

Faculty Senate Minutes, 4/18/19

Roll Call

Registrar Hickman called roll.

Members Present: L. Ametsbichler, J. Angle, D. Beck, O. Berryman, M. Boller, L. Broberg, J. Bunch, S. Certel, A. Chatterjee, Y. Cho, S. Clouse, G. Cobbs, G. Collins, Z. Cooper, A. Elliott, D. Erickson, J. Freer, B. Harrison, N. Hinman, M. Horejsi, A. Johnstone, K. Kane, R. LaPier, G. Larson, T. Manuel, H. Martens, N. McCrady, L. Minns, M. Monsos, M. Musick, H. Naughton, L. Nichols, D. Patterson, J. Pavilack, M. Pershouse, G. Peters, S. Phillips, A. Ratto-Parks, T. Ravas, Y. Reimer, M. Semanoff, R. Severson, S. Shen, A. Sondag, J. Thomsen, E. Uchimoto, A. Ware, J. Wolter

Members Excused: J. Carter, D. MacDonald, J. Millspaugh, S. Schwarze, M. Strohl, N. Vonessen

Members Absent: J. Banville, A. Belcourt, J. Bell, S. Brown, E. Gagliardi, N. Greymorning, K. Griggs, M. Hebblewhite, B. Holben, G. Quintero, S. Ross,

Ex-Officio Present: President Bodnar, Provost Harbor, Vice Provost Lindsay

- The minutes from [3/14/19](#) were approved.

Public Comment

- Professor Jennifer Cooper, Music, informed Senators about the International Choral Festival scheduled from July 17-20th. Festival organizers are looking for 360 beds to house choir members including 51 youths. Households with members that speak a second language are especially needed. The connections experienced in welcoming guests from around the world can last a lifetime. Volunteers are also needed to help with logistics of the festival. Please see the [website](#) for more details.

Communications

- **President Seth Bodnar**

Senators were thanked for their persistence through the challenges and continuation to teach, mentor and engage with students. The faculty leadership is the heart of the university. He especially thanked the Faculty Senate leadership for going above and beyond what is required as institutional citizens. He expressed gratitude for Chair Semanoff's mentorship and guidance in the true interest of the institution and expectation of honesty and transparency.

- It has been a great year of learning on multiple levels. He will have met with all departments by the end of the semester. It has been an honor to get to know faculty and learn about research and programs so he can advocate for them. He has also been visiting high schools to rebuild trust. The Counselors need to know we will take care of their students.

It has also been a year of transition from interim to permanent leadership with the hires of

Provost Harbor, Vice Presidents Cole and Lasiter, and Vice Provost Swager. It is exciting to see the team come together to transition the campus to stability. This time last year we were still in the middle of deciding cuts. Our focus is now on growth and we are seeing progress. According to Vice President Lasiter we have reduced the deficit by \$3 million in FY 19. This was a result of better than expected revenues and lower costs. This means we are ahead of the plan to financial health. We are also slightly up for fall admits. However, enrollment is still going to be down. A new orientation is planned. Students will have an online orientation to complete before they arrive to campus. This will help them complete enrollment paperwork. This system is seeing better responses. We have had over 5,000 natural inquires. This time last year we did not have a way to track inquiries. Summer enrollment is anticipated to be up by 8%. Students are eligible for housing discounts if they take 6 credits in the summer.

The General Education Committee is taking a hard look at requirements in order to reassert the value of a liberal arts education and adjust delivery where needed. UM is transitioning to stability with an eye towards growth. There should not be lingering uncertainty regarding what will be cut next. The University is making steady progress.

- **Provost Jon Harbor**

The [Degree Candidates](#) were approved.

The Provost has been here 9 months and remains optimistic. He has been to a number of meetings with faculty staff, alumni and students. The fear of retrenchment and uncertainty should be alleviated as staffing plans are implemented. Progress continues on the [priorities for action](#). Vice Provost Sarah Swager is working on student success initiatives. The feedback from students has been positive. The Teaching Excellence Initiative held sessions to engage faculty in evidenced based teaching and learning. UM is considering partnering with and OPM to develop new revenue streams from online programs. Summer course offerings are up to help students stay on track and entice others to learn in this incredible place with creative housing options.

Good progress has been made on the Health & Medicine and Environment & Sustainability Communities of Excellence. Co-facilitators have been selected for the other communities. A subcommittee of the Budget Committee will work on a new budget model for Academic Affairs.

Academic Affairs moved forward on the recommendation of taskforces to search for a new Missoula College Dean and International Officer. The new leadership will help the campus move forward in a sustainable manner.

A Faculty Evaluation Taskforce is looking at ways to improve efficiency of the FEC process and eliminate paper forms and burdens on staff. It sent a survey to collect information from faculty. The results will be posted on the [website](#).

This time of year is busy with events such as [UMCUR](#), [Innovate UM](#) and others. The incredible work of faculty doing research, mentoring students, and engaging in the larger community makes this possible. The activity is a testament to the energy on campus. UM is on the rise. Together we are making positive changes and transforming lives.

- **Maricel Lawrence, UM Online Executive Director & Robert Squires, Director - [OPM Committee Update](#)**

The OPM Committee will make the decision on April 29th about an OPM partner. Hopefully the contract will be signed this summer. Sample contracts will be posted to the OPM Committee website for faculty to provide feedback. The OPM company will want to understand the students experience and will look into collaborating with programs in the fall.

