

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 29, 2016, 3:30-5:00
STC Great Room
Faculty Senators and Administration

- Call to order: Megan Chilson, Estee Aiken, Sheila Roberts, Megan Kelly, Michael Francisconi, Tyler Seacrest, Michael Hengler, Mike Morrow, Fred Chilson, Delany Hansen (Student Representative), Provost Moore

- Fred moved to approve the minutes from February 15, and Michael F seconded. Motion passed.

Administration communication

- Response on the visiting housing proposal
 - Chancellor Weatherby is looking for funding for a Center for Experiential Learning and Teaching. A place for visiting faculty will be included.
 - One goal will be to share the story of ExperienceOne pedagogy.
 - Will this take away from the fundraising goals of endowed chairs and increasing faculty development funds? Provost Moore comments that we need multiple ideas to pitch to potential donors.
 - There will also be a house available for new hires and an apartment for temporary faculty. However, the main goal of these will not be to bring in visiting faculty to enrich our current programs.
- New Provost search
 - There will be three on campus interviews – good candidate with faculty development backgrounds. Faculty senate will have some time during the interview to ask questions.
- The provost has caught up on signing curriculum proposals, and the chancellor will as well soon.
- The Board of Regents visit to UMW
 - Everyone is welcome to attend, and it is a good experience for everyone to do at least once.
- Faculty with year-to-year contracts will ideally know if they are being renewed by March 23.

Unfinished Business

- Website resolution
 - Michael H. has created a resolution to have the school get bids on contracting an outside firm to redesign and update the website.
 - Fred moved to approve the resolution, Shelia seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
 - Outreach may be an additional source of funding for the website.
- Administrative review process
 - ECOS created a pool of questions to be used to review the provost and the chancellor.

- A member of ECOS will meet with the chancellor and provost to discuss the questions as well as remove, change, or add questions. These changes will be approved by Faculty Senate before the survey is sent out.
 - Fred makes a motion to go forward with this plan. Estee seconds; motion approved.
- Speech intensive courses
 - While more research needs to be done to determine exactly what the requirements are, the General Education committee will go forward with investigating whether the current plan (to require every student to take at least one speech intensive gen-ed) will work.

New Business

- First Reading on Curriculum Proposals 24-26, 31-37.
 - Many of these are routine updates and cleanups. For example, 31 is renaming a class because of changes in transferability requirements.
 - CP 37 introduces a new ecology degree.
 - This ecology degree de-emphasizes some courses less helpful for ecology (such as organic chemistry) and emphasizes others (such as statistical modelling)
 - Takes advantage of two new general education classes which will be rotated with BIO 101 (CPs 25 and 26).
 - Takes advantage of UM's Flathead Biological Field Station.
 - Also introduces formally options that already existed in pre-med and pre-vet.
- Good of the order
 - Chairs have put forward a document that formalizes the roles and responsibilities of chairs and the resources to perform those duties.
 - Includes things like running department meetings and assessment, mentoring new faculty, and scheduling. Does not involve supervision or evaluation of other faculty members.
 - Perhaps faculty senate should put forward a joint resolution.
- Michael F moves to adjourn, Fred seconds. We made like three right turns and left.

February 29, 2016

To: Chancellor Weatherby
From: Faculty Senate
Re: Bids from External Web Firms to Determine Fiscal Viability

Faculty Senate would like to formally recommend that The University of Montana Western consider contracting a web design firm as an expedient solution to resolving ongoing design and development issues that have endured for the past eight years. As a course of action, Faculty Senate would like to move to have three bids obtained from web design/development firms (an action that will *not* cost Western anything), in order to determine if this is an appropriate fiscal decision.

Rationale to pursue working with a firm from practical and financial points of view:

1. Dedicated team working towards one specific goal: the improvement of Western's website.
2. No benefits required: no health care, retirement, or paid time off.
3. Stability - No exit strategy needed; a firm is more than one person.
4. Diverse skills available – team of designers and coders vs. one person.
5. Contract by job or hour – pay as required.
6. Able to easily choose to work with someone else if we are not happy with the firm's performance, as opposed to a salaried employee.
7. Timely improvements (24 hour turnaround for submitted requests and their updates) which strongly reflect on the quality of work being done at this institution.
8. Funding follows the quality, accuracy, timeliness, and overall professional appearance we present (our means of marketing our departments, programs and school), or not.
9. We are constantly making noteworthy updates to our curricula, realizing goals, improving our campus, etc., and our website has to be able to promote at the speed of our faculty's, staff's, and administration's accomplishments.
10. Western's website is not only a reflection of the work we do, but is a major recruiting tool.
11. Timeliness – the site needs constant updates and attention. The sooner Western implements a system to insure the website receives the attention it requires, the better our chances of delivering the message that Western is a relevant, unique and highly sought after institution of higher education. Conversely, if we neglect our responsibility to maintain a current and well working website, we deliver the message to every visitor of our site that they can expect the same broken links and discord they see on our site, at our institution as well. It is imperative we hire with thoroughness to insure Western's site is maintained with professionalism, accuracy, and quickness.
12. Reliability – links need to work and mobile site needs to actually be mobile friendly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing your response, and hope to receive a written response from you by March 7, 2016.

Faculty Senate

February 26, 2016

To: Faculty Senate
From: Sylvia Moore, Interim Provost
Re: Visiting Faculty Program and Housing

Thank you for your revised proposal from October 4, 2015 that proposes the institutionalization of a visiting faculty program that includes housing for the visiting faculty. The ideas that faculty senate members set forth will be very useful as the Chancellor puts together the case statement for fundraising for the Center for Experiential Learning and Teaching.

As you know, the Chancellor and her husband advanced the idea for increased emphasis on fundraising for Experience One at her inauguration in October 2015. Part of that effort will include finding donors to support a center to serve both faculty and students. A visiting faculty program will be included in that fundraising effort.

The small houses around the campus that have been purchased through auxiliary services as they have come on the market will continue to be utilized in support of UM Western's academic and support service enterprises. This summer, one newly vacated home will be painted and cleaned/restored to be available for temporary housing for new hires who might be facing challenges finding appropriate housing as they relocate. Once the funding is in place for the Center for Experiential Learning and Teaching, the Chancellor and the Provost will work with the faculty to design the programs and services that the Center will provide. The intent is to include housing for visiting faculty as part of those plans.

In the short range, the apartment utilized this year by the Interim Provost will be kept open to be available for visiting faculty who come to UM Western for short teaching assignments.