

Minutes

Faculty Senate, University of Montana Western, December 1, 2008

- I. Call to Order—Sheila Roberts, Eric Dyreson, Jim Falvey, John Hajduk, Mike Morrow, Megan Chilson, Delena Norris-Tull, Brent McCabe, Bethany Blankenship

- II. Approval of Minutes—Minutes of November 11 & October 27, 2008 approved unanimously

- III. Special Issue

Discussion of university hiring practices, especially in relation to filling vacant tenure-track lines.

Action: Delena will find a copy of an earlier Senate resolution on this issue and forward it to the administration to reiterate the Senate position that tenure track lines should be protected and increased. John will forward to Delena a copy of the relevant Strategic Plan portions that address this issue to be attached to the earlier resolution.

- IV. Unfinished Business

- A. Chair Roberts nominated John Xanthopoulos as the third faculty member of the Enrollment Strategy Task Force.

Action- Motion made and carried unanimously (8-0) to recommend appointment of John Xanthopoulos to the Task Force.

- B. The Senate discussed the proposal from the general Education Committee to create two-block thematic cohorts in the general education program in the Fall of 2009

Action- Delena agreed to meet with the General Education Committee to relay Senate concerns related to whether the plan will: fit with closely prescribed majors like elementary education; require additional faculty or other resources; involve any grouping of students by ability; be staffed by tenure-track faculty; fit with current advising protocols and procedures; be accessible to non-freshmen who need gen ed credits..

- C. The Senate discussed the registrar's proposals for changing processes related to registration for internships.

Action- Jason will be invited back to a Senate session to address questions and issues raised by the departments.

- D. The Senate discussed the proposal to divide the Environmental Sciences Department into two units, Biology and Earth & Environmental Sciences.

Action- Motion made and carried unanimously (8-0) to recommend approval of the split to the administration on the terms included in the proposal (no additional budget, no additional representation on Senate).

- E. Senate discussed ideas for greater recognition of faculty accomplishments.

Action- Senators will take the issue back to departments for suggestions.

V. New Business

Consideration of the first packet of Curriculum Proposals was deferred until the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Submitted by John Hajduk, Acting Secretary