Questions:

Colleges and Schools that are interested offering online programs will determine whether faculty members are given course buyouts to develop quality online courses.

The planning process will determine how increased workloads will be supported by service units, such as the Financial Aid Office. The administration will need to understand what programs will be involved and estimate the number of students to create a plan to support the students.

The planning and contract negotiation process will also determine what services will be provided by the OPM, such as proctoring. The negotiations will take into account the UFA contract language regarding intellectual property rights. The draft contract will be shared with the various governance bodies for input before it is finalized.

- **UFA Vice President Megan Stark**

The Senate has been a phenomenal partner this year in delineating roles for shared governances. Senators were thanked for attending the OPM sessions. The UFA is continuing to pay attention and appreciates your feedback.

There is a new process for building records requests. Information is available on the UFA's and Facility Services' websites. Let Megan know if you have any questions.

Bargaining has been delayed because Deputy Commissioner Kevin McRae has busy with the Legislative session. The UFA will continue to provide updates.

- **Cassie Cassandra Hemphill, Missoula College Faculty Association**

The MCFA has ongoing concerns about the high adjunct to tenure track ratio at Missoula College. Many departments are at 75%. This impacts basic functions and has the potential to shift the burden of service and advising to tenure-track faculty. Many of the adjuncts have been teaching for 5 to 10 years with 16 week contracts. They have no employment stability. The university should be concerned about how it values temporary faculty, when they are the primary faculty for many students. The union is doing all it can. The Faculty Senate could consider a resolution that requires an investigation of the issues.

- ASUM President Alex Butler

He made a last request for Senators to consider the ASUM Faculty Advisor position. This is an opportunity to interact with students on a different level. The past advisor would be willing to discuss the responsibilities with you.

He was able to interact with many senators this year and was honored. He is proud of ASUM's work for students this year.

- Professor Vicki Watson – [Earth Week & Arbor Week](#)

There [are events scheduled](#) from April 20-28th to celebrate Earth & Arbor Day. Faculty and Staff can support UM's [Recycling](#) and [Sustainability](#) program through [payroll deduction](#). Forms were distributed at the meeting along with a flyer listing events. She recommends filling in the end date with "continue until noticed".

- Chair Matt Semanoff's Report

The evaluation of the administration is open until May 15th. ECOS will be sending emails to enlist your help to increase the response rate.

The following items were linked to the agenda as information to senators.

- [2019-2020 Senate Meeting Dates](#)
- [Annual Reports](#)
- [Curriculum Deadline](#)

- Faculty are invited to participate in the [CelebrateU](#) event the first week in June.

Chair Semanoff appreciates the experience of being entrusted with the responsibility of leading the Faculty Senate. He is grateful for being able to work with people from across campus and is honored by the dedication of colleagues. He has great confidence in how UM is moving forward. He has even gained appreciation for the Board of Regents and its increased willingness to work with the campus to address challenges. He looks forward to how things continue to improve.

Faculty must contribute to the future of UM. This requires faculty participation on committees and a framework of communication. The current committee structure is under review for clarity in process, oversight, and efficiency of work. According to Regent Paul Tuss decisions are made quickly at the BOR meetings because the Regents trust the shared governance review process on campuses. Our curriculum committees review with caution and attention to detail.

A lesson from the past is that deliberative bodies provide an open opportunity to hear from all perspectives. This sometimes delays responses and decisions, but careful deliberation is the precursor to wise action.

The role of faculty in deliberations for the future of the university are vital. For discussions to be meaningful faculty must be involved.

Committee Reports

- ASCRC Chair Georgia Cobbs
 - The [Curriculum Consent Agenda](#) was approved.
 - [Interim Assessment of Women & Gender Studies](#) was presented as information.
 - The [Introductory College Writing Catalog Language Update](#) was approved.
 - The [Reinstatement Catalog Language Update](#) was sent back to committee. The Senate would like the language to include clarification on why six days are needed. Registrar Hickman indicated that this is the minimum time to process financial aid. Also the language does not seem to solve the problem identified in the justification of students changing majors to take advantage of looser deadlines in other colleges.

- General Education Committee Chair James Randall
 - The General Education Committee is still taking feedback regarding the [UM Core Pilot Framework](#). It would like to have more faculty participating in the discussion. The Committee may ask the administration to address obstacles and incentives/ resources for faculty to develop courses for the interdisciplinary core. The Committee is looking for volunteers.

- Graduate Council Chair Len Broberg
 - The [Curriculum Consent agenda](#) was approved.
 - [Interim Assessment of International Leadership](#) was presented as information.

Unfinished Business

- The Motion to update Voting Groups was amended with the department name changes included in the curriculum consent agendas and approved.

- The Motion to change the meeting date section of the Bylaws was also approved.

New Business

- [Motion to change Articles—vote on proposal to change the articles.](#)
- ECOS reviewed the following centers and recommended continuation as there was nothing controversial. The Senate approved.
 - [Bureau of Business and Economic Research--](#)
 - [Clinical Psychology Center](#)
 - [Montana Geriatric Education Center](#)

- Neural Injury Center
- Rural Institute

- Outgoing Senators were thanked for their service and New Senators were seated.
- Professor Chris Palmer was elected as Chair-Elect.
- The Professional Schools caucused to nominate a new ECOS member. Professor Michael Musick was elected by the Faculty Senate to serve on ECOS.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.