

Faculty Senate Minutes, 2/14/19

Roll Call

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

Members Present: L. Ametsbichler, J. Angle, D. Beck, A. Belcourt, J. Bell, O. Berryman, M. Boller, S. Brown, J. Bunch, J. Carter S. Certel, A. Chatterjee, Y. Cho, S. Clouse, G. Collins, A. Delaney, A. Elliott, D. Erickson, N. Greymorning, K. Griggs, B. Harrison, N. Hinman, J. Hunt, A. Johnstone, R. LaPier, T. Manuel, H. Martens, N. McCrady, J. Millsbaugh, L. Minns, M. Monsos, M. Musick, L. Nichols, D. Patterson, J. Pavilack, M. Pershouse, G. Peters, S. Phillips, G. Quintero T. Ravas, Y. Reimer, S. Schwarze, M. Semanoff, R. Severson, S. Shen, A. Sondag, J. Thomsen, N. Vonessen, J. Wolter

Members Excused: Z. Cooper, B. Holben, M. Horejsi, G. Larson, D. MacDonald, H. Naughton, A. Ratto-Parks, E. Uchimoto, A. Ware

Members Absent: J. Banville, J. Freer, E. Gagliardi, M. Hebblewhite, K. Kane, S. Ross, M. Strohl,

Ex-Officio Present: President Bodnar, Provost Harbor, Vice Provost Swager, Vice Provost Lindsay, UFA VP Stark, ASUM President Butler

- The minutes from [1/31/19](#) were amended and approved.

Public Comment

- Student Ross Best commented on the University's continued refusal to comply fully with the State's Open Meeting Law. He is concerned about the OPM meeting to vet the responses to the RFP. This should be an open meeting. The public has a right to be informed about this process.

Communications

- **President Seth Bodnar**

The passing of Professor Dustin Hollist this week is devastating loss to the UM Community. The memorial service will be held tomorrow.

The MUS budget passed through the Education Subcommittee at the Legislature. The Subcommittee is supportive of the university system. He has been spending time in Helena to get to know the legislators. Need based aid was reduced to two million.

Next month he will provide an update on the priority for action efforts. Each priority now has specific objectives and indicators. It is important that we make steady tangible progress.

According to the spring census we had an increase in the overall persistence rate. The administrative restructure is aimed to align with student success. Retention is the most important factor. He has visited 10 high schools to start rebuilding relationships. He is asking deans to articulate outreach involving faculty.

The McGill Hall situation is challenging and uncertain. Our top priority is safety and we acted on the

side of caution and brought in experts. Air samples are not showing hazardous levels. A complete cleaning is underway. The Provost has met with the faculty and students. The two daycare locations are being treated consistently. According to experts, fibers in the dust do not pose health risks. The asbestos protocols, which have been in place for 70 years, are being reviewed. Whenever materials are disturbed abatement is needed. His Office is in the process of setting up an online forum to address concerns. We all want the same thing -a workplace that is safe and healthy.

- **Provost Jon Harbor**

Summer enrollment has already reached 1000 students. If you are interested in offering a summer course, please contact Grace Gardner, Interim Director of UMSummer.

Registrar Joe Hickman and his staff rescheduled most classes, labs, and activities within 24 hours of McGill Hall's closure. Claudine Cellier worked with the deans and department chairs of affected units to coordinate the reassignment of faculty and staff offices and address equipment and other immediate needs. CIO Renae Scott and the IT staff helped ensure necessary IT was provided. The response around campus to the situation was inspiring. Everyone who proactively helped students, staff and faculty adjust were thanked, particularly in those in the School of Journalism, the College of Education and Human Sciences, the Gilkey Building, the Department of Geosciences, and the TODD building.

The OPM committee formed last fall includes representatives from Faculty Senate as well as the two faculty unions. The next step is for Committee to review proposals using a rubric. The Senate was reminded that no unit will be required to use an OPM for an online program. The OPM will simply be an option.

Maricel Lawrence will join UM next month as Executive Director of UMOOnline. She will work closely with Robert Squires and others to continue the work of the OPM committee in selecting an OPM and planning for high quality online programs.

The [Teaching Excellence Initiative](#) was launched on February 1st. Two Faculty Inquiry Projects on improving students' understanding and skills via active learning will be offered this spring. The Faculty Development Offices is creating an online platform for faculty members to share strategies for teaching and assessment of learning outcomes. The Open [Educational Resources initiative](#) invites faculty to apply for grants to offset the time and expense required to adopt, adapt, or create high-quality open educational resources for courses. The deadline for these grants is March 4. The [Summer Institute on Scientific Teaching](#) returns to UM in June. The institute helps participants learn strategies to improve student understanding and success in STEM courses.

Thank you for passing the [Resolution on Starfish Early Alert](#). Those responsible for implementation will track usage and examine impact. The participation of all faculty advisors in the Early Alert initiative is much appreciated. They will have access to training resources.

