

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2005
101 Reid Hall
Montana State University-Bozeman
4:10-5:00 PM**

Members Present: Amin, Ashley, Becker, Bennett, Bradley, Cherry, Gipp, Giroux, Jones, Klapper, Kommers, Levy, Lynes-Hayes, Mathenia, Metz, Neeley, Peed, Pratt, Rucker, Seymour, Taper, Taylor, D. Weaver, T. Weaver, D. J. Young, Zhu

Members Absent: Babcock, Croy, Erickson, HHD, Hoffman, Idzerda, Jackson, Knight, C. McClure, M. McClure, McDermott, Prawdzienski, E. Schmidt, Thompson

Others: Bergmann (retired from Ed), Brester (Romney), Buschera (for Romney), Butler, Dooley, Fedock, Lansverk, Stein

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM. Minutes from January 26, 2004 Faculty Council were approved.

FACULTY AFFAIRS – Chair Marvin Lansverk

- Section 300 in the Faculty Handbook language is ready for FC to review next week even though the BOR has already approved a limited pilot version

COMMITTEE MEMBERS - Chair Warren Jones

- Need a couple of members for the Employee Recognition Awards Committee (for classified employees) do not have to be FC members, but must be faculty. Start reviewing by February 28. Please contact Gale Gough gough@montana.edu if you know of willing participants.

MID-TERM GRADE REPORTING – Chair Jones

- Mid-term grades reporting.
 - Information is critical to be able to provide intervention for freshman so they continue their higher education. Process has flaws. Spreadsheet is distributed; you fill out, and then send back. Committee trying to revise the way it is done. Room for improvement. If you or anyone you know who teaches many of freshman classes and would like to fix this process, please notify Chair Jones. First meeting is 3:45 PM tomorrow. Email warren_j@erc.montana.edu or Gale Gough gough@montana.edu.

HP&E RENOVATION – FC Member Doug Young

- Design Team member, Robert Bennett, reported that the current Design Team proposal shows funds are available to sustain most current design.
- Several faculty and MSU retirees (Gary Brester, Denny Klewin, Don Mathre, Randy Rucker, Doug Young, Christopher Pinet, John Sherwood) wrote a memo to President Gamble about the HP&E renovation. Even though memo has already been sent, Doug Young proposes that FC endorse it. It asks that the new renovation provides the same type of space as in Romney, and proposes solutions to the problem. Basic idea is to enlarge the new design footprint to accommodate what Romney, at least, has so those using it are no worse off.
- Motion that FC adopt a resolution endorsing the memo → seconded → discussion →
 - Current fiscal situation at MSU does not make faculty contributions feasible. Where is the money coming from? Would faculty fee be increased by \$50?
 - Some FC members view new faculty fees to support the facility as a cryptic pay cut, but see other compensation problems ahead of this one e.g., benefits, retirement.
 - One-to-one conversion of locker space was committed; however, reduction in size of lockers for the men.
 - Privacy area would be compromised and faculty/staff would be dressing with students.
 - Young at Heart is concerned that the new pool wouldn't be warm enough.
 - Is Romney Gym a historical building? If so, has renovation of any kind been addressed? Provost Dooley said it is not an issue at this time.

- General Wellness issue is grossly under funded and anything that makes the gym less user friendly should be of central concern.
 - Modification of the design plan should emphasize our wellness facilities and may cause our health benefits to be lowered.
- Some expressed that they are not sure if FC would want to get locked into the financial issues as it is written in the memo.
- FC should have administration address the funding to bring it up to the standards, at least, of Romney.
- Capital expenditure that it amortized over a long period of time on an annual basis and is not a large amount of money.
- Provost Dooley stated that he does not use the facility and has no stake in the issue. Other comments he made were that:
 - Both Geoff and Craig would like to be responsive on this issue as soon as they have the opportunity.
 - Legislature is in session and some other important issues have emerged.
 - This is not a failure in shared governance and the dialogue has been very rich. Participation has not been what it should have been but has been acknowledged. Initial processes did not involve a great many and there was a communications gap. Survey of other institutions revealed that MSU was on par and within the normal range of what this kind of project would involve.
 - President Gamble and Provost Dooley are in favor of raises and benefits for faculty. Many of these kinds of decisions, however, are up to the BOR and legislators and are out of their control.
 - \$400,000 number quoted does not include “wet” facilities such as separate showers, toilets. Inclusion of those options would bump numbers to \$700,000.
 - View financial impact of this as significant, but may not be high on UPBAC’s priorities list. It has a significant impact on university funds which might be spent via higher priorities.
 - Keeping Romney open is not an option, as it is very expensive, in the state it is in, to keep it operational.
 - Faculty may want to bring forward fund raising ideas; bonding with additional revenue stream off of lockers, etc.
- Motion was made to table previous motion so that SC comes up with something workable and agreeable to all →moved→seconded.
 - SC will craft brief language to bring to FC next week.
- Architects are meeting on February 9, 2005 and it would be helpful if FC had something to propose and get more concrete numbers of what it would cost.

HB430 – Chair Jones

- Provides state money to take over, gradually, the under funded TRS employee contribution from TIAA-CREF.
- Depending on how much money the BOR puts into K-12 will determine how HB430 will be funded.
- Motion that FC supports HB430 by a letter crafted by Chair Warren Jones→seconded→approved.

STUDENT REGENT – Chair Jones

- Chair Jones asked FC if they would support a letter written to confirm Kala French, student regent.
- Although the student term was confirmed for three years by Governor Judy Martz, the BOR has the option of deciding whether she is to continue or not.
- President Gamble and Provost Dooley support Kala French.
 - Some FC members are abstaining from support due to conflict of interest.
 - Some FC question why FC is injecting its views regarding a student issue.
- Chair Jones may, as an individual, write a letter of support, but will not represent FC.

Motion was made to adjourn, as there was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Signature

Warren L. Jones, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary