Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2017, 3:00 P.M. GBB 201

Call to Order   
Chair DeBoer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.   
Registrar Hickman called roll.  
  
**Members Present:** B. Allred, J. Banville, D. Beck, T. Beed, A. Belcourt, O. Berryman, S. Bitar, M. Boller, M. Bowman, J. Bunch, S. Caro, A. Chatterjee, Y. Cho, G. Collins, Z. Cooper, T. Crawford, J. DeBoer, A. Delaney, D. Erickson, L. Fern, L. Frey, J. Gallo, N. Greymorning, B. Halfpap, M. Hamon, K. Harris, B. Harrison, W. Holben, L. Howell, J. Hunt, S. Johnson, U. Kamp, C. Lawrence, G. Larson, J. Laskin, D. Lurie, D. MacDonald, J. Millspaugh, L. Nichols, D. Patterson, G. Peters, G. Quintero, Y. Reimer, A. Sondag, S. Stan, A. Szalda-Petree, E. Uchimoto, M. Valentin, N. Vonessen, A. Ware  
 **Members Excused:** E. Gagliardi, K. Griggs, S. Phillips

**Members Absent:** G. Collins, B. Harrison, T. Sanders, C. Kirkpatrick, P. Lukacs, J. Sears, T. Slater, J. Thomsen

**Ex-Officio Present:** Interim Provost Edmonds, Associate Provost Lindsay, Registrar Hickman, ASUM Outgoing President Forstag, ASUM incoming President Fitzgerald, Vice President Love and Business Manager Kuiper

New Senators Seated (role was not taken)

**Minutes:** The minutes from March 16th were approved.

## Communications

* President Stearns   
  During her time as President the faculty were well represented by Chair DeBoer and she thanked him. The students were also well represented by the ASUM leadership, Sam, Elizabeth, and Chase. Their engagement made shared governance mean something.   
    
  She reminded the Senate that the President’s Cabinet meetings are open. The agendas are published and the meetings are evolving from updates to discussions about issues that require decisions. Prior to each Cabinet meeting one of the shared governance groups meets with the cabinet over coffee for conversation. These have been very helpful.

The President disseminated the following letter that provided various updates. It was later sent to campus via email communication. A second document was disseminated that included information on the selection Dr Jennifer Isern for the Commencement Speaker. She graduated with honors and was a Truman Scholar in 1989.

She commended Commissioner Christian and his staff for building bridges in both houses in the Legislature which helped to reinstate some of the funding that was cut at the beginning of the session. In 1993 the Legislature adopted lump sum funding. In previous years appropriations were affected by the strength of the campus president’s political delegation. In other states the legislature sets tuition. In Montana this decision is up to the Board of Regents. They met today and posted a [worksheet on tuition and fees](http://mus.edu/board/meetings/2017/May2017/AdminBudget/Tuition-and-Fee-Detail-MUS-2019-Biennial-Budget-Modeling-v24.pdf) so the campuses could review the information before the May 25-26th meeting. They discussed having a listening session on each campus with a few regents in attendance. This worksheet will help to provide budget figures to deans for planning fiscal year 2018. The legislature votes to finalize K-12 funding in February so they can plan their budgets, but the university is a player in the last days of negotiations. The administration started asking the deans for a projected budget in March. The process is challenging given the variables that change.

*Dear University of Montana colleagues and students,*

*As we approach the end of the spring semester, I would like to update you on plans for this coming year (FY18), for the following year (FY19).*

*In recent weeks it has been invigorating to hear many thoughtful responses to version 1.0 of the new UM Strategic Vision,* [***Creating Change Together***](http://www.umt.edu/strategy/strategic-vision/default.php)*. It demonstrates that the thousands of you who engaged in the process along the way are dedicated to a distinctive future for our university. When our new President is chosen, she or he will have an excellent platform for including campus and community in designing our future. I hereby ask for the shared governance groups to consider resolutions to endorse the Strategic Vision at an early autumn meeting, and to assist in planning next steps with the new President.*

