

# MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, February 16, 2007

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Mark Sholes, Lance Edwards, Betsy Garlish, John Nugent, John Brower, Miriam Young, Rod James, Karen Porter

Members absent: Paul Conrad

Attending without vote: Vice Chancellor Doug Abbott

### Business

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed, with pre-meeting e-mails made.

### Discussion

#### 1. **Faculty Satisfaction Survey**

John Brower provided copies of the 2006 Survey and opened the discussion, commenting that response in previous years has been generally high (around 60%), but that response from part-time faculty, COT faculty, and the Bureau was very limited. He said that this low response probably reflects the fact that the questions posed in the Survey are generally not appropriate for these groups, but rather, focused on full-time teaching faculty. John reported that each question is scored individually, with a percent response to each category. Thus far, Surveys have not been compared year-to-year. The John Nugent moved, Miriam Young seconded, and the Senate voted in favor of keeping the Faculty Satisfaction Survey in its present form for this spring's survey, with only the change of dates to reflect the 2007 year and an April 13, 2007 reply date. Agreed to without vote was the plan to have Jackie Amaya do the Survey tabulation, as in recent years.

#### 2. **Montana Tech standards for promotion** - continued discussion.

At the previous meeting, a subcommittee was formed and charged with formulating a preliminary document to guide departments in the preparation of department-specific documents to be the standard for advancement within a department at Montana Tech. Rod James, subcommittee chair, reported that the subcommittee has met and will have a draft document for the full Senate at its next meeting. Other subcommittee members are Miriam Young, Betsy Garlish, and Lance Edwards.

#### 3. **Part-time faculty at Montana Tech.**

John Nugent, Part-time Faculty representative to the Senate, expressed concern for the seeming lack of connection between these persons and the rest of the campus. In fact, the Senators were unclear about exactly who would be included in this group, although Vice Chancellor Abbott confirmed that it is a large number of individuals and he signs all these contracts. John further indicated that the part-time faculty engaged in Helena must also be included. He volunteered to take on this issue and to report back to the Senate at some future time about the full nature, complexity, and numbers involved in Tech's part-time teaching staff.

4. **HB-525**, the State House bill concerning diversity in the classroom. This bill was discussed again very briefly. Senate member Betsy Garlish had earlier forwarded an e-mail to the senators that provided some commentary on the bill's content from MLA President Lois Fitzpatrick.

The Senate adjourned at 2:45 PM.

**NEXT MEETING: Friday March 2, 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Porter  
Secretary