

May 4, 2009

Annual Report to University of Montana Western Faculty

Present: Shauna Basile, Mike Morrow, Jeri Bonnin, Craig Zaspel, Michael Francisconi, Doug Daenzer, Eric Wright, Kevin Rompala, Sara Glasgow, Bethany Blankenship, Sheila Roberts, John Hajduk, Dick Storey, Karl Ulrich, Brent McCabe, Jim Falvey, Eric Dyreson, John Xanthopoulos

Faculty Senate Activities, 2008-2009 Academic Year

Final actions on items begun earlier:

- BOR finally passed the resolution to bring our ACT/SAT admissions standards up to those of other MUS campuses (except Northern). (This passed unanimously in FS in the previous academic year.)
- Senate and Curriculum Committee streamlined the Curriculum Proposal form and process.
- Senate approved the proposed academic schedule for the next five years.

Actions initiated this year:

- Acted on 70 curriculum proposals.
- Faculty Senators, in conjunction with their departments, produced specific departmental targeted-recruiting requests. (The Business Department chose not to participate.) These included statements of possible career paths, what we have to offer majors, how many majors we estimated we could accommodate with current resources, and suggested ideal student profiles. These were forwarded to Admissions and Marketing and Catherine Redhead and Kent Ord attended a Faculty Senate meeting to discuss our requests in context with their current marketing and recruiting efforts. Faculty Senate expressed support for increasing resources for those two offices.
- Passed and delivered a resolution requesting replacement or repair of lost or nonfunctional classroom audio-visual equipment in a timely manner (within 48 hours).
- Budget: Appointed Eric Dyreson and Delena Norris Tull to the Campus Budget Committee; discussed the balance of administrative vs. instructional budget, the MUS budget process in Helena, and faculty priorities.
- Approved division of Environmental Sciences into two departments, continuing with one member on Faculty Senate to represent both departments (Pending BOR approval).
- Requested the Administration to investigate ways to reward outstanding faculty performance, especially in terms of nominations for outside awards and creation of in-house awards with some financial aspect. To date, two faculty members (Dr. Delena Norris-Tull and Dr. Rob Thomas) have been nominated by the administration for CASE U.S. Professor of the Year (Council for Advancement and Support of Education).
- Discussed and commented on the proposed transfer of the IT program to Helena COT. Faculty Senate expressed concern about the loss of an on-campus tenure-track position and an adjunct position, as well as student enrollment in General Education classes. The Administration believes that our campus will see increased enrollment in upper-division IT classes to offset that loss. The cost of maintaining up-to-date IT equipment at Western is also a concern. Administrative decision will occur after the end of Spring Semester, but Senators will be consulted on the wording of the final agreement.

Held discussions related to:

- UM Western Carnegie Classification – no change at this time
- Dual-credit plan for high-school students to enroll in college classes.
- Transferability process and issues
- General Education classes, starting Fall 2009 (FS supported)
- BA and BS degree changes and rules for new degree proposals
- Grant-writing initiatives
- NCATE – aspects of faculty hiring and advancement
- Campaign To Keep Guns Off Campus. Faculty Senate supported our administration's signature to that campaign.
- Building and campus security
- The Enrollment Strategy Task Force. Members appointed by Faculty Senate included Rob Thomas, John Xanthopoulos, Bethany Blankenship, and Margarita Knopik (membership changed slightly during the year).

- Fall Orientation – departments will report directly to Nichole about participation.

Ongoing

- Restatement/clarification of the university's response to plagiarism.

Discussion—the issue will be taken up further by the Academic Standards and General Education committees who will make recommendations to Faculty Senate.

- Amanda Hazlett's job, Editorial Assistant for Marketing Office, may be cut. Amanda is the Managing Editor of the web site and in charge of dissemination of our news, which is of critical concern to the campus.

Discussion—The following motion passed with one negative vote: Faculty Senate advises that the position be considered an administrative priority for hiring.