

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: February 12, 2015

PRESENT: Tom Dell Patricia Vettel-Becker
A.J. Otjen Cindy Dell
Francisco Saldivar Susan Gilbertz
James Barron Andrew Sullivan
Debra Johnson Kelly Shumway
Paul Pope Bruce Brumley
Stephen Coffman Sonja Choriki (student)
Diane Duin (ex-officio) C. Shearer-Cremean (ex-officio)
Barbara Wheeling (ex-officio) Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)
Rita Kratky (ex-officio) Mark Pagano (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Matt Redinger (ex-officio)* Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)
Joe Oravec (ex-officio)
* *excused*

GUESTS: Mark Nook Trudy Collins
Aaron Clingingsmith

PRESIDING: Bruce Brumley, Chair

Bruce Brumley called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. in the City College Health Science building South Conference Room.

The minutes of January 29 were accepted as presented.

I. CHANCELLOR REPORT

Budget

Chancellor Mark Nook stated that since the budget announcement was made on Tuesday, he had to travel to Helena for an event and so has not had much chance to gage the campus reaction to the cuts. However, he has spoken with community members. The information presented by the Gazette as well as the TV stations was excellent. At the

event in Helena, the Chancellor met with the Commissioner and the Regents, and they confirmed they have been hearing good things about MSU Billings. The message is being received positively by the community.

Next Tuesday, the University Budget Committee will receive the line-by-line cuts for their review.

The question was raised as to whether we will have similarly deep cuts again next year. Dr. Nook responded that we got into this situation because our enrollment peaked in 2011. We did two things that hurt us as a result. We added positions and then our enrollment dropped, which we thought was just a dip but is actually a trend. We also continued to use the theory that our enrollment would be the same as last year, but it kept falling. We cannot do either of these again. We are working on algorithms to predict our enrollment, and right now we are almost to the bottom and should start going up again. However, the climb will be slow and we are aware of that. We are also increasing the cushion known as the enrollment reserve from about \$750,000 to \$1 million. We are setting our budgets based on very conservative enrollment targets, but that does not mean we can't set higher targets for recruitment. Basically, the cuts we are making in the 2015-2016 budget, totaling about \$4.4 million, are cleaning up from the fall in enrollment since 2011. The Student Success Committee is moving forward to find best practices not only to retain first-time freshman students, but also find ways to help students of all levels persist and finish their degrees.

Chancellor Nook also noted that the Regents and Commissioner are finally beginning to understand just how different our student body is. Of the students who graduated from MSUB in Spring 2013, 30% took 7 or more years to graduate. In other schools, that number is about 5%.

A question was asked about a proposed reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences. Provost Mark Pagano stated that he drafted a memo which will probably go out tomorrow to the Department Chairs in CAS that the college will be reorganized into fewer departments. This came about because the budget in CAS is almost all people, and this reorganization is an effort to inflict the least amount of damage on faculty positions. The departments would be reduced from nine to six, eliminating three chair stipends and two administrative assistant positions. Those eliminations amount to about one faculty line. This will not happen immediately; the timeline is not set by any means. Now is the time to discuss the process, within departments and with the UBC. However, a plan will be finished by the end of this semester. Dr. Pagano also noted that the departments at City College were reshuffled last year, and we got permission from the BOR to do it on a one-year trial. We are now going forward with finalizing those departments.

Interim Provost

Dr. Nook stated that he had six people suggested to him as possible Interim candidates. He vetted those names through President Cruzado, the Chancellor's Cabinet, and a few faculty members. Each nominee had a strong objection from at least one of those consulted, so at this time our best bet is the Registry. Dr. Nook reviewed how that

process would work, and reminded the Senate that MSUB sets the salary. We also have to provide housing for the successful candidate, but there are campus-owned residences available.

II. PROVOST REPORT

Timeline for COMPASS Exam Resolution

Dr. Pagano met with Tami Haaland, Chair of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages, and Dean Christine Shearer-Creman about an alternative for the COMPASS test. The Department is eager and willing to find a solution.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

IV. ITEM – SECOND READING

Item 82 Graduate Admissions Policy for International Students.

⇒ Motion by Francisco Saldivar, seconded by Paul Pope to **approve Item 82 on second reading.**

Paul Pope, member of the Graduate Committee, noted that international students, as part of their F1 visa to come to the United States for study, must be fully admitted to a program and be degree-seeking.

⇒ Motion carried.

V. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Revising the Curricular Process between UCC and Academic Senate

The UCC has sent forward a draft proposal, and Mr. Brumley returned it to the Committee with some revisions. The draft is still in process, but the idea is to use a consent agenda like the Regents. The curriculum would be presented as a group and approved by consent, unless any member of the Senate requests an item be pulled. If that occurs, faculty representing the curriculum change would be asked to attend the next meeting. Any item with issues in budgeting, staffing, or conflicts between departments or colleges would be reviewed by the Senate. This will save time overall, but Senators should not be afraid to pull an item at any time.

B. Report from Subcommittee on Form Signature Issues and Issues with Seminars/Workshops

Inter-college Collaboration

In conjunction with the Subcommittee, Ms. Rabe Meduna has created a form which would attach to any curriculum change that impacts teacher education. The faculty proposing the change would have the responsibility to consult with departments affected and prove that by signatures on the form. It was noted that this could be an issue not just with teacher education, but any program

⇒ Motion by Susan Gilbertz, seconded by Cindy Dell, to amend the wording of the form to include “all relevant college curriculum committees” and include a box which can be checked N/A, and approve the amended form. The intent of this form is to ensure communication.

⇒ Motion carried.

Homeless Courses and Old Courses

The Senate does need to review any courses that are not in an academic department.

It was suggested that the Senate call for a review of courses that have not been offered in years. Mr. Brumley asked the Provost to obtain a list of courses, by college, that have not been offered for five or more years. The Senate cannot delete any department’s courses. We can only ask departments to consider cleaning up the catalog.

Workshop vs. Seminar

Francisco Saldivar contacted Neil Moisey, Deputy Commissioner for Academic, Research & Student Affairs, who responded to him that the BOR does not have a policy that specifies differences between the two types of courses.

Recommendation to Move Health Administration Program into a Department

The College of Allied Health Professions is working on this, but an objection was made as to the punitive way the recommendation was worded. The Senate does recognize that resolving this issue will take a lot of work. Chancellor Nook noted that this does need to be resolved, since BOR policy states that all academic programs need to have a department.

The Senate will meet in a week’s time to review the curriculum which has been piling up.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

rjrm