

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: September 21, 2017

PRESENT:	Suzette Nynas	Jim Barron
	Cindy Dell	Kelly McCoy
	Susan Gilbertz	Heather Thompson-Bahm
	Joy Honea	Vern Gagnon
	Kelly Shumway	Paul Pope
	Sarah Keller	Rachael Waller
	Katelyn Focht (student)	Diane Duin (ex-officio)
	Christine Shearer (ex-officio)	Clifford Coppersmith (ex-officio)
	Robert Hoar (ex-officio)	Matt Redinger (ex-officio)
	Joe Oravec (ex-officio)	

ABSENT:	Scott Butterfield*	Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)*
	Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)	
	* <i>excused</i>	

GUESTS:	Ron Larsen	Cheri Johannes
	Heather Eggum	Clinton Culp
	Jennifer Pope	Darla Tyler-McSherry

PRESIDING: Susan Gilbertz, Chair

Susan Gilbertz called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room, and announced that she will be handling the agenda out of order today.

I. WELCOME NEW SENATOR

Kelly McCoy, City College

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 20 and August 23 were accepted as presented.

III. CHANCELLOR REPORT

Dr. Larsen noted that budget cuts are looming, but at this time we are waiting for decisions from the Commissioner's Office before proceeding. Dr. Larsen has no interest in reducing the number of programs we offer, but rather to reduce electives and tweak programs instead.

The solar eclipse event in August brought 600 people to campus, and Dr. Larsen would like to see similar free or low-cost events that appeal to the public.

We hosted a welcome back event for students, where 17 businesses replied they would come set up a table, and 20 actually showed up. It was a great event for our students, made even better by the student musicians!

The Community Task Force will meet next week. They are pivoting from collecting information to formulating some recommendations. Those include:

- Leadership stability (including asking when we will begin the search for our next Chancellor).
- Ensure we offer academic programs that meet the needs of our constituents, which ties in with our program reviews.
 - Ensure simplicity and clarity in our programs.
- With our significant number of non-traditional aged students, we should be more concerted in our efforts to be the statewide leader in marketing to and recruiting those students.
- Our community is paying more attention to what we can do for them and what they can do to support us.

Dr. Larsen stated that we have received donations from both the Billings City Council and Big Sky Economic Development Authority (BSEDA) for the Yellowstone Hall project. BSEDA may also be able to loan us funds, but we hope to avoid borrowing money, so we may use the offer of a loan as leverage. The fundraising currently sits at \$12.5 million. There has been discussion of the fact that the building, as proposed, would now cost more than the \$15 million originally agreed upon, so we must build the building we can with the money we have. If we hold out to cover those increased costs, we may be into the next legislative session and they may decide to take the money back.

Also this summer, we hired Shannon Wilcox as the new Director of University Relations.

IV. PROVOST REPORT

Dr. Hoar noted that Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Terrie Iverson will be retiring by the end of this calendar year. Now that faculty have returned, the search committee will come together quickly.

Provost Hoar stated that we did not meet all of our performance based funding metrics, so we attempted to counter those by highlighting our retention efforts, especially the

corequisite courses and math pathways. The Commissioner's Office loved it, but as we all know, they are struggling with cutting the University System budget up to 10 percent, so we don't know what will happen. MSUB is seeing a rise in our retention rate. Dr. Hoar also presented, along with Bozeman Provost Bob Mokwa, our corequisite courses and math pathways to the Board of Regents at the meeting earlier this month. MSUB is definitely the leader in this area!

At the OneMSU meeting this month, an initiative was begun to make it easy for students to take a course anywhere in Montana, regardless of which school they are registered at. We could really benefit from this through our online course offerings.

In October, MSUB will host Continuing Legal Education classes for lawyers of Billings, and we are working with Missoula on a law school pathway that starts at MSUB.

This week the City College Fire Science program had an accreditation visit, and they loved our program, especially the options for students to go on to a four-year degree with Outdoor Adventure Leadership.

Dr. Hoar noted that the joint occupational therapy program with Missoula has been approved by the BOR, so we have authorization to offer a master's program. We hired a consultant to help with the accreditation process, and learned that the industry is moving away from a master's to a doctorate. At this time, we will still pursue the master's program, and think about the doctorate in the future.

The Provost's Office, working with I.T., has released a large dataset to departments to help us all understand the numbers of our programs and spot trends. This information is incredibly detailed and can be maneuvered in a number of ways that department chairs have found useful. Unfortunately, the software for this requires an individual license for each department, so right now each department has one, but we will be adding more so more faculty can access the data. The goal is to put together a report for each program.

V. OTHER REPORTS

Kognito At Risk for University and College Faculty and Staff Suicide Prevention Program

Darla Tyler-McSherry, Director, Student Health Services

Ms. Tyler-McSherry stated that the University System created a suicide prevention task force, which recommended that the units of the system employ some evidence based prevention strategies, which were then tailored to MSUB. At this time, there are two options available to all faculty and staff. The first is QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training which discusses the signs and symptoms of suicidal ideation, as well as how to have conversations with people to move them toward help. Second is the online Kognito program, in which faculty and staff use a virtual avatar to role play several situations and includes a coach to guide users. This program covers broad mental health issues, not just depression/suicide, and they are offering an incentive for people to take this training.

After completion, the participant can print a certificate of completion, and that is good at the Campus Store for a drink or can be brought to Student Health Services for a coupon for free food from either dining facility on the main campus or City College.

There have been a few users who have had technical issues with logging into the Kognito program, but Kognito is working on those and they should be resolved soon.