[***The Presidential Search Advisory Committee***](http://www.umt.edu/president/Presidential%20Search/default.php) *is actively recruiting candidates from around the country and beyond. Each of us can help by reaching out to contacts to find good candidates to nominate. Most of you already know that I will not be a candidate. I will serve steadfastly during this time of transition and I consider it an honor to lead the University of Montana.*

***FY17*** *is coming to a close. For those of you with expenditure authority, thank you for exercising extreme caution in every budget decision right through June 30.*

***FY 18 and legislative session:*** *The session ended Friday, April 28. The* [*Board of Regents*](http://mus.edu/board/default.asp) *will set our state-share revenue and tuition levels at their May 25-26 meeting. Planning on an enrollment of about 11,000+ head count students, we are close to submitting a proposed budget for FY18. We have been projecting revenues based on several scenarios of tuition and general fund revenue. Every passing week brings additional information so that the budget we project can be more precise. In the budget process, we value and encourage academic excellence, personal contact, wise advising, unfailing considerate service, and enthusiastic welcome to students and their families. As we move forward, we will grow through stepped up recruiting and higher retention.*

***Forward125:*** *The* [*Forward125*](http://www.umt.edu/president/Forward125/default.php) *project management team tracks and coordinates projects, and works closely with committees such as the Budget Committee, the APASP Task Force, the Cabinet, and the Strategic Planning Coordinating Council. The Forward125 team will also ensure that the University prepares to welcome its new President and to celebrate 125 years as the University of Montana. It is still breathtaking that in 1893, legislators in our brand new sparsely settled state embraced higher education as a hallmark of Montana’s future. The journey continues with the same sense of challenge, resource constraints, and adventure that our first students and faculty embraced 124 years ago.*

***Realistic News****: FY17 general fund revenue was approximately $146.5 million. With advice from Commissioner Clayton Christian, my staff and I project that FY18 general fund revenues will be approximately $145 million. The legislature passed a pay plan for state employees of 1% in the first year and 1% in the second year of the biennium, although they are not effective until February 15th of each year. The Governor and the Legislature agreed to fund the pay plan for the Montana University System at 68%, knowing that 42% of our employees are funded not via the general fund or tuition, but rather in other areas of our overall budget such as research contracts and auxiliaries (e.g. residence halls and dining services). Unfortunately the legislative appropriation will not fund “present law adjustments” for several increased costs such as utilities, or in the operation and maintenance for increased square footage of Missoula College.*

***Enrollment:*** *As of May 1, residence hall applications are up slightly over last year. Registration for UM Days and orientation sessions are similar to last year. We project an incoming class of approximately 1200 students. With a larger graduating class this year than last year, we will budget conservatively regarding overall enrollment.*

***Budget decisions****: I have asked deans and all budget managers to focus on students, academic quality, and overall university excellence in their proposals. It is important that the University of Montana increase retention and graduation rates. Increased faculty teaching loads, as identified by deans and department heads, can help with this priority. We value programs of national distinction and the needs of programs with specialized accreditation.*

***FY19 and APASP****: Our next major task is to prepare for FY19 (Fiscal Year 2018-2019) even though it doesn’t start until July 2018. It will be here before you know it, which is why I have appointed the* [*Academic Priorities and Administrative Services Prioritization (APASP) Task Force*](http://www.umt.edu/apasp/)*. Members represent a cross-section of University employees. I expect recommendations regarding UM’s many programs and services by late August. With your input, they will recommend which programs and services to strengthen, which ones to consolidate or streamline, and which ones to reduce or place in moratorium.*

***Termination and Incentive Pay****: The Montana Legislature appropriated $2 million for the Montana University System for termination pay for long term employees. Incentive options will relate primarily to short-term insurance transition needs of employees. We are still reviewing options and affordability with legal and HR officers on campus and with the Office of the Commissioner.*

***Communication****: As we move forward, I will do my best to ensure that our campus community has access to timely information. My staff and I will communicate throughout the summer and into the fall via email and the UM website.*

***Questions:*** *Please convey questions via* [*prestalk@umontana.edu*](mailto:prestalk@umontana.edu)*. We will post the answers to the* [*Communications Page*](http://www.umt.edu/president/communication/) *of the President’s Office website and hold small group conversations throughout the summer.*

