ASCRC Minutes 10/11/172:00 GBB 225

## Call to order

Members Present: D. Coffin, J. Eglin, B. Hillman, J. Iverson, T. Missett, G. Morell, K. Sugden, M. Welch

Ex-Officio Present: B. French, J. Hickman  
Members Excused: B. Holzworth, V. Lewis, N. Lindsay, G. Weix

Guest: Student, B. Brown, J. Farnsworth, S. Ross

The minutes from 9/26/17 were approved.

## Communication:

* Chair Coffin communicated with VP Tom Crady about collaborating on issues related to ASCRC’s focus on student success, specifically related to PLA, IB, and Dual Enrollment. Chair Coffin is also concerned about the decline in Students awarded Pell grants.
* ECOS recommends several revisions to the PLA Guidelines. Chair Coffin has been in communication with ECOS and Steve Lodmell about the recommendations. The Advanced Options Workgroup will revise the guidelines.
* Professor Barry Brown from the Mansfield Library, Professor Sandy Ross, Chair of Graduate Council and Jill Farnsworth Neuroscience Graduate Student and member of the Graduate and Professional Student Association ( GPSA) joined the meeting to discuss the proposed reductions to the library collection. The Faculty Senate requested ASCRC investigate the impacts the cuts would have on the curriculum. Chair Coffin is not sure how to go about this. ASUM passed a resolution, the GPSA conducted a survey, and Graduate Council sent a letter referencing the survey to the administration. ECOS met with Vice President Whittenburg and Interim Provost Edmonds. Her priority is the academic integrity of the institution. She will work with the dean to address the cuts with minimal damage to the collection.

Professor Brown sent documentation on the feedback from the proposed cancellation list. The communication to campus regarding the proposed cancelation resulted in lots of concern, particularly from the sciences. There were 178 feedback forms submitted and 43 email responses (119 faculty, 77 students, a few administrators, staff, and others). The databases and e-journals on the list have low usage and high cost per use. The responses separated the proposed list into tiers. The first tier had the fewest responses, and would have the least impact, so these items will likely be cut which will save $187,000. The recommendation will go to the Library Dean and then the Provost. If implemented, this leaves $413,000 still to cut and will result in having to breakup packages and re-subscribe to the highest used titles.   
  
The library has had 5 years of cuts and until the library budget is stabilized and includes at least a 6% increase for inflation there will be yearly cuts to the collection. There have been three consecutive years of resolutions. He is in negotiations with vendors to reduce the inflation costs. The library exists to serve campus. It is part of the infrastructure. Professor Brown met with the University Library Committee (ULC) yesterday. A member was upset that specific recommendations were not shared with the Committee. The ULC asked VP Whittenburg about whether any IDC’s go to the Library. Last year the Research office contributed $50,000 in order to maintain Science Direct.   
  
The Library is also proposing to cut late night hours. Currently the late night hours are staffed solely by a student employee. There are safety and liability concerns about this practice, so the proposal is to close at midnight rather than 2:00 A.M. The Library Dean has requested that the Academic Officers consider using part of the online education fee for e-journals. They are currently working on a new funding model for online education.   
  
Jill Farnsworth summarized the results of the [graduate student survey](http://www.umt.edu/umgpsa/stories-folder/2017%20Library%20Resource%20Survey.php). There were 469 responses. Chair Coffin expects a survey of faculty would have similar results. We need a collective effort and strategies to negotiate lower prices. Science Direct is 25% of the collection budget. This is outrageous. UM is in a consortium with other Montana Universities (TRAILS) as well as a regional consortium (Lyrasis). Perhaps the University could approach NIH and work on strengthening its buying power, especially considering research is funded by the public. It may also be necessary to contact Senators to gather support and send letters to vendors like Elsevier. A budget process is needed that recognizes the library as an essential service, similar to a utilities like electricity, power, or water.

Other campus Library’s partner with the community to provide service to the public. Missoula has a strong public library, so this is not a viable option. The missions of the libraries are very different.

## Business Items

* ASCRC edited and approved the appended resolution in support off the library. It was forwarded to ECOS for their consideration.
* The “IBPLADE” is meeting on Friday and will discuss the proposed revisions to the PLA guidelines suggested by ECOS, to define its scope of duties and to find a name (now Advanced College Options subcommittee).
* The Cultural Hardship group is still working out the details. It has received input from the Diversity Advisory Committee. There are some concerns that pre-approval may be difficult for emergencies.
* ASCRC agreed to allow the Registrar to implement an early change (repeatability) to MART 499. A few students need the credits to graduate this spring. The form is in e-curr for consideration this fall.
* Given there is still no chair-elect, the Graduation Appeals Committee changed its procedure to allow the past chair to be a voting member. Chair Coffin
* Chair Coffin presented the Graduation Appeals Committee report (appended below) from the October 2nd meeting. Seven appeals were approved. One was a request for a replacement general education course for a DSS student. The form was approved by the Office of Student Success, since the student had not declared a major. There is no mechanism to force students to declare a major. In the future, the form should be approved by the replacement course department chair. Policy [203.50 Graduation and General Education Appeals Committee General Policies and Procedures](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/procedures/ASCRC_200/203%2050Grad%20Appeals%20Procedure5-5-16.docx) will need to updated. The Graduation Appeals Committee requests that Associate Provost Lindsay notify department chairs to use the current form.
* The committee briefly discussed the students’ option to use different catalogs for major and minor requirements. The catalog should be reviewed to determine whether there is any confusion or road blocks for students given the new technology.
* ASCRC approved the Student Success Focus Resolution appended.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

