Meeting Minutes

Name of body: Faculty Senate
Date: December 7, 2023
Time: 3pm
Location: Gilkey – Room 105
Public Comment – no public comment
Call to Order

- Roll call : **Members present:** A. Belcourt, J. Bell, O. Berryman, M. Boller, J. Carter, M. Cassens, A. Chatterjee , K. Cotton, B. Draper, T. Duce, J. Eglin, B. Emidy, R. Fanning, L. Fern, S. Fielding, L. Fishman, T. Floyd, J. Freer, K. Geiger, E. Gillaspy, J. Goodburn, M. Harrington, M. Hendrix, K. Jakob, P. Kirgis, S. Lollar, K. Loree, D. Macaluso, M. McGrath, L. Meloy, J. Olomi, Charles Palmer, Chris Palmer, M. Schertz, N. Vonessen, C. Walker, A. Ware, C. Yoshimura. **Members excused:** J. Barile, K. Bosak, D. Kellenberg, C. Martin-Wagar, M. Shogren, D. Six, J. Tuttle.
- Approval of minutes from 11/9/2023 meeting

Reports (3:15 – 3:40pm)
- Chair's report
  - Updates
    - BOR – Corey Cleveland was approved as Regents Professor; student awarded Rhode Scholar title (Senator Walker recognized as student's mentor)
    - LMS – 2-day training in Feb 2024 (dates TBD)
    - Library collections adjustments update
    - AI proposals in Flagship Fund (due March 1st)
    - Faculty Service Award – Please nominate your faculty colleagues, deadline for ECOS late January/early February 2024
    - fall Commencement – Friday, December 15th, please attend
    - Writing placement update – additional criterion – beginning in fall 2024, cum HS GPA
  - Spring Curriculum Deadline – Vice Provost Deboer sent via email
  - Chair Fern thanks senators (especially ECOS) for their service, happy holidays, etc.
- ECOS Report
  - Center Reviews (Seconded Motions to continue with both centers)
    - Humanities Institute – motion passes (one abstention)
    - Paleontology Center – motion passes (one abstention)
  - University Policy (Animals on Campus – seconded Motion) – motion passes
- ASCRC Chair Mike Monsos
  - Curriculum Consent Agenda (Seconded Motion) – motion passes
- Graduate Council Chair Val Moody
  - Curriculum Consent Agenda (Seconded Motion) – motion passes

New Business
- Chair Fern – we will take all questions at the end of the President's and Provost's presentations
  - All Q&A will end at 4:50pm for executive session and to approve graduation lists
  - Revised draft of the Academic Playbook incorporates ECOS feedback
  - Civic dialogue – opportunity for Faculty Senate to model this for campus, there is a place here for differing opinions
  - Ground rules for remarks/comments – please raise hands; senators speak first, then non-senators/guests
- Guests (3:40 – 4:50pm)
  - President Bodnar
    - Highlights – enrollment growth, retention rate increase, graduation/completion rates increasing (this takes a bit longer to track), Strategic Enrollment Planning (SEP) – these projects are performing well, investment in HR and IT (infrastructure improvements)
    - Challenges in higher ed – how do we address them?
    - Praise for Provost Lawrence
    - Academic Affairs Playbook overview
    - Budget overview – efforts for increased funding from legislature; we can't depend on this, we must plan for alternatives to keep the budget balanced
  - Provost Faculty Fellow and Professor Isho Tama-Sweet
    - [Presentation on budget model project]
    - Project overview – in any particular year, there is a fixed pie budgetary allocation for the Provost Office to disseminate; make recommendations for changes; this is a cultural and numbers project
    - Student tuition and state appropriation are two sources of funding
    - Why evaluate the budget model? Model outputs don't match college operational needs (trust and credibility low; planning difficult) – deans can't plan
    - Incentive challenges – competition between colleges
    - This is an iterative process – the process matters
      - Prof. Tama-Sweet has been engaging in listening sessions with a variety of stakeholders including ECOS, college leadership teams, Vice Provosts, Vice Presidents and other key administrators
      - EAB resources and support throughout
      - In spring 2024 semester, Prof. Tama-Sweet will summarize feedback and key issues, share with academic leadership (January), evaluate potential changes with deans (Feb

through April), report out to faculty (ECOS, Senate, etc.), culminating in written recommendation to the Provost (May 15, 2024)

