

Meeting Minutes

Name of body: Faculty Senate

Date: April 11, 2024

Time: 3 pm

Location: Gilkey – Room 105

Call to Order (3:00 – 3:05) – Meeting called to order at 3:00

- Roll call – completed by Maria Mangold
 - Members present:** J. Barile, O. Berryman, M. Boller, J. Carter, A. Chatterjee, C. Cleveland, K. Cotton, T. Duce, A. Duwell, J. Eglin, B. Emidy, R. Fanning, L. Fern, S. Fielding, L. Fishman, T. Floyd, M. Hendrix, K. Jakob, D. Kellenberg, P. Kirgis, K. Loree, A. Luis, D. Macaluso, C. Martin-Wagar, M. McGrath, L. Meloy, J. Olomi, Charles Palmer, M. Roscoe, M. Schertz., N. Vonessen, C. Walker, A. Ware, C. Yoshimura. **Members absent:** A. Belcourt, K. Bosak, M. Cassens, B. Draper, J. Freer, K. Geiger, J. Goodburn, M. Harrington, S. Lollar, Chris Palmer, M. Shogren, J. Tuttle.
- Approval of minutes from [3/7/2024](#) meeting – approved as distributed

Public Comment (3:05 – 3:15pm)

G.G. Weix – Cobell Committee representative, asking for a resolution from Faculty Senate (and all other Senates) for November 5th every year to be named Elouise Cobell Day (used for guest lectures, panels, events approved by the Cobell family). This proposal will be brought by Paul Kirgis for debate to the May Faculty Senate meeting.

Blake Emidy – Truman Committee representative, announcing the Truman award winner for the year, information embargoed until April 12th. Emidy congratulates the student, as well as the faculty and staff who have worked to get students recognized.

Bert Gahagan -director of Culinary Program at Missoula College, inviting us to a High Tea event at lunch Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, as well as to a pop-up restaurant Tuesday and Thursday evening.

Reports (3:15 – 3:30pm)

- Chair's report
 - Incoming FS Program Manager
 - Enrique Flores Groomer, starting Monday. Welcome!
 - Elections underway
 - Ballots are due at 5pm on April 15th. Some difficulties with distribution of call for nominations and ballots have occurred due to our lack of a Program manager, but we continue to correct to be as inclusive and accurate as possible.

- Chair Fern thanks Amy Kinch, Josh Groomer, all of the committee chairs, and the entire Provost's office for their assistance. Thank you to faculty members for their patience.
 - Committee requests will be sent out next week. Chair Fern asks that everyone complete the request and volunteer for committees.
 - [FAFSA](#)
 - Many returning students have not completed their FAFSA. Please announce in your classes to encourage students to do so.
 - BOR update
 - We have two emeriti faculty who were approved, two honorary doctorates were approved. RTPs for consolidation of Learning Lab Preschool under Institute for Early Education and development of an Indigenous Research and STEM Education Center were approved. Various building and grounds renovations were approved (particularly ADA) and one new residence hall for campus. Updated online modality definitions were also approved and can be found on the BOR website.
 - [Canvas Information and Updates](#)
 - This linked update will give information, timelines, sign-up for trainings, etc.
 - It is a big lift to move to a new system, not only for faculty to make this change to all of their courses but to the staff at UMLonline.
 - [Accreditation Update](#)
 - Visits will take place April 24-26. April 24 from 3-3:50 in UC South Ballroom there will be a faculty forum. It is very important for faculty to be present. All Senators can help represent the institution by coming.
 - [Commencement Reminders](#)
 - Chair-Elect Yoshimura encourages faculty participation, times for ceremonies are linked, regalia orders are due April 14th.
- ECOS report
 - [Evaluation of the Administration](#) (Seconded Motion) – motion passes
- ASCRC Chair Mike Monsos
 - Curriculum [Consent Agenda](#) (Seconded Motion) – motion passes
 - [GenEd Writing Courses Title Change](#) (Seconded Motion) – motion passes
- Grad Council Chair Val Moody
 - Curriculum [Consent Agenda](#) (Seconded Motion) – motion passes

New Business

- Guests (3:30 – 4:55pm)
 - Provost Adrea Lawrence and Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for Strategic Planning and Implementation Kelly Webster
 - [Office of Strategic Planning and Implementation & Strategic Operating Rhythm](#)