The Provost provided a [written explanation](#) regarding the issues that arose during last month's meeting with regard to the request for Geography to move from the College of Humanities to the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. H&S did reallocations internally to ensure all tenure-track faculty were fully funded. This occurred before the move. The salaries of the Geography faculty will move with them.

Questions

Senator Schwartz asked about the timeline for implementing the new budget allocation model. The draft was shared with the UPC and is now being shared with academic officers to get feedback. The hope is there will be a better version prepared by the end of the semester. The goal is to run the new model as a shadow next year to identify impacts and work through issues and revise as needed. The revised model will be shadowed a second year. This process will allow stakeholders to have input and time to make adjustments and is in accordance with national best practices for introducing budget models.

Senator Beck expressed frustration with recruitment technology issues. The people implementing the software are not aware of the messages students receive. The system doesn't recognize the difference between a rolling and priority deadline. Students call their advisors, but their advisors don't know anything about the system.

President Bodnar responded that we need to improve communications. If you become aware of an issue report it to Vice President Cole.

- **Vice Provost Sarah Swager**

She has been on campus for 9 days and is delighted to be here. She wants to partner with faculty to make students successful and improve retention.

- **ASUM President Alex Butler**

ASUM is taking a group of students to Helena to lobby, so you may receive letters asking for excused absences. It means a lot to the students to have the support of the faculty. Some faculty have the students provide an update to the class. It is important to have Montana students tell their stories to legislators.

ASUM is looking for a faculty advisor. This is a unique opportunity to serve students. He will send an announcement to the Senate Office to distribute.

- **UFA Vice President Megan Stark**

The Union is concerned about the Asbestos situation. There is a health safety clause in the CBA. Members have the right to report concerns to the administration for responsible investigation. If you chose to send a concern to the online forum please copy Vice President Stark, so the union can track the notices. The administration has 25 working days to respond. It will be helpful for her to have the notice dates.

Senator Dave Beck is the union's representative on the Provost's Faculty Evaluation Taskforce, which is exploring an online system and IPR template. Any questions should be directed to him.

The OPM meeting is this Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Todd 205. It is open to the public. The vendors will then be invited to campus for product demos. The final scoring will be on March 30th. Please attend the demos if you have questions about expectations.

The Union had concerns about the FRIP presentation last month and follow-up with the Research Office. The CBA has a severability clause which provides for any language that is no longer accurate to ensure the contract is working for the best interest of the faculty.

There will be a general meeting soon. The meetings provide members the opportunity to give feedback. The information should be shared with all members of the unit. Some units do not send representatives.

- **Chair Matt Semanoff's Report**

- Shawn Grove, VETS Office Director will communicate to the Faculty Senate next month regarding timely adoption of Textbooks. The Higher Education Opportunity Act provides eligible students for course material reimbursement. The materials should be available at the time of registration so students know the true cost of taking courses. Reimbursement is complicated, delayed or denied depending on where the student purchases the materials. If materials are purchased at the UM Bookstore reimbursement is at the time of purchase. Vocational rehabilitation students do not receive their first paycheck until the second week of the semester.

Faculty need to ensure materials are available at the Bookstore. Now that the Bookstore is managed by Barnes & Noble email communications are sent by facultyenlight.com.

- ECOS discussed the Evaluation of the Administration process and timeline last week. The evaluation will be sent before spring break and will include interim administrators and new administrators on the job for one academic year. The Senate Office will process the results over the summer. The report will be finalized next fall. ECOS is aware that changes to the spring semester calendar have created the need for adjustments to the Senate meeting dates. This spring the meeting in January was delayed. The meetings should be more evenly spaced. ECOS will bring a motion to change the bylaws next month to address this issue.
- The Faculty Senate passed a [resolution](#) May 2017 providing for the faculty to comment on academic calendars before implementation. This was not provided for in the recent past. The Senate leadership hopes this will be considered in the future.
- He acknowledged the tremendous loss of the passing of Professor Hollist. The Celebration of his life is at 4:00 p.m. in the UC Ballroom.

Committee Reports

- ASCRC Chair Georgia Cobbs
 - The [Curriculum Consent Agenda](#) was approved.

- Graduate Council Chair Len Broberg
 - The [Geography Move Consent Agenda](#) postponed from January was approved after discussion with 32 senators in favor, 5 opposed and 1 abstention. [Provost Harbor](#) and Interim Dean McNulty clarified that the College of Humanities and Science absorbed the cut to the unit not addressed through the departments staffing plan. This enabled the department to retain its tenure track faculty members.
 - The [Journalism Program Move](#) —was postponed until the item is also on ASCRC's consent agenda. Senators would like more information.

Good and Welfare

- Senator Ravas encouraged senators to take advantage of the Open Education Resources grants. The cost of text book barrier for many student. This is a wonderful resource to help student success.
- Senator Carter asked whether the Senate could investigate the possibility of employees giving small consistent financial donations to the Food Pantry through payroll. This is a great resource for students struggling with food insecurity.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.