University of Montana Faculty Senate Resolution to Support the Mansfield Library  
  
Whereas, Mansfield Library collections and services are essential components of the University of Montana (UM) infrastructure for research and creative scholarship, and are also vital for a strong teaching and learning environment; and,  
  
Whereas, the University of Montana community at-large including concerned citizens, faculty, staff and students value and utilize the Mansfield Library; and,

Whereas, the Mansfield Library is a unique university department with faculty and staff that directly support every major program on campus; and,

Whereas, the Mansfield Library has undergone a 33% collection budget reduction over the last five years with a 15% cut in fiscal year 2018 alone; and,

Whereas, the Mansfield Library, in response to an administration directive, has proposed cancelation of resources that will have a profound, negative impact on student recruitment and retention; and severely limit the research, scholarship and productivity of faculty, students, and staff; and,

Whereas, the UM Graduate Professional Student Association (GPSA) “deems the resources which the proposed cancelations will impact as essential to completion of member’s theses and research projects”; and,

Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) has passed a companion document to this resolution that the UM faculty fully support;  
Therefore, be it resolved that UM Faculty request the UM Administration reconsider the proposed cuts to the library budget; and recommend a budgeting process where the library and administration determine a funding level that sustains the library at a level that meets essential campus and community services; and, the administration, the library, and University Library Committee should lead an effort to devise strategies for innovative means to reduce or replace exceptionally costly but essential subscription services (e.g. Science Direct);

cc: Sheila M. Stearns, President, University of Montana; and, Rosi Keller, Interim Vice President of Administration and Finance; Beverly Edmond, Interim Provost; Shali Zhang, Dean, Mansfield Library; Braden Fitzgerald, ASUM President; and Maria Mangold, Staff Senate Chair;  Commissioner Clayton Christian, and BOR Chair Fran Albrecht.

## Graduation Appeals Committee Report to ASCRC

Met Oct. 2, 2017 3:30 PM Registrar’s office (Lommasson 201) Doug Coffin (Chair, F,V), John Eglin(F,V), Brian French(A,NV), Paulette Nooney(A,NV), Sperry DesRosier(A,NV), Kelsey Cooley (V,S) [V- Voting member, NV- Non-voting member, F- Faculty, A-Administration, S- Student)

Seven Appeals- 1. Use previous catalog to meet Gen Ed, approved. 2. Use previous catalog to meet Gen Ed and award Associate’s Degree, approved. 3. Award AA without being enrolled for the year, approved. 4. Exception for a course to count as a “Y”, approved. 5. Use previous catalog to complete Bachelor’s degree, approved. 6. Allow transfer course from Rocky Mountain College to count as an “L” for Gen Ed, approved. 7. Allow substitution of another course for math in Gen Ed under DSS exception, Approved.

Notes:

1. Majority of appeals involved Gen Ed exceptions

2. Many appeals involve use of previous catalogs

3. Most appeals originate from students within one semester of graduation.

4. Some appeals are preemptory from students who request an exception.

5. Many appeals involve advising errors.

6. Request from Grad Appeals that the Provost send a note to Deans & Departments to use newer Graduation Appeals form (draft request below).

*To: Deans & Department Chairs*

*From: Associate Provost Nathan Lindsey*

*Re: Graduation Appeals*

*Please be advised that the Graduation Appeals Committee is requiring use of an updated form for all graduation appeals requests. The new form is available on line* [*http://www.umt.edu/registrar/forms/pdf/GraduationAppealsFormrv.pdf*](http://www.umt.edu/registrar/forms/pdf/GraduationAppealsFormrv.pdf)*.*

*Please destroy any copies of the old form that you may have in your possession and update any links or ecopies of the old forms that you make available to students. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.*

*cc: Doug Coffin (Chair, Graduation Appeals) John Eglin, Brian French, Paulette Nooney, Sperry DesRosier, Kelsey Cooley, Joe Hickman (Registrar), Melanie Hoyle.*

A Resolution for the University of Montana Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee.  
  
Whereas, the Montana constitutional mandate to the public Montana University System, including the University of Montana, provides that we shall “establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state.”; and,  
  
Whereas, University of Montana faculty as educators at a public university, are dedicated to  Student Success. Through shared governance and the discharge of our duties they ensure the University of Montana fulfills its responsibilities under the constitutional mandate and provides Montana citizens the opportunity for both a high quality academic experience and completion of academic degrees; and,  
  
Whereas, a “high quality academic experience” is commensurate with a 21st century curriculum that is endowed with the highest academic standards while providing students with the best opportunity for timely completion without unnecessary obstacles; and,  
  
Whereas, the University of Montana community, particularly the faculty and students, are faced with an era of considerable and escalating challenges to meet their mission and mandates; and,  
  
Whereas, the Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee as an instrument of the Faculty Senate is charged with management of the curriculum of the University through shared governance;  
  
Therefore, be it resolved that the Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee through its proceedings and operations shall make Student Success a top priority. The Committee shall define Student Success and wherever or whenever possible, use procedures and practices to further that commitment. The Committee shall keep Faculty Senate informed of its activities, honor Faculty Senate oversight and forward new initiatives to the Senate.