

## ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

**DATE:** October 31, 2002

**PRESENT:** George Benedict  
Audrey ConnerRosberg  
Keith Edgerton  
Alan Davis  
Connie Landis  
Janie Park

Sandie Rietz  
George Madden  
Randall Gloege  
Mark Hardt  
Matt Redinger  
Dan Zirker

**ABSENT:** Doug Brown – *excused*  
John Cech (ex-officio)  
Randy Rhine (ex-officio)  
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)  
Curt Kochner (ex-officio)

Paul Bauer – *excused*  
Joe Michels (ex-officio)  
George White (ex-officio)  
Nichole Alley (ex-officio)

**PRESIDING:** Keith Edgerton, Chair

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Keith Edgerton called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. on October 31, 2002, Halloween, in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

The October 17, 2002, meeting minutes were approved.

### I. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

**Item 24** Committee Roster 2002-2003. For information.

It was noted that Michael Dennis of the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences has been attending the General Education Committee meetings regularly, even though he is not a member. The Bylaws should be amended to include another member from the College of Arts and Sciences.

⇒ Motion by Sandie Rietz, seconded by Randall Gloege to **amend the Academic Senate Bylaws to raise the number of Arts and Sciences representatives from three to four.**

⇒ Motion carried unanimously.

⇒ Motion by George Benedict, seconded by Matt Redinger to **waive a second reading of the change in Bylaws.**

⇒ Motion carried.

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⇒ Motion by Matt Redinger, seconded by Audrey ConnerRosberg to **accept Item 24 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

## II. NEW BUSINESS

**A. The “T” Grade and Enrollment, Karen Everett, Registrar.** Ms. Everett explained that the “T” grade was used for graduate students for a work in progress. It is only used for these courses: thesis, internship, capstone, and clinic. The “T” grade is removed once the work has been completed.

It was noted that some senior students, especially in the Environmental Studies Program, would find the “T” grade useful. Ms. Everett noted that an “I” or Incomplete is used for undergraduate students, which means the same thing—work in progress. It was noted that an “I” seems more pejorative, as if the student just gave up and walked away. It was also noted, however, that Financial Aid sees both the “I” and “T” the same way—as something bad on the student’s record.

It was noted that if undergraduate programs have taken on graduate-like qualities, they should be able to use the “T.” It was also noted that Financial Aid’s position cannot be changed, as it is a federal mandate that students must complete with a passing grade at least two-thirds of their attempted credits, or they will lose their aid.

Another solution would be instead of making a course six credits that takes a whole year to complete, start with three credits for one semester, and then add more as needed.

Keith Edgerton, Chair, stated that he would like to develop a policy with the Senate on the “T” grade.

It was noted that George White, Director of Graduate Studies, should be consulted for any problems he may have had with the "T" grade. It was also noted that the "T" grade was used for undergraduate courses in the past, but there was a big push to move it entirely to graduate courses.

### **Enrollment**

The enrollment for the College of Technology is up 18%, while the main campus is down 1.5%. The University is up in freshman and down in all other grades including graduate students.

Janie Park, Provost, stated that we did not make our target for the main campus, and we need to make up for that 1.5% drop with intersession enrollments. Also, an increase in Spring 2003 enrollments will help. At the present time, we are working toward offering whole degrees either entirely in the evening, or in a combination of evening and online courses.

Dr. Park stated that the PIN numbers that were required by students to register is the newest attempt to employ mandatory advising. It was noted that the PIN numbers were distributed way too late for the faculty and advisors to meet with their advisees before registration begins, which is this Monday, November 4. It was noted, however, that so far students like the mandatory advising, which is a surprise.

It was noted that the PIN numbers have come too late to do anything for two semesters in a row. Dr. Park stated that she will fix that problem and get the PINs out when they are needed.

It was also noted that an earmark of some sort on students marking them as undecided, or even marking them as first generation college students would help in the advising process. It was also cited that some faculty training on the PIN system and other advising issues would be useful. It was also suggested that the PIN system should be used campus-wide.

### **Intersession**

Dr. Park stated that perhaps more leadership is needed for Intersession. She stated that the number of courses offered this Intersession is down from last year, and we will need more to make up for the enrollment drop. Perhaps volunteering for whatever classes are offered is not the best approach. We need to find courses that fit into the Intersession timeframe, with special attention paid to quality. Also, adding more courses on top of everything else the faculty do may be a bad idea. Perhaps some adjunct faculty could teach Intersession courses. It was noted that if the pay for Intersession is spread out over two paychecks, you actually take home more money as a result of taxes.

**B. Revision of Academic Senate Forms.** This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

**C. Gamble visits to MSU-Billings.** Keith Edgerton stated that he will contact Geoff Gamble about another visit to MSU-Billings in November.

**D. Dr. Janie Park – Administrative Review.** Dr. Park reported the results of her administrative review (which took place two years ago as the pilot of the new review process).

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

The next Senate meeting will be November 14, 2002.

rjrm