

B. Jacket Proud Faculty Appointment

The Jacket Proud group is requesting a new faculty appointee to keep membership rotating on the committee. It was noted that there has not been much faculty representation on the Jacket Proud committee or its subcommittees, so we need to remedy that. Jacket Proud co-chairs Trudy Collins and Kathy Kotecki will be asked to a future meeting.

C. Campus Name Change: Discussion of Faculty Survey Results

It was cited that the Senate ended up with this because there is no other mechanism for faculty to make their wishes known about the name of the University. Because of this, we have no power to make changes; the most we can do is make a statement to the administration.

Joy Honea stated the following results of the faculty survey:

- 55% in favor of the History Department's suggestion: Eastern Montana State University
- 9% suggested a different name
- 11% had no opinion
- 25% said keep the name the same

There were 100 participants since that is the limit for a free survey from surveymonkey.com.

Some of the different suggestions were interesting, including "MSU Eastern" which might be easier to get approved since it keeps the MSU, and might work better since so many people already call us Eastern. MSU Eastern also aligns with the other names in the system (MSU-Northern, UM-Western, etc.)

It was noted that when we surveyed the faculty about a possible name change, we did not include any possible budgetary implications related to a name change, which might change how people feel.

It was cited that the Community Task Force did discuss name changes. It was noted we have 20 years of students who have graduated under the name MSU Billings. We need to know what they think about changing the name. The question was raised as to what happens with the Community Task Force recommendations. Chancellor Larsen responded that the Community Task Force will report to the Board of Regents at the March meeting, but it is up to us what we do with those recommendations. The official report will be published when the March BOR agenda is published.

It was suggested that if we are going to change our name, we need to do research and engage marketing specialists. It has been done successfully, as in the example of Truman University, formerly Northeast Missouri State University. In that case, the Missouri legislature changed the university's mission first, and then changed the name. It was noted as well that Truman did have an increase in enrollment after the change.

It was noted that we have anecdotal feedback that the community would like a name change because our name does not represent our identity. We definitely need more research, more data, before we can confirm this speculation. Also, our community is not just Billings, but eastern Montana and western North Dakota and South Dakota.

As a first step, we could ask our marketing faculty if they are interested in doing research on name changing. Scott Butterfield stated he could do that and report back at the next meeting.

Chancellor Larsen noted that if we undertake studying a name change, not only will we need to ask the community, but also current students, staff, faculty, and recent graduates. A task force may need to be created, and it might be best to pursue this after a permanent Chancellor is appointed.

The Senate could release a statement that we support studying the name change.

D. August Student Success Workshop: Complaints about length of meeting

It seems that the two weeks in August are getting increasingly busier for faculty. Many faculty stated that the conference did not need to go two days; one day would have been enough. There are also so many department, college, and other meetings, faculty have very little time to meet with advisees, prepare syllabi, or talk with colleagues about programs. We are trying to squeeze these in between the multitude of meetings!

Cheri Johannes, Registrar, noted that Susan Gilbertz was on the committee which organized the pre-fall activities, and she strongly and repeatedly said the conference should have only been one day. The Senate thanked Dr. Gilbertz for her voice on this committee. Dr. Johannes stated that the second day was included because in order to get Student Affairs staff to get together with faculty, more than one opportunity is needed. These offices cannot close, especially so close to the start of a semester, so two sessions were offered to give those staff a chance to rotate with their colleagues.

It was requested that planning the Fall 2019 activities should take into consideration that recent years have been too busy. It would be ideal, but likely unworkable, to have all meetings in the first week and save the second week for prep and student advising.

E. Discussion of Think Tank/Brainstorming Comments: Next Steps

The full list of comments should be shared with the campus, and perhaps do some research on those ideas. It was noted that the UBC has requested cost estimates on the one idea—restructuring—that has been sent forward. Faculty have been asking what has happened with these ideas. This item will be moved to the top of the next agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

rjrm