

FACULTY SENATE
MARCH 28, 2012
LEON JOHNSON 346
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Cantalupo (Ext), Caton (Business), Copie (Chem & Biochem), Dougher (PS&PP), Engel (LR), Gerlach (ChBE), Greenwood (Math), Herbeck (Ed), Hostetler (GCP), Kaiser (ECE), Lansverk (English), Larson for Sobek (M&IE), Letiecq (HHD), Lynch (Psych), Martin (Modern Lang), Neumeier (Physics), O'Neill (Arch), Rossmann (Library), Schachman (Nursing), Varricchio for Hendrikx (Earth Sciences), Zhu (CS)

Others Present: Ron Larsen, Larry Carucci, Marilyn Lockhart, Regent Jeff Krauss, Waded Cruzado

Chair Lansverk called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present.

Chair's Report:

- Minutes from 3/7 and 3/21 FS meetings were approved with one abstention.
- Last week, FS passed the Students Missing Class policy; the adjunct representation on FS wording is being revised by Faculty Affairs.
- There are two more VPA&F candidates. One will be on campus tomorrow at 2:00 pm. The dean's candidate for Arts & Architecture will be on campus tomorrow.
- There will be a phone-in BoR meeting on Friday at 9:30 am. Lansverk and Neumeier will be participating.
- Lansverk and Neumeier are still recruiting for a chair-elect of FS. Nominations and voting for university committee vacancies will take place on the April 18th FS meeting.
- The Strategic Plan is being modified in the research portion and faculty and staff are still engaged and providing feedback.
- Leslie Taylor will be attending FS on April 4, 2012 to discuss guidelines/training for interaction with minors and sexual harassment.

Regent Jeff Krauss

Regent Krauss, an advocate of "access to education," was appointed by Governor Schweitzer to be a BoR member. Krauss came to Montana thirty years ago and received an accounting degree at MSU. He has served in some kind of an elected position in Gallatin County for the past 17 years. He explained that when he was appointed by the Governor that any potential "Conflict of Interest" issues—due to his already being an employee of the MUS system—were examined and that it was determined not to be a problem. Discussions ensued:

A question was posed about the rising cost of higher education and the relative levels of state funding and tuition. Krauss relayed that the federal government will not contribute to higher education if tuition continues to rise. Students are graduating with debts of \$25,000-\$30,000. He also noted that there is some wage inflation as generational turn-over occurs. Health insurance and pensions have contributed to higher costs, as he observed during his participation in local government. Additionally, some salaries have gone up large percentages. State support of higher ed through tax payers' percentage contributions used to be 65% and they is now 35%. There is a larger physical plant contributing more power to more buildings on campus, there are more things on campus to take care of – fixed costs – have gone up exponentially. Personnel costs have risen, also.

President Cruzado stated that when most FS members were attending universities, the state of Montana paid 82% of tuition costs; today it is down to about 30%. Furthermore, the university system is a far more complicated/complex operation than it was 20 years ago. Access, learning disabilities, compliance, technology and its

infrastructure, library costs, expectations from parents/students for students services (mentors, tutors) are all contributors to the rising costs. Krauss also understands the salary conundrum.

A FS member noted that a lot of conversation in the community is about the two-year education from GCP, which MSU as one of the two comprehensive research universities in the state often seems to get less attention from the BOR. From the perspective of a mayor, the FS member wanted to know what that means to the community – that MSU brings in \$100M for research, which directly benefits students and the economy of Montana. Krauss stated that the community would not be as vibrant without MSU. He added that we are the third largest urban area in the state and haven't had the same workforce development opportunities as Kalispell or Great Falls, where two-year colleges contribute opportunities to the community. He sees MSU's role as "the urban university" as very important, and it will continue to bring many resources and benefits to Bozeman. The value of living in a university town is that it is an open and welcoming community, and this is the message we should send nationally/internationally. President Cruzado stated that under our constitution, as a BoR member, Krauss (and other BoR members) are the owners of the university, which is a very large responsibility. She was looking forward to future discussions of the long-term vision and strategic plans for MSU with Regent Krauss.

Lansverk asked about improving the communications processes for interaction between faculty and the Regents. Krauss stated that democracy is representation and demonstrating credibility. Krauss encouraged faculty to bring issues to him. He stated that all entities of the university system need to work for tax payers and students.

Lansverk thanked Krauss for attending the FS meeting.

The Faculty Senate meeting ended at 5:10 pm, as there was no further business.

Signature

Marvin Lansverk, Chair

John Neumeier, Chair-elect

Minutes were transcribed by Gale R. Gough, Administrative Associate, Faculty Senate.