

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE
December 16, 2013
201 Cobleigh – Robert's Hall
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Notes

Members Present: Randy Babbitt, Larry Carucci, Wes Lynch, Robert Mokwa, John Neumeier, Meta Newhouse, Michael Reidy, Doralyn Rossmann

Others Present: Gary Brester, Wade Hill, Tony Campeau, Marvin Lansverk

Chair Mokwa called the meeting to order at 8:30 am, and a quorum was present.

Faculty Handbook – Brief Discussion Regarding Planning to Develop a Plan - Chair Mokwa

- A meeting to discuss the Faculty Handbook will take place later today, December 16, 2013, 1:30 pm, Cobleigh 201.
- Babbitt suggested inviting the AFMSU faculty representative elected before the union was decertified, Eric Austin, for handbook input discussions.

Potential Revision to Senate Bylaws – Structure of Leadership Positions – Chair Mokwa

- Currently, the bylaws refer to two year terms for the positions of Chair and Chair-elect. Additionally, two positions, Parliamentarian and Vice-chair, have not been active for a long time. The current Steering Committee is not as described in the bylaws however, it is very functional.
- SC members offered suggestions for restructuring. Reidy proposed:
 - Keep a Vice-chair on; and
 - Change terms to one year: Vice-chair; one year; Chair-elect, one year; Chair, one year.
- Babbitt suggested the aforementioned structure be that of the Steering Committee (SC).
- Carucci suggested a temporary Parliamentarian, since discussions for specific topics in senate might be more in-depth than anticipated where Roberts' Rules would not accommodate such discussions. Babbitt and Reidy suggested language that asks for Parliamentarian input when the Chair requests it.
- Mokwa would like to utilize the SC as a means of delegating some of the responsibilities of meeting issues that fall on the Chair and Chair-elect of senate. For example, attendance in Planning Council might be attended by a SC member. He suggested that SC members might be faculty representatives for the Planning, Research, and Budget Councils and whose duties might be similar to those of a Vice-chair. Some at-large SC members (and perhaps senators) might be able to assist when the Chair and Chair-elect encounter scheduling conflicts.
- Neumeier asked if the university council membership might be written into the bylaws. He then suggested choosing a senator, one not necessarily a member of SC, who might have membership on the lesser IT and Outreach councils.
- Regarding the university councils, Reidy stated that he and Mokwa have suggested to the President that they need to be more effectual such as interdisciplinary interaction between the Research and Budget councils.
- Shifting topics, Reidy reported on the most recent RATF meeting where Camper presented the VPR budget showing that all cuts were made to the research budget, including instrumentation. Another proposal suggested by RATF members included raising all campus transaction taxes from 3% to 5% and collecting the revenue generated. This suggestion was not endorsed by RATF leadership, however. Another RATF meeting will take place Thursday.

Approval of Degree Candidates- Tony Campeau, Associate Registrar

- Tony Campeau read a statement of consideration to all members of the SC:
"It is my pleasure to present for your consideration Montana State University's fall 2013 degree candidates. Upon your recommendation, subsequent verification and certification of successful degree requirement completion (per the requirements defined by the MSU faculty), and approval of the board of regents; the candidates here-in will be awarded the degree commensurate with their academic achievement. As such I ask for a motion to recommend that the President of Montana State University confer the appropriate degree upon these candidates, with the above stated verification and certification."
- Discussions ensued:
 - The number of candidates, including grad students, were approximately 1,023; 600 walked.
 - Summer school candidates were included as potential candidates and will be retroactively to last spring or they make get their diploma in the fall.
 - Although paperwork currently determines if students have met the requirements to graduate, in the fall DegreeWorks will be used as the primary degree audit tool, as some of the software idiosyncrasies are still being learned.
 - This spring, students will be required to use a plan feature in DegreeWorks. That, with what they have completed, gives a complete picture of the students' status. Students will declare, in advance, their minors and that information is posted in DegreeWorks.
 - The Registrar's office confirms all student degree information via reports.
- The consideration was moved for approval of graduating candidates for fall 2013→seconded→all in favor→unanimously approved.

Honorary Degree Candidates – Wade Hill

- Wade Hill, member of the Honorary Degree Committee, presented the candidates to the FSSC for discussion and approval.
- As a general comment about all honorary degree candidates, SC discussed having either written or verbal support from the area the degree is in, and that there should be some statement or letter of support from that department associated with that area.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm.

Signature,
Robert Mokwa, Chair

Signature
Michael Reidy, Chair-elect

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