



Faculty Senate

MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2008
3:30 p.m., Westlie Room

Agenda

1. Proxy approval
2. Approval of the minutes of the January 31, 2008 meeting
3. Review of the agenda
4. Announcements/comments from the Senate President
5. Nominating committee
6. Academic Policies Committee—report on policy on incompletes
7. Curriculum Committee
 New program—Health Management Science Minor
8. Curricular Diversity and Campus Climate Committee
 Initial approval of courses for diversity requirement—ART 219, SW 256
9. Report of ad hoc committee on Legislators/SBHE members visit to MSU
10. Report of ad hoc committee on revision of faculty satisfaction survey
11. Administrative Reports
12. CCF Report
13. Student Government Association Report
14. Staff Senate Report
15. HLC report

Senators Present: Erik Anderson, Bethany Andreasen, Rebecca Anhorn, Larry Atwood, Mikhail Bobylev, Johnny Coomansingh, Alexandra Deufel, Debra DeWitz, Lori Garnes (proxy for Alan Ekblad), Patti Fedje, David Fuller, Eric Furuseth, Steve Hayton, Elaine Larson, Paul Lepp, Paula Lindekugel-Willis, Draza Markovic, Cheryl Nilsen, Linda Olson, Linda Pettersen, Gary Rabe, Ron Royer, Ursula Schittko, John Webster, Sarah Rowe

Senators Absent: Kristi Berg, Alan Ekblad, Joseph Jastrzembski, Susan Podrygula, Tom Seymour

Guests Present: Ruth Kihm (Executive Board), Tania Balas, Jennifer Sick, Dale Gehring

1. Proxy approval

Lori Garnes for Alan Ekblad; motion carried.

2. Approval of the minutes of the January 31, 2008 meeting

Correction noted: Cheryl Nilsen was the one who seconded the motion made by Steve Hayton. President Andreasen assumed the minutes to be accepted as corrected.

3. Review of the agenda

The CCF report will be moved up because Lisa Borden-King will be giving the CCF report and the Academic Policies Committee report. President Andreasen also noted that there is a need to elect a new Senate Secretary.

4. Announcements/comments from the Senate President

The Executive Board talked about membership for the General Education ad hoc committee, which is almost constructed. So far, Kristi Berg, Alex Deufel, Erik Anderson, Jane LaPlante, Cheryl Nilsen, Deb Olson, and Ryan Winburn have agreed to serve. Also, next year's chair of the General Education Committee will be added.

President Andreasen reminded the Senate about the February 28 meeting in which Dr. Fuller will discuss shared governance and community with the Senate.

President Andreasen asked senators to be organized when making motions so that they will be more easily and more accurately recorded.

Added Item: Election of New Faculty Senate Secretary

John Webster resigned as Faculty Senate secretary, so a new secretary needed to be put in place. After a lengthy period of silence, Paul Lepp agreed to serve as secretary for the remainder of the year. Motion to approve carried.

5. Nominating committee

A nominating committee is needed to nominate a slate of candidates for next year, for the positions of vice president and secretary, and for CCF positions (one 3-year, one alternate). Three volunteers were Becky Anhorn, Linda Petterson, and Deb DeWitz.

7. Curriculum Committee

New program—Health Management Science Minor

Approval of a new HMS minor in the Department of Nursing came from the Curriculum Committee as a motion. Cheryl Nilsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Curricular Diversity and Campus Climate Committee

Initial approval of courses for diversity requirement—ART 219, SW 256, Honors 395H, and COMM 413

Approval of these courses for the diversity requirement came from the CDCCC as a motion. They were treated as a single motion, which was seconded by Linda Olson. Motion carried.

6. Academic Policies Committee—report on policy on incompletes

Lisa Borden-King reported that the APC met several times on the issue of incompletes. Incompletes have implications for decisions on academic suspension, and on financial aid reports. Incompletes end up being recorded in cases when grades are not submitted on time (was the case for 37 classes last time). Lisa noted that the APC was not inclined to go to a “contract” approach. One recommendation is to add a “note” section on the grade report in which faculty members would add a note on any incomplete given. Another suggestion is to have the deans work with faculty members who have given incompletes, to find out why, and then to report this information back the Senate and the APC so there is more information on which to take action. Relative to criteria for giving incompletes, some on the APC felt students should have to request an incomplete; not all agreed. Another suggestion was to add something to the faculty handbook on the implications of giving incompletes.

During questions and discussion, there was some support for the idea of placing the burden on the students to request an incomplete.

President Andreasen summarized what the APC is asking, that more information be provided to the committee on why incompletes are given, and to meet with Dr. Rabe, in an effort to have more feedback on which to deal with the issue.

