

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 12/6/18

Call to Order

Chair Semanoff called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Registrar Hickman called roll.

Members Present: L. Ametsbichler, J. Angle, J. Banville. Beck, A. Belcourt, J. Bell, O. Berryman, S. Brown, J. Bunch, J. Carter S. Certel, A. Chatterjee, Y. Cho, S. Clouse, G. Collins, Z. Cooper, A. Delaney, A. Elliott, D. Erickson, L. Fern, J. Freer, N. Greymorning, K. Griggs, B. Harrison, M. Hebblewhite, N. Hinman, B. Holben, M. Horejsi J. Hunt, A. Johnstone, G. Larson, D. MacDonald, T. Manuel, H. Martens, N. McCrady, J. Millspaugh, M. Monsos, M. Musick, L. Nichols, H. Naughton, J. Pavilack, M. Pershouse, G. Peters, G. Quintero T. Ravas, A. Ratto-Parks, Y. Reimer, S. Ross, S. Schwarze, M. Semanoff, R. Severson, S. Shen, A. Sondag, S. Strohl, J. Thomsen, E. Uchimoto, N. Vonessen, A. Ware, J. Wolter

Members Excused: M. Boller, R. LaPier, L. Minns

Members Absent: N. Dawson, E. Gagliardi, V. Hedquist, K. Kane, M. Kia, S. Phillips

Ex-Officio Present: President S. Bodnar, Provost J. Harbor

Guests: K. Szpaller (Missoulian), R. Squires

- The minutes from [11/8/18](#) were approved.

Public Comment

None

Communications

- President Seth Bodnar;
The groups working on the five priorities for action have made good progress identifying objectives, indicators, and specific actions to take this year. We need to enhance persistence and completion for student success. We are in the final stage of recruiting a Vice Provost for Student Success. This position will be responsible for bringing the student experience together in a holistic way. We are taking a hard look at the advising model to identify the gaps and determine the appropriate ratio. Ideally all students should have a professional advisor and faculty mentor. There are communication efforts to re-recruit students so they register for the next semester as soon as possible. We need to prevent the loss of freshman (10%) over winter break. Spending time with students outside the classroom can have lasting impacts.

We are making good progress on recruiting efforts by staying in touch with students who show and interest. Operation execution issues such as the CRM are getting fixed and we have worked out an algorithm to be more strategic with financial aid. The letters are being sent four months earlier. This will be a multi-year effort given we have had smaller classes for the past seven years. Indicators look favorable for a larger class next year, but overall numbers will be down because of the large cohort graduating. We would have to increase the incoming class by 40% not to see a drop in

enrollment. He has been visiting High Schools.

We are working on a multi-year budget plan, so as we grow there will be resources to sustain programs. There has been some progress on the Communities of Excellence. The program moves will help to build on our strengths. The goal is to make programs as effective and distinctive as possible.

The administration is preparing for the upcoming legislative session. The Montana University System will be collaborative in its presentations. All campuses are excited about the Governor's budget and will work hard to get it through.

Questions

Parents and potential students are welcomed to campus three or four times a semester during UM Days. President Bodnar welcomes them. He will look into the event that was previously held on Monday before Thanksgiving mentioned by Professor Greymorning.

The President does not have a target number in mind for enrollment. We must be financially sustainable. This requires more students than we currently have. Once there, we must have instructional balance to provide increasing levels of quality for transformational student experiences. Then determine where to add resources to maintain quality as we grow. This may include a deliberate throttle back when the numbers become too large.

The University has a great opportunity to bring in a focus group of campus employees' potential students to understand the market. Senator Sean Clouse's son does not look at his email. He received a letter from President Cruzado three days after he applied. Admissions need to know how these kids want to receive information.

- UM Online Director and Chair OPM Committee, Robert Squires provided an [update](#) /[presentation](#) and responded to questions. Contracting with an OPM is another strategic enrollment initiative that would raise the number of students UM programs could reach. It would allow UM to leverage resources. The company would invest upfront to grow programs and then receive a share of the revenue to recoup their investment.

The Committee hopes to complete the RFP the week of December 17th. It would review and decide on the best fit OPM for UM. Then a quality committee would be created in the spring to review the existing online course policy and review plans to bring new programs online. It typically takes an OPM approximately 6 months to assist a campus to offer a program online. Current process for hiring and reviewing faculty would apply. Programs would still decide whether they want to contract with the OPM and have control over the curriculum.

Questions:

Initially the administration invited three providers to campus to learn more about how the OPMs worked. Faculty and administrators were invited to the presentations to learn more. These presentations helped the administration decide what would make sense for UM and how to move forward to create the RFP. These early meetings may have caused the impression that the process

was further along. It has been very collaborative with involvement from the shared governance groups.

The OPM's target audience would not current campus students. It markets to students that would not otherwise attend UM. The contract will specify how the OPM would get credit for program enrollment to calculate the revenue share.

The RFP will first be entered into the State Portal and then be released to the public. Bob Hlynolsky will oversee this process. The RFP will ask the OPM for references of unionized institutions with strong shared governance. The RFP will include a comprehensive request for information. The contract will specify how the company will ensure security and privacy of students' data as well as intellectual property rights.

Units currently using an OPM would not be forced to move. Banner and Moodle will still be supported.