*With thanks and best regards,*

*Sheila M. Stearns*

*President*

She commended Commissioner Christian and his staff for building bridges in both houses in the Legislature which helped to reinstate some of the funding that was cut at the beginning of the session. In 1993 the Legislature adopted lump sum funding. In previous years appropriations were affected by the strength of campus president’s political delegation. In other states the legislature sets tuition. In Montana this decision is up to the Board of Regents. They met today and posted a [worksheet on tuition and fees](http://mus.edu/board/meetings/2017/May2017/AdminBudget/Tuition-and-Fee-Detail-MUS-2019-Biennial-Budget-Modeling-v24.pdf) so the campuses could review the information before the May 25-26th meeting. They discussed having a listening session on each campus with a few regents in attendance. This worksheet will help to provide budget figures to deans for planning fiscal year 2018. The legislature votes to finalize K-12 funding in February so they can plan their budgets, but the university is a player in the last days of negotiations. The administration started asking the deans for a projected budget in March. The process is challenging given the variables that change.   
  
The possibility of termination and incentive pay is also a frustrating topic. The legislature appropriated $2 million to the system. The Governor has said that most of the funds will go to the campus that needs to do more contraction in terms of personnel over the next two years. Units’ budgets take a big hit when a long- time faculty member retires to pay for the accrued vacation and sick leave. Academic Affairs units should have at least a half a million set aside to cover this expense; so all of the appropriations would easily be spent on termination pay. She has lowered expectations on the possibility of incentives. The returned surveys showed that faculty and staff at retirement age were interested in retirement if a health insurance bridge was available. The Commissioner’s Office is crunching the numbers with the administration. She hopes to announce a modest health insurance bridge incentive soon. She apologized that it has taken this long.

Commissioner Christian put out a Communication to campus on December 1st with five points: 1) a change in leadership, 2) Interim President, 3) presidential search, and 4) - 5) transition assistance. To take advantage of the transition assistance, she has established a transition review team consisting of resource people from other campuses and the Commissioner’s Office. They came to campus yesterday and held budget workshops with deans and unit heads and will be doing some consulting over the next four or five months. Their expertise should be a big help.

Questions:   
  
John Hunt, English: Does the retirement incentive include cost savings for not hiring replacements or hiring replacements at a lower salary?   
  
President Stearns: We do budget to a degree for vacancy savings. The question is always how much can we promise to the unit that incurred the retirement. This year that figure will probably far less than normal. We will likely need to centralized vacancy savings to meet our budget targets. Normally the institution captures approximately 15% of vacancy savings.

Michel Valentin, MCLL: The impression of some faculty is that the incentive for retirement, mostly in the humanities, means the position will not be replaced.   
  
President Stearns: There could be some negotiations with positions that are critical to accreditation. The administration is not targeting any area in particular. The retirement survey went to faculty in all disciplines of retirement age. The administration cannot pressure or persuade specific faculty to retire.   
  
Michel Valentin, MCLL: Who decided on the Dickinson model to program prioritization?   
   
President Stearns: It was selected before she arrived.

Interim Provost Edmonds: I presented the Dickenson model to the Taskforce and the Taskforce agreed to use the model as a resource. She did bring the Dickenson model into discussions with the Academic Officers prior to the decision to implement program prioritization. She made the recommendation based on her past experience. She was open to other models.

President Stearns: The model can be tailored to our needs. The Taskforce has the expectation and flexibility to do this.   
  
Andrew Ware: In terms of the proposed tuition increases on the Board of Regents website, it looks like they are removing the tuition discount on lower-division courses and equalizing cost between MSU and UM of combined tuition and fees. Can we expect this to be approved?   
  
President Stearns: The Board may make refinements to the proposal. Six campuses in the system had discounted tuition for undergraduate courses. MSU did not, so they have benefited from collecting full tuition. So there may be a small subset of students that could see at 13% tuition increase. The Board is proposing to level undergraduate tuition. The administration has been basing budget planning scenarios on an increase between 6-9%, using an aggregate of 8. Some refining is needed on our budget worksheets, but not a lot.

