

FACULTY SENATE
NOVEMBER 20, 2013
346 LEON JOHNSON
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Babbitt (Physics), Bennett (English), Bolte (Music), Bonnand (Library), Cantalupo (Ext), Christopher (HHD), Codd (MIE), Dougher (PSP), Durham (COB), Gannon (Chem & Bio Eng), Greenwood (Math), Herman (NAS), Hostetler (GC), Kaiser (ECE), Kohler (Chem & Biochem), Larson (M&IE), Lynch (Psych), Martin (Mod Lang), McMahon (Ecology), Miller (CE), Newhouse (Art), O'Neill (Arch), Ricciardelli (Film & Photo), Rossmann (Library), Swinford (Soc/Anthro), Wiedenheft (IMID), Wilmer (Poli Sci), Zabinski (LRES)

Others Present: Waded Cruzado, Robert Mokwa, Larry Carucci, Brett Gunnink, Glenn Duff, Rob Maher, Tracy Sterling, Martha Potvin, Terry Leist, Ron Larsen, Helen Melland, Lynda Ransdell, Paul Gore, Nancy Cornwell, David Singel, Renee Reijo-Pera, Fred Pera, Tyler Trevor, Clay Christian, Kevin McRae, Mick Robinson, Zach Regala, Neil Moisey, Anne Camper, Bob Swenson, Nicol Rae, Sandra Halonen

Chair Mokwa called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm, and a quorum was present.

Senate Business and Announcements

- The minutes of November 13, 2013 were unanimously approved.
- A memorial service for Allen Yarnell will be held at the Museum of the Rockies Hager Auditorium at 5:00 pm.
- The Board of Regents is meeting, Nov 21-22, in the Strand Union Building Ballrooms.
- There will be no Faculty Senate meeting on November 27, 2013.
- Chair Mokwa introduced special guests, who included regent members and guests attending the BoR meetings.
- President Cruzado announced that Karlene Hoo, the new Dean of the Graduate School and Jeff Bater, the new Dean of Extension, will be on campus for the regents meeting and encouraged faculty to meet them. She announced that Anne Camper has been selected as the MUS Regents Professor.

Introduction and Conversation with the New Vice President of Research, Dr. Renee Reijo-Pera

- President Cruzado introduced Dr. Renee Reijo-Pera. Chair Mokwa followed by reading of a letter of support from Faculty Senate.
- Dr. Pera gave a brief biography of herself and what brought her to MSU.
- She believes that MSU's research challenges are small compared to the advantages and potential the university has. Through research innovation, graduates will be able to remain in Montana with gainful employment for the next generation. She stated that the VPR cannot increase research alone; it is a faculty-driven enterprise.
- Dr. Pera stated that although we can teach from text books and teach people how to think about problems, research changes the fundamental knowledge. She hopes education and research will be more integrated.
- Wilmer asked Dr. Pera to comment on state funding for MSU with respect to IT and biomedical research. From listening to Gov. Bullock and Sen. Baucus, and in reference to biomedical research, Pera believes funds should go to both IT/ instrumentation, entities with short lead lives (in the business vernacular) and which generate immediate revenues, and biotech/biomedical, entities with long lead lives, which generate long-term revenues. She hopes the state will put money into the state universities and into start-up companies. Pera believes research should go out into society and that the state should help.
- Wiedenheft asked what two benchmarks Pera would like to accomplish within the next year. Dr. Pera would like to become familiar with research, academic interests and creative activities of faculty. She would ask faculty to think about what things are important to the citizens of Montana that capture the state's essence, work as a group to do research in those specific areas and be nationally/internationally recognized for it.
- Babbitt stated that the money for research is distributed from the VPR to deans, dept heads, and faculty, and asked Dr. Pera to comment on the distribution balance. Dr. Pera would like to learn more about how research money is distributed from faculty. She stated that the model MSU uses for F&A is very unusual and while MSU has heavy teaching loads and each salary is paid, research is viewed as something additional, even though most faculty have a contract that might be 50% research, 50% teaching. She would like to see research money go towards spurring innovation. There may be different ways to distribute teaching funds that could be used for research.
- Swenson stated that prior to 1989, the legislature kept all F&A's. When they returned all F&A's to MSU after 1989, administration agreed to husband that money carefully and, as a result, research soared in the 1990's. The law states that the money must be used for the support of faculty research. Over a period of time, however, funds have been eroded and used for other purposes. As a result, faculty research is no longer funded at 100%.
- Swenson asked Dr. Pera her philosophy on how she would utilize the services of retirees. Dr. Pera has written to the NSF and NIH about employing emeritus faculty as a reviewing board for grants. She believes emeriti would be non-biased and should get paid to do it.
- Kohler asked if we are looking at a fundamental transition in the United States where there is a decrease in federal and state funding for research. Pera believes there is a transition and that the states must infuse more money into research, thus providing a better job market for students who graduate. She stated that despite the economic downturn, MSU has many more opportunities for federal funding that they have not taken advantage of; she hopes to help the faculty tap into them.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Signature,
Robert Mokwa, Chair

Signature
Michael Reidy, Chair-elect

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