



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: April 22, 2021

PRESENT:	Suzette Nynas	Jim Barron
	Mara Pierce	Jennifer Lynn
	Scott Butterfield	Natalie Bohlmann
	Rachael Waller	John Pannell
	Heather Thompson-Bahm	Paul Pope
	Sam Boerboom	Austin Bennett
	Tami Haaland (ex-officio)	Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)

ABSENT:	Rakesh Sah	Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)
	Richard Beer (ex-officio)	Robert Nava (ex-officio)
	Vicki Trier (ex-officio)*	Susan Simmers (ex-officio)
	Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)	Jana Marcette (ex-officio)
	Darlene Hert (ex-officio)*	

** excused*

GUESTS:	Kathleen Thatcher	Joann Stryker
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PRESIDING: Jim Barron, Chair

Jim Barron called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m. via Webex.

I. TRANSFER OF CHAIRSHIP

Dr. Barron said it has been an honor to chair the Senate. He also noted the Chancellor could not be here today, but via email she thanked all the faculty for the above and beyond heavy lift this year. The Senate thanked Dr. Barron, and he turned over the meeting to Jen Lynn.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Lynn welcomed new Senators Mara Pierce, CLASS representative; Paul Pope, At-Large representative; and Matt Queen, CHPS representative.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021-2022

Dr. Lynn stated that the Executive Committee meets on the Thursdays when there is no Senate, but it's not every week. They work through tricky items and problems, as well as discuss upcoming Senate agendas. The Committee also does the Administrator Evaluations.

Vice Chairs

⇒ Scott Butterfield nominated himself for Vice Chair

⇒ Suzette Nynas nominated herself for Vice Chair

⇒ Austin Bennett nominated himself for Vice Chair

The nominations were accepted and with no further nominations, the slate of Vice Chairs was elected.

Secretary

⇒ Austin Bennett nominated Sam Boerboom, and he accepted.

With no further nominations, Dr. Boerboom was elected Secretary.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 8 were accepted as presented.

V. PROVOST & CHANCELLOR REPORTS

University-Wide Faculty Committee Clearinghouse

Dr. Balter-Reitz noted that this will be her last report as Interim Provost! The clearinghouse is still in process. Once it's complete, she will get it to Dr. Lynn in the summer so Senate can receive it in the Fall. It will be housed in the Provost's Office and they will regularize notice for creation and termination of campus committees.

The Provost also noted that the program reviews and course rotations are still needed (they are not part of SPA 2). About 60% are in. The reports will be shared in a Box.

VI. OTHER REPORTS

None.

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 25 Request for authorization to establish an Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis at MSU Billings. Level II item for information.

⇒ Motion by Suzette Nynas to **accept Item 25 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 26 Respiratory Therapy AAS – Great Falls College MSU program offered in City College. For information only.

⇒ Motion by Suzette Nynas to **accept Item 26 for information.**

Provost Balter-Reitz noted that this degree will be awarded by Great Falls, not MSUB. Students will take Gen Ed courses from us, but that's all.

⇒ Motion carried.

VIII. ITEM FOR APPROVAL

Item 27 Academic Conduct Guidelines and Grievance Procedures for Students.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope to **approve Item 27.**

Provost Balter-Reitz noted that, as she stated at the last meeting, this moves the academic appeal process out of the student code of conduct. There may be some formatting/numbering changes, but the content will not change. If the Senate approves today, this can be effective for Summer and Fall. However, if the Senate would like to digest this, we can use the current policies and have the new policy effective Spring 2022.

The question was raised as to how students will find this procedure. Dr. Balter-Reitz responded that Student Affairs will include links in the student handbook to redirect to the Provost website for the academic appeal process. The Provost will also email this information out to all faculty to be included in syllabi, and it will be included in D2L as well.

⇒ Motion carried.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Kathleen Thatcher, Director of Assessment & Accreditation, reminded the Senate of the NWCCU mid-cycle review coming this October 14-15. Most likely, it will be an on-campus review.

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

rjrm