Anne Delaney, MC Health Professions: What about tuition increases for two-year campuses?

President Stearns: She wasn’t sure.

Doug Coffin, In-coming ASCRC Chair indicated it is proposed at 3.3% for resident students.

Neyooxet Greymorning, NAS/ Anth: In terms of retirement incentives, what is the differential? What would the university save?   
  
President Stearns: It is not linear given the varying salaries and uncertain numbers. Having the legislature contribute funds to help with termination pay is a bonus. The cost savings would be in not filling the positions. They are still calculating. It is not appropriate for the administration to ask individuals to retire.

Dave Beck, NAS: In looking at the draft schedule for APASP, there is training in the month of June and assessment reports due, and taskforce reports due in July and August. Faculty are off contract during this time, including many department chairs. It would be against the CBA to require them to work when they are not on contract. Some faculty volunteer to be on committees in the summer, but it is not requirement. How are these requirements being considered in terms of the employment contract?

President Stearns: We have looked at the contract and consulted with the UFA and Faculty Senate leadership so that we could move the process through and still honor participation. We certainly have been in discussions with legal counsel and shared governance leaders. If there are concerns we will certainly take another look. She asked Lucy Franz to comment.

Lucy Franz, UM Legal Counsel: It would be more appropriate to ask the Taskforce about its timing. There needs to be engagement.   
  
UFA President Paul Haber: This issue has been raised by department chairs. The UFA is seeking legal opinion from MEAMEFT on interpreting the language.

Dave Beck, NAS: He is concerned that departments that have chairs that have committed to travel over the summer for research for example are not disadvantaged in the review.

Doug Coffin: According to the state law you cannot schedule faculty events or actions when they are not on contract unless they are compensated.

President Sterans: We did negotiate compensation for the faculty members serving on APASP.

Interim Provost Edmonds: She talked with the Deans with regard to negotiating department chairs summer compensation. In some cases additional support was added.

Andrew Ware, Physics and Astronomy: In the College of Humanities and Sciences the Chair’s stipend has been decreased from last year.

President Stearns: The goal is to do as much as we can legally and appropriately do over the summer. We will honor the constraints of faculty contracts.

Maria Bustos- Fernando, MCLL: The voice of the chair needs to reflect the faculty in the department. This is why the faculty need to be available for consult during the process.

President Stearns: Over the summer APASP will identify the metrics, qualitative and quantitative criteria that will be used so the Data Office can start working on the reports.

She very much appreciated the welcome she received this semester and looks forward to seeing faculty at commencement, and working with some of you this summer and the Senate next fall.

* Interim Provost Beverly Edmonds - [Academic Session Restructuring Taskforce Report](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/Restructuring%20Academic%20Sessions%20Report.pdf)  
    
  Many faculty brought to her attention issues regarding UM’s academic terms. So she convened a Taskforce representative of stakeholders. It was charged with coming up with a list of recommendations and an implementation timeline. The recommendations were attached to the agenda. Modifications to winter and summer sessions are proposed to increase revenues beyond the associated costs. Feedback should be sent to members of the Taskforce this week, so that the report can be finalized and submitted to President Stearns.

Questions:

Senator Ratto-Parks, English: Why is there a mid-week start in the proposal?   
  
Registrar Hickman: Our accrediting agency requires 75 contact days per semester. It was necessary in order to make this happen with the 15 week semester that includes a week off for spring break and various holidays.

Chair-DeBoer mentioned the Academic Calendar Resolution under new business for consideration later in the meeting.

Senator Vonessen: There are two versions of the summer 2019 calendar. How will you select one?

Edmonds: The Taskforce studied best practices and offers two possible options. Once your feedback has been considered the Taskforce will deliberate.   
  
Registrar Hickman: The first summer calendar is based on the student success model. Summer courses start right after spring semester as a bridge program. The second option is the traditional model that is divided evenly during the summer.

Senator Ratto-Parks: The suggestions offer flexibility which would be an improvement. What will the deadline be to get students enrolled? Will registration be staggered? Courses need to be open long enough to get students enrollment. Currently the English Department doesn’t know whether courses in the summer schedule that have a several students registered will be taught due to the budget situation.

