

FACULTY SENATE
October 26, 2011
LEO JOHNSON 346
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Burrows (PSPP - Extension), Caton (Business), Dougher (PSPP), Eitle (Soc/Anthro), Engel (LRES), Franklin (Microbiology), Gerlach (ChBE), Greenwood (Math), Hendrikx (Earth Sciences), Hostetler (Gallatin College), Kaiser (EE), Lynch (Psych), Martin (Mod Lang), Neumeier (Physics), Reidy (Hist & Phil), Ricciardelli (Film & Photo), Rossmann (Libraries), Schachman (Nursing), Zhu (CS)

Others Present: Peg Wherry, Hugo Schmidt

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

Teaching Online Program Certification (TOP)
and Online Program Development Initiative RFP – Peg Wherry

- Increasing the availability of online courses and programs requires commitment to online instruction. Best practices show that establishing expectations for faculty teaching online is important to the overall success of online instruction. Montana State Online provides faculty with support to successfully teach and deliver an online course and is making available an introductory Teaching Online Program to help faculty prepare for that success. The program offers five (5) requirements for completion: 1) Attend a Desire2Learn introductory training session offered by Extended University either face-to-face or via recorded overview; 2) Complete the faculty self-assessment preparing for online teaching; 3) Review MSU core principles of quality for online courses in the Montana University System; 4) Review the strategies for effective online teaching and explore a sample online course; 5) Consult with Montana State Online staff. Upon completion of steps 1-5 a certification of completion will be mailed, and a final survey will also provide the opportunity to evaluate the process and provide feedback to help the program improve. The president has made funds available for the development of online programs to reach new audiences to fulfill the Land Grant mission. It was suggested that faculty partake in this program of certification to make teaching online easier. Some departments make the certification a requirement for teaching online.
- One of the projects funded last year in response to the call for proposals for developing more online programs was a non-thesis Masters of Science in Land Resources and Environmental Science. Development money was also provided for a baccalaureate in Liberal Studies, the second half of two-plus-two in community center teacher education, and sustainable power and renewable energy (credit certification). The priorities this year for the current call for proposals are for programs that will be ready to roll out fall 2012. The definition of “Program” has been broadened to include partial programs. But Wherry stated that funding is still not targeted to simply fund one course; it is more for a block of programs (required courses in a set of majors, e.g.).
- If the format of a program is being changed, it requires a Level I approval by the BoR. Developing a credit certificate requires a Level I approval.
- Discussions ensued: FS believes there are still some unanswered questions about online teaching:
 - Is MSU becoming another University of Phoenix? If not, then how are we different from them with online teaching?
 - If faculty are teaching online, and the same courses are being taught face-to-face, who teaches those? Adjuncts?
 - Online courses accomplish teaching in remote areas and enhance our mission, but there are blurred lines of why classrooms and universities are needed?
 - The online teaching edict seems to be a top-down decision without input from faculty.
 - What are we giving students when we teach online, only?
 - Are we sacrificing quality?

- Online teaching negates university relationships and sense of community/collaboration face-to-face. What will be lost by teaching online?
- Will there be testing centers?
- Engineering faculty stated that it is impossible to teach what is done in the labs online. How will that be accomplished?
- Where are faculty resources coming from to accommodate teaching on campus, as well as online?
- Some programs fill the online mission: Nursing engages in online teaching and it is successful. At the end of the program, the students are required to take a national certification exam which, for the past eight years, 100% have passed. Data collection analysis these are done online, as well. Clinical duties are done on location. Gallatin College also seems to be able to function well online. However, often developmental projects require human connection and that aspect is encouraged.
- The Gates Foundation is thinking about putting labs online.
- FS members would like a more transparent process – how does it affect our teaching loads, show how it is self-supporting.
- Where should faculty be speaking openly about online teaching?
- How is the creative experience accomplished online?
- FS might consult the Teaching and Learning Committee, Ritchie Boyd (affiliated with academics),

Chair's Report – Chair-elect Neumeier

- Facilities Services – Terry Leist will set up an open forum for campus employees to attend to discuss their experiences with Facilities Services. Anecdotes of experiences should be sent to Joe Seymour.
- The Planning Council has formed a task force to come up with a strategic plan. A notebook of the council's progress on this, as well as other information, may be viewed online.
- Rossmann reported that The Budget Council has been in suspended animation until the strategic plan has been finalized. Email from Terry Leist about a call for investment proposals was recently sent to all campus employees. The call will afford the university community an opportunity to submit investment ideas that will help MSU achieve its strategic priorities; they are to be sent to your dept head/director by December 16. Some programs have been promised money and now must re-justify why they need funding. Neumeier stated that FS will invite Provost Potvin to FS to talk about the budget.

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

Signature

Marvin Lansverk, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary