

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: October 16, 2008

PRESENT: Jeff Sanders
Sandie Rietz
Kay Streeter
Keith Edgerton
Mark Hardt
Steve Coffman
David Garloff (ex-officio)
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)
Kirk Lacy (ex-officio)

Rakesh Sah
Bruce Brumley
Lorrie Steerey
Gershon Bulgatz
Matt Redinger
Kayla Miller (student)
Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)
John Cech (ex-officio)
D'Ann Campbell (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Craig McKenzie*
Gary Young (ex-officio)*
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)

Rob Barnosky (student)
Karen Heikel (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 October 2 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEM FOR APPROVAL

Item 8 Committee Roster (including student members) for 2008-2009.

⇒ With no objections, **Item 8 was approved.**

II. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 4 BS Major in Criminal Justice. Modification of an existing program.

Item 4.a BS Major in Sociology. Modification of an existing program.

Item 4.b BA Major in Sociology. Modification of an existing program.

- Item 4.c** Minor in Sociology. Modification of an existing program.
Item 4.d Teaching Minor in Sociology. Modification of an existing program.
Item 4.e SOCL 306 Principles and Methods of Social Science Inquiry Laboratory. New course.
Item 4.f SOCL 401 Formal Organizations. New course.
Item 4.g SOCL/CRIM 450 Computer Crime. New course.
Item 4.h SOCL/POLS 465 Sociology of Law. New course.
Item 4.i SOCL 205 Principles and Methods of Social Science Inquiry. Change number, credits, course description, and prerequisite & corequisite.
Item 4.j SOCL 232 Dating and Mate Selection. Change number to 333.
Item 4.k SOCL 433 Dysfunctional Families. Delete course.
Item 4.L SOCL 485 Professional Development and Assessment. Change number, title, credits, course description.
Item 4.m SOCL 470 Sport and Society. New course.

⇒ Motion by Steve Coffman, seconded by Bruce Brumley to **accept Items 4, 4.a, 4.b, 4.c, 4.d, 4.e, 4.f, 4.g, 4.h, 4.i, 4.j, 4.k, 4.L, and 4.m for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Collaborations with the MSU-Bozeman ROTC Program: Vice Chancellor Stacy Klippenstein

Since Vice Chancellor Klippenstein is unable to attend today's meeting, this topic will be moved to a future agenda.

B. Budget Committee Meetings for Fall 2008

Dr. Steerey noted that at today's Chancellor's Executive Budget Committee, it was announced that due to an enrollment shortfall, we have \$700,000 of debt right now. Academic Affairs' share of that cut, from the FY2009 budget, will be \$450,000. The question was raised as to what happens if we cut the \$700,000 and then have a big enrollment increase in Spring. It was noted that the Chancellor will then put that money back into the budget. No strategies have yet been discussed, but each of the Vice Chancellors must bring their rough ideas for their cuts in one week—October 23.

It was noted that this semester many faculty agreed to teach larger classes with fewer sections. There is no more space to squeeze more.

It was stated that the Academic Senate Budget Committee needs to get the full budget and meet during the next scheduled Senate meeting time. It was suggested that just the Senators could meet to formulate some faculty-driven ideas. It was responded that unless the administration is meeting without the faculty, the faculty should not exclude the administrators and staff.

It was cited that last year's discussions were very hurried and we did not have a lot of time to discuss the mission of the group: the budget in relation to the University's mission. This year we should have some time to have those philosophical discussions. It was suggested that even last year there no respect for faculty ideas for cutting the budget because we supposedly don't know how the real world works.

It was noted that it seems we have to decide which academic programs to cut in order to pay the rent on McDonald Hall or the downtown offices. It was noted that the Senate should take exception to the percentage cuts, because that idea is supposed to be set aside in favor of a more strategic budgeting process. It was noted that the downtown office is just on the cusp of becoming a money-maker, and the administration won't want to cut it. It was cited that CPSLL is to be self supporting within five years, so we should cut their budget 20% every year until then. It was stated that it has become more difficult to work with CPSLL, and some departments may be withdrawing in order to become more efficient themselves.

The question was raised as to whether the annual program reports will be used in the budgeting process. It was noted that those reports are not really helpful, because no program is willing to put itself on the chopping block. It was noted that the NWCCU evaluation team said we need to close the loop: we need to use our evaluations and assessments to make budgeting and planning decisions.

It was cited that we are currently the only unit that is down in enrollments, yet Yellowstone County is one of the fastest growing areas in Montana. We need to find out what the other units are doing that we are not.

It was agreed that the Academic Senate Budget Committee will meet next week during the Senate meeting time. A copy of the budget will be distributed to the faculty members of the Committee as soon as possible. Steve Coffman stated that he does not want to be chair of the Budget Committee again, but agreed to start the first meeting.

C. Provost Council Report: Steve Coffman

Dr. Coffman reported that NWCCU gave us three commendations: (1) we care for students, (2) we have good community partnerships, and (3) our capital campaign was excellent. They gave us four recommendations: (1) anyone who is teaching (LOAs, part-time faculty, etc.) needs more supervision and evaluation, (2) we have uneven program evaluation, (3) we are trying to do too much with too little, and (4) our mission needs clarification, especially the University System and Bozeman recognizing and supporting our mission. We will have an 18-month report and a 2-year visit due.

Also, the Governor and the Commissioner of Higher Education are attempting to split out the two-year campuses, after 15 years of melding them together with the four-year units.

B. Budget Committee Meetings *continued...*

Provost D'Ann Campbell arrived and stated that we will likely have to cut \$450,000 this year and double that next year. Department Chairs and Deans should receive the budget tomorrow. Dr. Campbell's goal is to wait until the Senate Budget Committee has finished its deliberations before making her recommendations to the Chancellor. She wants to reassure the faculty that nothing is final yet, and that we need to focus on increasing enrollment. Low faculty morale will impact student retention, so it is important that the faculty not become alarmed. It was noted that there is nothing in Academic Affairs that can be cut—it's all personnel. Dr. Campbell stated that the Deans will be looking at cutting options and increasing sections. It was stated that cutting options and increasing sections will impact student retention as well, and Dr. Campbell agreed this method is the stupidest way to budget from a strategic point of view.

It was noted that we have many programs that are not FTE generating. Perhaps the biggest cuts should come from those areas. Dr. Campbell noted that the Academic Senate Budget Committee should make suggestions for cuts outside of Academic Affairs, *but also* from within Academic Affairs. A big issue is out-of-state students. One third of the students Bozeman and Missoula are out-of-state, while our *only* program which generates out-of-state FTE is the Athletic Training graduate program.

It was noted that perhaps the Budget Committee and the SPAA-CQI Committee are doing some of the same things regarding strategic planning. It was noted that the Budget Committee cannot really do strategic planning the way SPAA-CQI can.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

rjrm