Edmonds: The current ambiguity with course offerings is not ideal for student success. It has created anxiety for faculty and others about what we are doing. Unfortunately it is the nature of our budget situation. Her office has tried to calibrate contractual budget commitments. Our productivity is jeopardized by not offering summer courses, but it does not generate more money to cover our costs. Transitioning summer to its own revenue generating model will eliminate this consideration going forward. A couple of schools are looking into beta testing the new model to incentivize summer sessions. In the future the schools will drive summer school offerings by offering revenue generating courses.   
  
Senator Szalda-Petree: Currently the credit hours from wintersession are calculated in spring semester. Students take extra courses during wintersession that are added into the FTE calculation for state funding. Would eliminating wintersession impact our funding from the state?

Edmonds: Wintersession is not structured to generate separate funding, thus faculty must be compensated from the spring revenue base. The Taskforce was charged with looking at the issue in terms of student success and fiscal responsibility. We clearly need to do things that make the institution financially sound, but with a student focus.

Chair DeBoer asked that Senators send their comments regarding the recommendations to the [FacSenChair@mso.umt.edu](mailto:FacSenChair@mso.umt.edu) email.

* ASUM Out-going Chair Sam Forstag briefly commented on the Free Speech Resolution on the agenda later in the meeting. ASUM worked for months on a clear consolidated free speech policy and supports the resolution.   
    
  In-coming President Braden Fitzgerald, Vice President Brenna Love, and Business Manager Ben Kuiper introduced themselves. They asked students about their concerns and hope to create some positive change regarding academic advising, stress and wellness, improving transparency and communication. They are looking forward to working with Faculty Senate next year.
* Chair's Report

[ECOS’ response to Strategic Directions Document](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/SPCC%20Response%20Memo.docx) was created from comments Chair DeBoer received. Comments expressed excitement about some components and suspicion of others. The document was provided to the SPCC as they make revisions to the next draft. The next draft should be available next week.

[Update from APASP](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/APASP%20update%205417.docx)  
Forums will take place next Monday and Tuesday to collect input from the campus community. There will also be forums with Dickenson on Wednesday and Thursday. The Taskforce has process trainings with Dickenson next week as well. All the documents linked to the update are in draft status. They are available for your feedback.

Senator Valentin, MCLL asked for clarification on the timeline. The draft timeline has APASP submitting recommendations the end of August for comment.   
  
Chair DeBoer: Programs will have a time to respond to the review before it is submitted to the Cabinet for consideration. The wider campus community will be allowed to comment after the Cabinet. The recommendations must go to the Board of Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee on October 26th. The Regent’s meeting is in November. The timeline may change. This is just the initial draft for consideration. The Taskforce will take into account your feedback. Please send your comments in writing via the form available on the website.   
  
Senator Frey, History: The timeline is troubling given so much of the work is taking place in the summer when the faculty are not on contract. The response should be crafted jointly by the department faculty not the department chair unilaterally. The current timeline allows for faculty feedback when the process is too far along.

Senator Vonessen, Mathematical Sciences: Shared governance is presented with the recommendations concurrently with the development of implementation plans, so seemingly does not have a role in approving the recommendations.   
  
Senator Beck, Native American Studies: It appears that any significant faculty input is scheduled after implementation plans are developed.   
  
Senator Lurie, Biomedical Science: Faculty would be on contract if the timeline was delayed a week.

Senator Bitar, MCLL: This process assumes faculty are represented by their department chair. What about the faculty who are not represented by their chair?   
  
Chair DeBoer: It is not the responsibility of the APASP Taskforce to resolve internal conflict within departments.

Senator from Music: Similarly, not all Colleges are represented on the APASP Taskforce. There is concern that departments’ interests will not be represented. The best way to alleviate this concern is transparency with schools presenting their cases directly, rather than through the dean.

Chair DeBoer: The review would go through the directors /chairs and then the deans. The Taskforce has not yet established procedures for the review. This is one of the next steps, but it will most likely stipulate reviewers not be from the programs they review in order to ensure an unbiased assessment.