- Provost Lawrence
  - [Academic Affairs Playbook](#) overview
    - Higher ed landscape shifts – how do we adapt and respond to these changes?
    - Today's presentation is not about details – these are not yet worked out
    - Draft document has been shared with UFA and other shared governance groups
    - Offer a possible way forward – highlight collective effort
    - Systems synergy – basis for changes
    - We need to better allocate our resources – Prof. Tama-Sweet's work will inform how we adapt our budget model
  - UM's mission and vision statements (attributed to University Design Team's work)
    - University Design Team (UDT) – 3 narratives outlined
    - UDT's work is woven into the playbook as well
  - Guiding questions:
    - How might Academic Affairs work together as a sector?
    - What value proposition do we see/do we not see in a University of Montana education?
    - Does college matter?
  - Priorities
    - Student success
    - Humanities as a durable thread
    - Solutions:
      - Certificate completion "automation"
      - Online modality offerings
      - Veteran student recruitment/enrollment/retention
      - Indigenous student recruitment/enrollment/retention
      - Gen Ed revision and improvement
      - Experiment with emerging fields
  - How/what do we need to execute change?
    - Current state analysis – what do we continue, reduce, retire?
    - Systems maps
    - Interdependencies identification (between research mission and academic offerings) – these interdependencies "are varied and do not conform to a simple model"
    - Input and collaboration from UFA, Faculty Senate, etc.
  - Playbook proposals include:
    - College of Humanities and Sciences reorg

- o Structure moves from departments/chairs to schools/directors
  - o Promotes efficiency and interdisciplinarity
- How can people provide input? (aside from emailing Chair Fern)
  - Senator Ware – need a process in place
  - Senator Floyd – ensure there is enough time for departments to react to others' feedback
  - Senator Chatterjee – transparency/de-individualize it to promote better collaboration
  - Senator Loree – would a committee be helpful?
  - Senator Vonessen – anonymity will allow for more feedback
  - Senator Carter – update on the timeline, please
  - Chair Fern – we can host listening sessions if needed
  - Senator McGrath – departmental and school-level feedback (collective vs. individual)
- Q&A:
  - Q: Senator Carter – budget and playbook are concurrent – how will they inform each other?
  - A: Provost Lawrence – Prof. Tama-Sweet will participate in playbook development
  - Q: Senator Loree – With budget model – can it be more of a process that is nimble and allows for responses to be made more quickly? Example: Missoula College was locked into a budgetary model that restricted our lab sections and we weren't able to offer more sections.
  - Q: Senator Gillaspy – please give an example of course offerings being offered by a school versus a department
  - A: Provost Lawrence – Qualitative research methods.
  - Q: Senator Gillaspy – discipline-specific methods are important
  - Q: Senator Olomi – Goals are clashing in the playbook – how can we maintain goals that are counter-productive (e.g. indigenous research methods vs. R-1 criteria)?
  - A: Provost Lawrence – I appreciate that; thank you.
  - Q: Senator Kirgis – Faculty workload policy – change to Percentage of Effort (POE) – implicit with that were universal standards across units – is this still being pursued?
  - A: Provost Lawrence – I'm interested in standard definitions and understandings – there are nuances between programs – how do they coexist? Research website contains "UM Impact" platform to store faculty profiles for highlighting research endeavors (integration with Interfolio forthcoming)
  - Q: Senator Vonessen – Plan for retrenchment?
  - A: Provost Lawrence – No.

- Q: Senator Jakob – Communication is poor for these new platforms; I'm concerned about budgetary waste.
- A: Provost Lawrence – Yes, that's a communications problem.
- Q: Senator Hendrix – CHS reorg – "mega-chair" leadership model – can you please describe?
- A: Provost Lawrence – look at "mega-chair" as continuing to fulfill the traditional department chairperson role, along with "area coordinators" as per College of Business
- A: Senator Floyd – Area coordinators focus on external factors and ensure that curricular initiatives continue to meet students' needs
- A: Prof. Tama-Sweet – (current "mega-chair") – there are benefits to this perspective – shared responsibility and reduction in inter-departmental conflict
- Q: Senator Belcourt – I was a student here – how are going to tend to our current students' needs with these changes?
- A: Provost Lawrence – example from Prof. Cleveland's speech of group "belonging" – social inclusion and inquiry

Executive Session (4:50pm)
- Honorary Degree Candidates (in Moodle) – Seconded motions from ECOS – motions one and two pass
- Approve Graduation Lists and teaching licensure candidates (in Moodle) – Motion passes

Good of the Order (4:58pm)
- Be sure to take your "floating holiday" before January 1st
- Go Griz! Griz-Cat victory and Can the Cats victory

Adjournment @ 4:59pm