VI. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 2 Emeritus Nomination: Daniel Yazak, Department of Educational Theory & Practice, College of Education. For information.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Jim Barron to **accept Item 2 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 5 BIOH 101 Foundations of Human Biology. Change course number to 104 and change title to Basic Human Biology. Changes due to CCN, for information only.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Jim Barron to **accept Item 5 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 4 Committee Report for 2016-2017: Commencement Committee.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Cindy Dell to **accept Item 4 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 6 Committee Report for 2016-2017: General Education Committee.

⇒ Motion by Jim Barron, seconded by Paul Pope to **accept Item 6 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. OTHER REPORTS continued

Proposed New Program: M.S. in Adventure Leadership in Health and Recreation (Therapy)

Clinton Culp, Health & Human Performance

Dr. Culp stated that the intent to plan this program was accepted by the BOR last year. The program will have two options: recreation therapy and adventure leadership. Market research indicates this is a growing market in Montana, and there is good support for the program in the community. The program will be housed in the Department of Health & Human Performance, where they will utilize existing courses for about 30% of the program. As for new faculty needed, they are proposing a need for two part-time instructors, one of which must be certified in recreation therapy, and the rest of the need will be covered by restructuring existing faculty loads.

Dr. Culp plans to meet with the Graduate Committee next, and he does have the curriculum planned out. It will be emailed to the Senators, and Dr. Culp appreciates any feedback.

VIII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION continued

Item 3 Committee Report for 2016-2017: Academic Standards & Scholastic Standing Committee.

It was noted that the vast majority of the petitions heard by the Academic Standards & Scholastic Standing Committee are requests to drop a course. To what extent are we making work for ourselves through this policy?

Cheri Johannes, Registrar, reminded the Senate that the Senate sets the policies and the Admissions & Records Office implements the policies. The Academic Standards & Scholastic Standing Committee functions as the appeal process for students and as the documentation of that process for auditing purposes. Dr. Johannes presented a table (attached to Item 3) that indicates 85 to 90 percent of the appeals presented to the Committee in the last 10 years are for drops. The other 10 to 15 percent of those are the truly necessary appeals for unusual situations. Dr. Johannes clarified that the Committee sees these appeals *after* the student has already been told no by someone in the approval chain: the instructor, the department chair, etc. This is the appeal process for the student after that denial. Our drop policy is in line with the rest of Montana, and our out-of-state peer institutions. Drops are the majority of the Committee's work, and almost all of them are approved. The handful that are denied are usually because the faculty member said no.

Students asking to withdraw from a course do often have financial impacts, since an "F" may make them ineligible for financial aid in a subsequent semester. It was noted that many students try to drop late in a semester because they are panicked and worried they won't pass. The need for a signature to drop a course gives the faculty member a chance

to talk with the student and even convince the student to stick it out. However, having to get all these signatures can be very frustrating for students, and does create work for the Admissions staff because each drop must be handled personally. There is nothing automatic about the process.

This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

IX. ELECTIONS: 1 VICE CHAIR

Scott Butterfield could not be present today, but nominated himself.

Jim Barron nominated Joy Honea.

Joy Honea nominated Sarah Keller.

A paper ballot was distributed and Joy Honea was voted Vice Chair for 2017-2018.

CHAIR ELECT

The Chair Elect will assume the Chair position in May 2018. Cindy Dell and Joy Honea stated they did not wish to take on the position. Jim Barron was elected Chair Elect.

X. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Search Committee for Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Cindy Dell agreed to serve on the Search Committee.

B. Academic Senate Representatives to UBC for 2017-2018

Heather Thompson-Bahm and Sarah Keller agreed to serve on the University Budget Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

rjrm



ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT A STUDENT?

College can be stressful at times.
Build the confidence to talk with a
student who you're concerned about.

1. Go to kognitocampus.com using Firefox or Chrome
(not compatible with Internet Explorer)
2. Click "create an account". If you completed the Veterans on Campus module in the past, you are already in the system.
3. Enrollment Key for Faculty and Staff: [msubillings](#)
4. Enrollment Key for Students: [msubillstudent](#)
5. The course takes approximately 45 minutes to complete
6. Incentive: Print your Certificate of Completion and bring to either Jackets and Co for a free beverage (coffee, fountain soda or Frazil) OR bring the coupon to Student Health Services, 2nd Floor, Petro Hall, to get a coupon for a free meal at Rimrock Café
(faculty/staff/commuter students only)
7. Questions? Contact:
Darla Tyler-McSherry dtylermcsherry@msubillings.edu
or Jeff Rosenberry jrosenberry@msubillings.edu

At-Risk for Faculty & Staff

Be prepared to lead real-life conversations with students that build resilience, strengthen relationships and connect them with support.

At-Risk for University and College Faculty and Staff is an online professional development simulation designed to help faculty and staff build confidence, knowledge, and skills to best support students exhibiting signs of psychological distress. The program uses simulated conversations with virtual students to provide learners with hands-on practice in approaching students they are concerned about and, if necessary, how to refer them to support services.

SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Resource Center/American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Best Practices Registry

Launched in 2009, the program has been adopted by more than 400 universities and colleges, assessed in two empirical studies, and added to the SPRC/AFSP Best Practices Registry for suicide prevention programs.

Why should faculty and staff participate in this program? Source: Kognito Interactive

- 30% of all college students report feeling so depressed it is difficult for them to function
- 6% of college students say they have seriously considered suicide in the past year
- Close to 80% of students who die by suicide have signs and symptoms that may go unnoticed by others

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify warning signs of mental distress, including verbal, behavioral and situational clues
- Manage conversations with students to determine the need for referral
- Develop awareness of negative stereotypes and misconceptions about mental distress and illness
- Understand their school specific process for student referral and the counseling services available for students

This initiative is a recommendation from the MSUB University Mental Health Task Force