Senator Ware, Physics: As a member of APASP and the chair of two departments, he is starting to think about the responses now in terms of priorities for the departments. The final metrics are not yet available but the draft criteria can guide your thinking.   
  
There is still opportunity to provide input on the draft criteria and metrics. The update document has a link. You can also get to the draft documents from the website: <http://www.umt.edu/apasp/>. Input is especially needed on the qualitative metrics according to Senator Ware who is on the Criteria and Metrics Subcommittee of the APASP Taskforce. The quantitative analysis will look at the five-year average data from the Data Office. The challenge will be taking into account publications, scholarship, performances, and/ or other measures of productivity. It will be difficult to measure and compare these items. This still needs to be addressed.   
  
Senator Caro, Mansfield Library: What if your program doesn’t fit cleanly within the unit of analysis. Is there still time to alter how it is measured? And out of curiosity how much is it costing to bring Dickenson to Campus and who is paying for his visit?   
  
Chair DeBoer confirmed with Interim Provost Edmonds that the Commissioner’s Office is paying for the visit.

Senator Valentin: Why can’t the Faculty Senate ask that the process be delayed by two months?   
  
Chair DeBoer: APASP will discuss this possibility. If you have any other comments please send them and try to attend one of the forums. These are important discussions. The APASP process is intended to be transparent. The Taskforce needs your input to challenge assumptions that may not be representative of the campus community.   
  
Annual Reports and information items from senate committees were submitted in writing and Chairs were acknowledged with certificates of appreciation and applause from the Senate.

* + - [Faculty Senate](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/annualreports/16-17%20Annual%20Reports/FS_AnnualReport2017_4%2028%2017.docx)
    - [ASCRC](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/annualreports/16-17%20Annual%20Reports/ASCRC%20Annual%20Report_1617.docx)
      * [Dormant Course Report](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/Dormant%20Course%20Report%202017%20spring.xls)
    - [Graduate Council](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/annualreports/16-17%20Annual%20Reports/Graduate%20Council%20Annual%20Report_1617.docx)
      * [Revised Bertha Morton Procedure](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/303%2010_BerthaMortonRevised%205-4-17.docx)
    - [General Education Committee](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/annualreports/16-17%20Annual%20Reports/GenEdAnnualReport5417.docx)
      * [Rolling Review Report - Expressive Arts, Ethics, Social Science](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/Rolling%20Review%20Results5417.docx)
    - [Writing Committee](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/annualreports/16-17%20Annual%20Reports/Writing%20Committee%20Annual%20Report_05117.docx)
    - [University Library Committee](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/annualreports/16-17%20Annual%20Reports/ULCAnnualReport2017.docx)
      * [Revised ULC Operating Procedure  /](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/procedures/ULC_ProceduresRevised12-16.docx)[Old Procedure](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/procedures/Procedure_ULCoperating.docx)

## Committee Reports

* ASCRC Chair John Eglin
  + The [Curriculum Consent Agenda](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/curriculum/approved/ascrc/ASCRCCurriculum%20Consent%20Agenda_5417.docx) was approved. Irish Studies courses were transitioned to 4 credits.
  + The [Corrected 201.90 Special Topics](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/201.90_SpecialTopics_5-17.docx) was approved.
  + The [General Education Review and Assessment Proposal](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/GE%20Review%20Assessment_4.20.17.docx) was approved. It transitions the rolling review to a seven year cycle.
  + [Revised Group III language](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/Group%20III%20language_4.20.17.docx) was approved.
  + The p[roposal to remove Symbolic Systems from General Education](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/Proposal%20to%20Eliminate%20Symbolic%20Systems_4.20.17.docx) and Procedure [202.40.3 Exemptions to General Education Language Requirement](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/procedures/ASCRC_200/202%2040%203LanguageExempt4-18-17.docx) which defines the criteria were approved. It was suggested that departments include an explanation of the exempted status in the catalog. Students mostly use Degree Works and it includes the list of exempted majors.
  + Senators were reminded that the deadline for submission of curriculum forms next fall is September 29th 2017.

