

FACULTY SENATE
October 1, 2008
REID HALL 101
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Amin, Catoira, Cherry, Eitle, Fischer, Fleck, Fields, Gee, Gerlach, Gipp for Sowell, Jacobsen, Lansverk, Lei, Livingston, Lynch, C. McClure, Merzdorf for Jacobs, Neumeier, Prawdzienski, Snider for Becker, Versaevel, Taylor, D. Weaver, Wisner

Members Absent: Bangert, Bennett, HHD, Igo, Jackson, Larson, Maskiell, Mokwa, Political Science, Varricchio, Watson, T. Weaver, Wojtowicz, Zhu

Others Present: Joseph Fedock, Maureen Weiland (ASMSU Lobbyist), Mike Pasque (Vice President of ASMSU)

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

6 MILL LEVY – Maureen Weiland, Mike Pasque

- The 6 mill levy is a Montana property tax that has existed since 1948, and is proposed every 10 years. It is a unit tax based on the value of each homeowner's property, and the money collected goes directly to higher education, state-wide. A mill is about 1/10 of 1%, which is approximately \$12 per homeowner, and generates approximately \$13M per year, \$5M of which comes directly to MSU. It was initiated in the House and is coming up as a legislative proposition on the November ballot as LR118. In the past, the 6 mill levy has passed each time it has been proposed. Theoretically, if it does not pass, all students will pay an increase of 5-6% for tuition, which translates into a \$500-\$600 increase per student per year.
- At the most recent BOR meeting (September 25-26) the MAAS (all student government participants in higher education in Montana) passed a resolution in favor of LR118.
- A group concerned with gun rights is opposing LR118 because students are forbidden to carry firearms on campus.
- Literature is available about the 6 mill levy through ASMSU and the MSU Public Relations office (Cathy Conover).

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Chair Lynch

- The September 24, 2008 minutes will be approved next week.
- The Commissioner of Higher Education, Shelia Stearns, will be visiting MSU on Friday, October 3, 2008, 10:00 AM in the President's Conference Room, Montana Hall. She will be discussing the transfer initiative. There are 12 disciplines that are now in the process of crafting common course rubrics, numbers and titles. Faculty Senate believes that many faculty are still not aware of the common course initiative. Faculty Senate believes a faculty rep on the BOR would be valuable.
- Geoff Gamble will meet with shared governance leaders (ASMSU, Professional, Faculty Senate and Staff Senate) October 2, 2008 to discuss the formal recognition of the governance of shared leadership proposal. This will require changes to the faculty handbook. Currently, we have a University Governance Council that represents faculty and professionals, but not staff or students and it is not certain what to do about this entity.
- F&A - Tom McCoy will meet with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on October 9, 2008; he will also attend the November 5, 2008 Faculty Senate meeting. UPBAC will discuss F&A distribution on October 7, 2008, 1:30 PM, Foundation Great Room.
- Paul Bogumill will visit Faculty Senate to discuss the MUS Benefits Package, October 15, 2008: Specific questions should be send to Chair Lynch: wlynch@montana.edu
- Regarding the faculty holiday party planning at the Museum of the Rockies, December 10, 2008, please send head count to Gale, gough@montana.edu
- Chair Lynch would like more participation in Faculty Senate, and he may query those who are members, but are not attending the meetings.

BOR – Chair Lynch

- At the September BOR, faculty discussed four (4) items of concern: discrepancy of the TIAA-CREF ORP; the 2% initiative which advocates putting an additional 2% into faculty/staff salaries in the 2010-2011 bienniums to raise critical salaries and for use in recruitment and retention; common course numbering; and, the dual credit initiative which involves college professors teaching high school students for high school credits. High school students taking college classes may receive dual credit. The union is directing the college professor teaching these classes to become certified according to specific high school standards (which means some type of pedagogical training), to submit to a background check and, to be fingerprinted.
- The 2009 MSU budget was approved and implemented July 1, 2008. It is approximately \$132,000,000, with an increase of 3.52%.
- Montana Green Campus: <http://mtgreen.mus.edu/> is a new portal (created by MSU) to other universities/colleges showcasing online courses and programs without driving to a campus (one aspect of the web site's "green" philosophies). If one searches for MSU, you are linked to extended university courses. There are careers in energy-related fields, degrees and programs; reclamation, renewable energy, energy research, etc.

FACULTY AFFAIRS – Chair Taylor

- This week, Faculty Affairs sent the new sabbatical applications to the Provost's office. Applications are due in November. After reviewing them in January, Faculty Affairs will then make recommendations to the Provost. There is approximately \$250,000 to distribute among the recipients.
- Chair Taylor is researching whether sabbatical funding may accommodate a year's leave instead of one semester.
- The University Promotion and Tenure Committee is looking for a tenured professor to be a member.
- P&T Implementation – The working groups will be finishing their work for Faculty Senate and Faculty Affairs for review; specifically external review letters and definitions. The in-depth assessment of teaching portion will follow.

The Faculty Senate meeting ended at 5:00 PM, as there was no further business.

Signature

Wes Lynch, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary