

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, November 3, 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Mark Sholes, Lance Edwards, Betsy Garlish, Paul Conrad, John Brower, Karen Porter

Attending without vote: Chancellor Gilmore, Doug Abbott, Butch Gerbrandt, and Marissa Pedulla

Business

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed. Secretary Karen Porter said minutes were now being posted in the Faculty Senate folder.
- Chairman Mark Sholes reminded the members that he would be attending the Meeting with UM President Dennison on November 17th; Senate Vice-President Lance Edwards will chair the Senate meeting.

Discussion

Tenure and non-tenure tracks at Montana Tech (see minutes of previous Faculty Senate meeting, 10-20-06, for earlier discussion)

Senate members continued the discussion of an “up-or-out” tenure policy for Montana Tech, paralleling the recommended AAUP guidelines. Points included:

- It was recognized that this change could not be undertaken except in the context of defining what other track(s), non-tenured, would be available.
- Different departments and colleges will have different opinions about the effects of an up-or-out policy, and about the structure of specific non-tenure positions.
- Tech uses the term “Part-Time” rather than “Adjunct”.
- Chancellor Gilmore indicated favorable experience with the general term “Lecturer”.
- Question to consider: Is the future of the institution related to how Tech frames the tenure/non-tenure structure on this campus?
- More facts about Regents’ policy: (1) a person on a non-tenure track position cannot automatically become tenured if the position changes to a tenured track; he/she must apply.
- If Tech decides to go with an up-or-out tenure policy, departments need to assess their own faculty: how many should be tenured vs. non-tenured in order to be “acceptable” and competitive with other institutions; what would non-tenured positions be called and how would they be handled in contractual relations.
- The question of whether current faculty could/should be “grandfathered” under the old (present) system was raised.

Assignment for Senate Members: It was agreed that members should bring to the next meeting (1) a list of all the variations they are aware of for being in a non-tenured position on this campus, and (2) a list of all the issues they can think of related to going to an up-or-out policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Porter, Secretary