## New Business

* The center reviews were approved. ECOS recommended that the Institute of Health and Humanities submit information about its budget in two-years because its current funding is not sustainable.
  + [Institute of Health & Humanities](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/CenterReviews/Centers16-17/ReviewIHH2017.docx)
  + [Mansfield Center](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/annualreports/16-17%20Annual%20Reports/ECOS%20Mansfield%20Center%20report%204-25-17.doc)
  + [Montana Safe Schools](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/CenterReviews/Centers16-17/Montana%20Safe%20Schools%20Center%20Review.docx)
  + [Montana World Trade Center](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/CenterReviews/Centers16-17/2017%20ECOS%20Montana%20World%20Trade%20Center%20review.docx)
  + [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/archives/CenterReviews/Centers16-17/2017%20MOLLI%20%20report.docx)
* ECOS drafted a r[esolution to suspend reviews](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/Resolution%20to%20Suspend%20Reviews5417.docx) so that work over the next academic year would not be duplicated given the extensive review required of APASP. The resolution requests President Stearns to seek permission from the Commissioner’s Office to suspend program review. It was clarified that the resolutions intent is to postpone the review cycle for one year. It would not require doubling the reviews for next year. This would be the second year of postponing general education and writing review. If we are granted permission from OCHE a comprehensive list of what will not be reviewed will be disseminated.
* In discussing the recommendations by the Academic Restructuring Taskforce and concerns regarding the configuration of finals ECOS agreed that the academic calendar should be discussed by shared governance before it is finalized and drafted a resolution. The [Academic Calendar Resolution](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/Academic%20Calendar%20Resolution5417.docx) was approved.
* ECOS member Linda Frey introduced the [Free Speech Resolution](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/Free%20Speech%20Resolution5-4-17.docx). We do a lot of good things around here and we need to emphasize the positive role we have in the community. We have always encouraged free speech. So she researched what other institutions had in place and found the University of Chicago’s Statement on Principles of Free Expression. It is simple, responsive, and direct. It indicates the long standing commitment to free speech lies at the core of the university’s greatness. Free speech lies at the heart of what we do. This also supports the efforts of ASUM.   
    
  The resolution was put on the agenda by means of twenty signatures from the faculty in accordance with the Faculty Senate Articles. It was approved with one abstention.

## Good and Welfare

* Professor Sue Bradford, Chair of the General Education explained her email regarding the rolling review report. It is a technically, that it was not formally approved by the General Education Committee in time for submission to ASCRC, ECOS and then the Senate. There is a concern that courses that were not renewed will stay in the catalog for another year. It is included in the Committee’s annual report.   
    
  Also, she attended the Board of Regents General Education Council meeting in Helena last Friday. OCHE is having preliminary discussions regarding adopting the WICHE Passport model. There are different perceptions across the system. There are a number of problems with common course numbering and corresponding learning outcomes. OCHE may consider a state-wide conference to fixed issues with CCN and/ or discuss the Passport. The Council will have another meeting in September.
* Senator Frey commented that the Prioritization effort has strained faculty collaboration and governance. The timeline of working over the summer when we cannot give feedback is unacceptable. She thanked senators and members and Graduate Council for their work this year.
* Chair DeBoer volunteered to fill the Faculty Advisor position for ASUM.

## Reorganization of the Senate

* Thank [Outgoing Senators](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/ThankYouLetter2017.doc)
* Chair-elect Bowman seats the [New Senators](https://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/ElectionResults171.doc)
* Senator Matt Semanoff was nominated for Chair-elect. The Senate confirmed his nomination with a unanimous vote.
* Senators caucus to nominate ECOS members. There were more volunteers than vacancies from the professional schools so a written vote was taken for the three members.   
    
  The Senate confirmed the new ECOS:

MaryAnn Bowman, Social Work – Chair  
Matt Semanoff, Classics – Chair Elect  
Allen Szalda-Petree, Psychology  
Nikolaus Vonessen, Mathematical Sciences  
Tim Manuel, Accounting and Finance  
Stacey Gordon, Law  
Anne Delaney, Missoula College Health Professions

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.