

FACULTY SENATE
September 12, 2007
REID HALL 104
4:10 AM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Al-Kaisy for Mokwa, Amin, Ashley, Bailey, Becker, Bandyopadhyay, Cherry, Croy, Downey for Bangert, Dyer, Fleck, Gipp, Livingston, Longcope, Lynch, Pinet, Prawdzienski, Starkey for Zhu, Taylor, Watson, Lucy Marshall for D. Weaver, Wojtowicz

Members Absent: Ag/ED/AOT, Bennett, Chem/Biochem, Ecology, Gerlach, HHD, Jackson, Jacobs, Johnson, Lei, M. McClure, Neeley, Nursing On-Campus, Peed, Political Science

Others Present: Fedock, Lansverk, Merrell, Molloy, Gail Schontzler

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chair Taylor

- Future Faculty Senate meetings:
 - September 19, 2007 – While Chair Taylor is in Billings for BOR, Chair-elect Wes Lynch will be presiding over Faculty Senate. Hopefully, Carl Fox, Vice Provost of Graduate Education will be speaking. Chair Taylor sent a letter to Dr. Fox addressing concerns from FS: Faculty Senate would like to have the rep from Faculty Senate be a voting member; Faculty Senate leaders would like to be able to view minutes and agenda of meetings; the Academic Affairs Committee would like to view new programs and existing program modifications.
 - September 26, 2007 – Chair Taylor is trying to schedule Robert Putske, Director of MSU Police, to speak on campus security.
 - October 3, 2007 – Nancy Dodd, Ombudsperson.
 - October 10, 2007 – Peter Fields, Athletic Director.

PICK-A-PROF (PAP) – ASMSU President, Tegan Molloy

- Tegan Molloy introduced ASMSU as the Associated Student of Montana State University. They have approximately \$1M budgeted every year that the student activity fees go towards. There are 19 different entities that ASMSU finances: e.g., WMSU, child care, bus system, student clubs, etc., and other entities that the students and community benefit from.
- Pick-a-Prof is a for-profit web based evaluation system for students to critique faculty. ASMSU is interested in pursuing this program as a result of student requests. According to ASMSU bylaws and constitution, language calls for a "...faculty review committee that would establish criteria to be used in evaluating the faculty; compile the data obtained from the evaluations sent out to the various selected courses, publish the faculty evaluations that are easily accessible to the student body, and enact all duties delegated by the chair of the committee."
- A separate committee would be formed to liaise with Pick-A-Prof. ASMSU believes questions crafted for the web site would be beneficial to both parties such as, "What is teaching style does this professor subscribe to?" It would allow students to find out what the classroom environment is like before taking the class and provide introspection by the professor on how they teach students.
- Pick-A-Prof offers:
 - Filtering system to negate profanities;
 - Rating system for professors;
 - Faculty a chance to respond to comments;
 - Schedule planner, text book exchange, policy attendance, information about homework and exams.
- ASMSU Senate member, Scott Eggenberger, attended the Faculty Senate Steering Committee last Thursday for an information exchange and discussion about PAP. Questions from the steering committee were brought back to the ASMSU Senate for answers:
 - Are other web sites doing this service? Why Pick-A-Prof?
 - My Space does it. Pick-A-Prof seems more organized and 250 other universities are involved, but more research is needed to answer that question in depth.

- What are the needs for this kind of endeavor?
 - May help retention rates, by allowing students to do some research before taking a class.
- It is a self-selecting service.
 - This is also a concern for ASMSU, but the Knapp student evaluations are not 100%, either.
- Discussions ensued:
 - Some Faculty Senate members stated that the first thing Pick-A-Prof boasts about and touts as the most important thing they do is to publish grade distribution. Because of the Freedom of Information Act, MSU has already been approached by Pick-A-Prof to provide them with this information.
 - Some Faculty Senate members would like to see grade distribution posted to reduce grade inflation.
 - The market niche of this company is acquiring grade distribution by spending money and suing for it, as in the case of University of California, Davis.
 - Even though the initial offering is free, the subscription subsequent to that is around \$5,000 per year. Why would ASMSU want to spend money on something you could get for free, and what is the quality of information they would be getting? Comments can come from anyone who can log on, without controls. The same person could log on multiple times and make the same type of statements. If the company provided ID numbers and only allowed students to review classes they have taken, it would make sense.
 - If MSU subscribes, and language gets posted that is inflammatory, who is liable for those postings?
 - Why can't ASMSU place their own evaluation form on their own website with what ever questions they want with controls on student ID's? MSU uses Survey Monkey, and it works very well.
 - Could My Portal or Banner be used as a survey vehicle?
 - FS liked the idea cited in the ASMSU bylaws namely, the formation of a faculty review committee. FS members welcome the opportunity to be reviewed via a safe, trustworthy instrument.
 - In no way would comments from a website such as PAP be used in any way for the information contributing to faculty annual review.
- The student senate meets every Thursday, 6:00 PM in the SUB if any FS members would like to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM, as there was no other business.

Signature

Shannon Taylor, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary