

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: January 22, 2009

PRESENT:	Jeff Sanders	Rakesh Sah
	Bruce Brumley	Kay Streeter
	Lorrie Steerey	Craig McKenzie
	Keith Edgerton	Mark Hardt
	Matt Redinger	Steve Coffman
	Rob Barnosky (student)	Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)
	Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)	Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)

ABSENT:	Kayla Miller (student)	Sandie Rietz*
	David Garloff (ex-officio)	Gary Young (ex-officio)
	John Cech (ex-officio)	Kirk Lacy (ex-officio)
	Karen Heikel (ex-officio)	D'Ann Campbell (ex-officio)*
	Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)	Stacy Klippenstein (ex-officio)

* *excused*

PRESIDING: Lorrie Steerey, Chair

Lorrie Steerey called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. in room B57 of the College of Technology.

The minutes of December 4 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 15 EDCI 305 Teaching Art in the Elementary School. Change course description.

Item 15.a EDCI 315 Teaching Art K-12. Change course description.

Item 32 SCIN 103 Integrated Sciences II. Change Corequisite.

Item 33 BS Major in Health and Human Performance Option in Health Promotion. Modification to an existing program.

Item 33.a BS Major in Health and Human Performance Option in Human Performance. Modification to an existing program.

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton, seconded by Bruce Brumley to **accept Items 15, 15.a, 32, 33, and 33.a for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Desire2Learn

It was noted that there are several issues with the D2L conversion. The internal mail is very cumbersome and students all request their external mail be used. Using the external mail must be made easier. There is no support from D2L and Bill Weber in eLearning and the I.T. staff don't have enough time to handle the many problems. We should have a significant cost savings from the conversion to D2L from eCollege. Why are those funds not being used to hire more support staff? Students were blindsided by the change, and though training for them has been promised, it has not been delivered. Students do eventually get the hang of using D2L, but for the first several weeks of class the students experience many setbacks. It was cited that D2L also runs incredibly slowly.

It was agreed that the Senate needs to meet with Tim Tirrell, Director of eLearning, to discuss these issues.

B. Board of Regents January Meeting Report

Dr. Steerey noted that she attended the January meeting because there was an item on the agenda about communication with faculty. The faculty member from Missoula who was elected (at the November meeting in Butte) to represent all the faculty senates did not communicate to the faculty leaders that the item on the agenda only meant that at every other BOR meeting, the Regents will meet with faculty leaders via a conference call the Tuesday before the meeting.

While in Helena, Dr. Steerey learned of the extremely grim budget picture for the University System. MSU Billings has a \$1.3 million deficit because we made one-time only cuts to balance the budget last year. The Chancellor and Vice Chancellors are in Helena this week and next week with the legislature, and when they return the Academic Senate Budget Committee will need to start meeting immediately.

C. Academic Foundations Committee

Dean Tasneem Khaleel, College of Arts & Sciences, stated that offering Academic Foundations is one of the missions of the College of Arts & Sciences, and the College wants oversight and assessment of this program. This would be accomplished through a council predominately filled with faculty from the CAS and also representatives from other colleges. This council would not fall under the Senate's purview, but would be a part of the curriculum process. There are several reasons for the formation of the council,

including the difficulty the AFC has had in getting a quorum and the AFC's meeting time.

It was noted that the AFC only had difficulty getting a quorum for one semester, and in fact the Committee has made headway this semester. It was cited that the CAS's hands are tied with its mission relating directly to what the AFC and Senate decide in regard to Academic Foundations. It was noted that the Academic Foundations Committee was originally an ad hoc committee in response to issues in the NWCCU fifth year evaluation. The AFC has now served its purpose and should sunset in favor of a re-visioned council. It was cited that this is really a top-down versus bottom-up decision making issue.

Dr. Steerey will meet with the AFC to discuss this proposal and any issues they have had with faculty participation and the functionality of Academic Foundations.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

rjrm