- OSPI's role – facilitating processes rather than making decisions, as well as developing more inclusive processes. The goal is to assist and hold all sectors accountable.
 - Strategic Operating Rhythm: purpose and components
- Academic Affairs & Strategic Operating Rhythm
 - We are trying to bridge the distance between our current state and where we are trying to head in a future state (captured in our vision and our mission). We are trying to do the right things, over and over, to get better every year. We have eight objectives and four priorities for action listed on the OSPI site that help represent the direction we are heading.
 - Institution-level projects may change from year to year to aid us in moving in this direction.
 - The Strategic Operating Rhythm adds transparency to what happens (and who takes that action) in each of the stages of planning, budgeting, implementing, and assessing.
 - Each unit across campus does strategic outlook thinking on the same timeline every year to think through data and trends and to make decisions about how they have contributed to the future state and what they want to plan for the following year.
- AA's role in and contributions to the Strategic Operating Rhythm
 - Provost Lawrence notes that this operating rhythm and strategic outlook thinking emerged out of previous university work (like UDP, etc.).
 - Draft academic playbook is based on this planning and will be shared in our next meeting. Academic Affairs is about half of the planning that needs to occur at the institution.
 - Several accreditations and program reviews happening this year (they are on multi-year cycles). The Provost's office found that the required time period between reviews may be too long to go without assessment, so Academic Portfolio Review was initiated.
 - This process has illuminated how different programs on campus engage in and think about learning in diverse ways with students. Making regular review (with different questions each year) an annual process is something that will help connect academic units to one another and strengthen us as a system.
- Provost Faculty Fellow and Professor Isho Tama Sweet
 - The task has been to review and make recommendations about our [budget model](#)

- The budget model currently allocates student tuition and state support to colleges. Then expense ratios are applied (percent of money that goes to a college that they keep, percent that goes to shared expenses of the institution). Finally, the Provost makes adjustments.
 - This creates uncertainty since colleges have quite a bit of variation in what they might receive as a budget.
 - The only way to increase our budget is to increase tuition or increase state allocation (neither of which are fully within our control), and we have few places where we can reduce costs.
 - Discussions with Deans indicates that we have conflicting goals of budget models, and mixed ideas about the models that would be most effective at capturing what each college does and what we want to communicate.
 - Considerations of changes to the model include looking at performance indicators/success. Measuring credit hours in a different way may be more transparent and accurate. Tracking college performance over time may inform Provost adjustments.
- Senate Feedback:
 - Senator Walker suggested that having a more streamlined process for rubric changes would allow for errors of accounting to be visible. Tama-Sweet responded that rubrics are not used for tracking, faculty name is.
 - Senator Chatterjee considered the SCH connection to GenEd requirements, which leads to “gaming” to get the most SCH through offering GenEds. He suggested that this does not lead to fairness and encouraged more thinking on this. Tama-Sweet noted that money related to SCH goes to the college, not to departments – so when this “gaming” happens it doesn't necessarily benefit departments.
- Vice Provost for Student Success and Campus Life Leslie Webb
 - State of the student success and campus life sector
 - Amy
 - Informed restructuring
 - Amy Capolupo will step in as new Dean of Students
 - There will also be a new role to focus on retention of students from year one to year two is going to be a key focus

- There are many direct reports for the VPSS role, so the new restructuring to include these two roles will help Webb work on some of the high-level issues of student success.
- Faculty Feedback
 - Having more communication and more transparency was part of the feedback from faculty. As a result, Webb is initiating a new Faculty Fellow position (pilot year 24-25).
 - This person will help with communication from the office and also offering information on best practices for current students.
- Q/A
 - Senator Chatterjee believes much of student retention is outside of our ability to change; we can only marginally make a difference because of the financial situation we are all in. He wonders if Webb has compared our efforts to those of other institutions. Webb responded that she does see a similar landscape at our comparison universities/regional universities, but she believes we can chip away, particularly if we disaggregate and look at particular populations and identities, and to target interventions there. Webb particularly attends to the universities that our students go to when they don't accept our offer as important comparison institutions.
 - Senator Palmer asked about the need for a Dean of Students. Webb indicated that community standards and conduct in residence life doesn't make sense, nor do many of the other ways that roles of a Dean of Student have been absorbed by various departments. This position has been created to be both proactive and reactive.

Good of the Order (4:55pm)

Senator Hendrix announced that his eldest son will attend UM next year.

G.G. Weix announced that the Corbell Committee is available for questions after the meeting.

Chair Fern announced that at our next meeting we will instate new Senators and caucus for new ECOS members.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 4:46pm.