- UFA Vice President Megan Stark
The UFA is thrilled to be involved with reshaping the university for a brighter future. The CBA provides for Senate purview in the matter of considering involvement with an OPM. She encouraged senators to review the information on the Provost's website in order to engage in a robust conversation. She is happy to discuss the timeline if there is interest.

She introduced Natalie Greco, the Statewide Facilitator and thanked Cassy Hemphill, the MCFA President for her partnership.

- ASUM president Alex Butler

ASUM has small concerns regarding university committees. Some senators assigned to serve on university committees have complained that they are not being notified of meetings. There needs to be better communication with the Committee Chair. He also asked that Committee Chairs reach out to the ASUM VP if student members are not attending meetings. Student participation in committees is important.

- Chair's Report
 - Chair Semanoff gave several examples of how individuals formally persecuted have impacted American academia in Classics. Faculty in other discipline are sure to have similar examples. He urged senators to consider signing the [Statement Supporting Inclusivity in the Face of White Nationalism](#) and to spread the word to others. It important to reinforce the importance of the free exchange of ideas despite Steve Bannon's canceled speaking engagement in Missoula.
 - The Spring [Curriculum Review Deadline](#) is January 30, 2019.

Committee Reports

- ASCRC Chair Marc Hendrix

A motion from the floor to suspend the rules was approved. This allowed items on the curriculum committee's consent agendas posted yesterday to be considered. The Senate bylaws require business items to be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

- The [Curriculum Consent Agenda](#) was approved.
- The motion to [update Service Learning Course descriptions](#) was also approved. The course descriptions will now inform students of the service learning hours required outside of class time.
- The [Re-title Policy 202.50.5 to Intermediate Writing Exemption Appeal Guideline](#) and the [New policy 202.50.6 Advanced Writing Substitution Guidelines](#) were approved. The new policy will allow programs to help students meet Advanced Writing Requirements in special circumstances without having to file a graduation appeal. It was clarified that the intermediate writing requirement is not enforced in Banner. Course descriptions suggest that students take an intermediate writing class prior to the advanced writing course, but this is not programmed because it would coding for every intermediate writing course. This can be programmed for majors that require a specific intermediate writing course.
- General Education Committee Chair James Randall discussed the Feedback [Survey Results](#) on the [Draft UM Core Pilot](#). Ninety-six faculty participated in the survey that was sent to approximately 600 faculty. The survey comments indicate many faculty do not understand our current requirements. The Committee is working on a revised draft that incorporates the criticisms and is also developing a more radical model. Hopefully these will be available for the January meeting. The President would like a distinctive impactful model that promotes the skills of adaptability for the ever changing world

Senators were sent the Chronicle of Higher Education's Reforming General Education Brief. One take away from the brief is not to rush general education reform. The Committee has only been working on crafting the pilot for 4 months. Departments need a clear sense of how the proposed change would affect their budgets. There is currently competition between departments for student credit hours.

The Freshman Seminar and Big Ideas Course are included in the AACU's guidelines of high impact practices. The Committee will further flesh these out for January. The students will be sent a survey when there are two models to consider. The students on the Committee have been very engaged in the process.

- Graduate Council Member Sandy Ross
 - The [Curriculum consent agenda](#) was approved.

Old Business

- The New Centers and other changes to centers below were approved. Andrew Wilcox clarified that he was asked by Vice President Whittenburg to create the Water institute proposal. The initial startup funds are coming from the Research Office. The intent is for the Institute to be self-sustaining. The budget situation will be reviewed in five years according to the policy.
 - [Center for Population Health Research](#)
 - [MT Youth Sports Safety Institute](#)
 - [Water Institute](#)
 - Center Title Change - [Rural Institute Name Change](#)
 - Center Termination - [Institute for Education and Research Service \(IERS\)](#)

Good and Welfare

- Provost Harbor responded to additional OPM questions. There is plenty of time to provide input next semester. Some UM Programs currently use OPMs. Each program would have specific guidelines. The OPM Committee is working on the generic RFP and will create the initial agreement. The procurement manager, Bob Hlynosky will help write the contract to address intellectual property rights and other issues. Faculty should send feedback of issues that need to be covered in the RFP. Aggressive marketing and other unpleasant practices can be prohibited in the contract. As long as there is a good faith effort, UM would not be liable to repay the start-up cost if programs supported by the OPM fail. The revenue share is negotiable. Once the OPM has recouped its investment over several years the revenue share is renegotiated.

The OPM may provide market analysis, advertisement, application assistance for students, student progress analytics, and instructional design support for faculty. Faculty control what is on the syllabus. When the program grows and additional faculty are needed, the current process for recruiting and oversight will apply. The initial expansion would be with adjunct faculty. The OPM will help decide what programs will meet the needs of learners. Online courses may still be offered through SELL. The unit and the OPM decide whether it would be beneficial to work together.

Accessibility is built into the instructional design. Marlene XXX attended the initial presentation and was pleased with how the courses are vetted for accessibility. OPMs make the user experience better and help faculty customize their course for online learners.

The Provost named several Universities that have contracted with OPM's including Purdue, Berkeley, the University of Washington, Oregon and Michigan State.

There may be additional questions once the RFP is released. These can be discussed in the spring.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.