Linda Olson made a motion that Senate look into developing a form that would be used to request an incomplete. The motion was seconded by Ron Royer. In discussion that followed, Tania Balas noted that she would have no objection to moving the deadline for submission of grades to Tuesday noon rather than Monday noon. Dr. Rabe noted that a “contract” would give an opportunity for students and faculty members to make clear what needs to be done. Jennifer Sick noted that “I” would have to be removed as an option for grade submission; faculty members would have to request that the “I” option be made available. Dale Gehring said such an approach would allow Financial Aid to remove students from the process of having to return financial aid funds.

President Andreasen noted that her take on the issue was that APC would have to develop the form, and that this would be simply to draft the form; this would not be a vote to enact the policy.

Lisa Borden-King noted that we will have to answer questions such as: Who handles exceptions? What qualifies as student contact? before implementing any policy.

Tania Balas said the Registrar’s Office can develop a form; there seemed to be agreement that the Registrars’s Office will develop a form and report back to the Senate.

Motion carried.

12. CCF Report

Lisa Borden-King reported that CCF met on Tuesday. Business included: AAC report on PeopleSoft, statewide tuition for dual credit courses, tuition rates and the various formal higher education centers, and a statewide professor of the year award. The CCF also modified the procedure for selecting the representative to the SBHE, moving the election up to February. The annual report and recommendations on compensation was also discussed. The recommendations include a 7.4% raise for each year of the next biennium. Final recommendations are due tomorrow.

Steven Hayton made a motion that the Senate approve the request to move the CCF election of its SBHE representative to February. Cheryl Nilsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. Report of ad hoc committee on Legislators/SBHE members visit to MSU

Eric Furuseth reported on the ad hoc committee's work. They developed a list of people for possible invitations to campus. He noted that if anyone has connections with legislators, such contacts could be utilized as well. A date of April 11 was being considered, and a tentative plan for what to do was developed. Eric noted that it would be good to develop a complete list of things happening at MSU during the month of April; this would accompany the invitation letters. Anyone with thoughts should send them to Eric. There was some consideration of funding that would be needed for mileage and hotel reimbursement. Discussions will continue with the President's office. President Andreasen thanked the committee for its work thus far.

10. Report of ad hoc committee on revision of faculty satisfaction survey

Alex Deufel reported on the work of the ad hoc committee. IRB approval has been obtained for the letter and the survey. The survey will be administered electronically; this will be more secure. A paper version will also be available.

Eric Furuseth made a motion to approve the revised survey; seconded by Patti Fedje.

In the following discussion, Alex noted that there will be expandable text boxes for longer comments. Gary Rabe wondered why there were only five questions related to Faculty Senate and governance; more could be added.

Eric Furuseth and Patti Fedje withdrew the motion.

Gary Rabe made a motion that the ad hoc committee go back and look at the survey to construct more questions related to Senate and governance (e.g., Gen Ed, tenure, promotion, curriculum processes, etc.). Motion was seconded by ???. Motion carried.

President Andreasen suggested that Senate look at a revised survey at the next meeting.

11. Administrative Reports

President Fuller

The Connect ND oversight committee: some good progress is being made. Suggestions are welcome.

From the open forum last week, there was some interesting discussion in the newspaper that made it sound as though MSU was in some financial trouble. President Fuller has spoken with the publisher/editor, and a rejoinder was run in the paper.

There are some proposed actions on sabbaticals.

There have been discussions about tuition models, such as a flat rate (no out-of-state rate) or a per-credit rate. Other campuses are being studied to see how the per-credit works; the only negative feedback is that it cuts down on students taking extra (exploratory) courses.

Cabinet has compiled and submitted priorities for the budget, responding to a request for a prioritized list. We have some good directions. The top priority is to increase salaries.

President Fuller met with local legislators (on Appropriations). The Wellness Center was viewed favorably. He will also talk with the governor about priorities.

President Fuller distributed a draft for the next meeting's discussion.

Vice President Rabe

Dr. Rabe distributed a report to the Senate and briefly discussed the following items:

Mid-term grade deficiency reporting

Commencement planning

New student orientation dates

Articulation agreements

Academic and institutional projects

HERI survey

One additional item mentioned related to dual credit courses and the problems created by different grading standards; some superintendents are changing grades to match their percentage cutoffs for grades. Superintendents will be informed that they do not have the authority to change grades.

13. Student Government Association Report

Student Government met on February 11. Two students volunteered to serve on the sustainability committee. There was some discussion about the printing issue. There will be some consideration given to whether MSU should implement printing charges, rather than using student fees to support unlimited printing. The Student Government will be asking each club to purchase one recycling bin.

14. Staff Senate Report

Staff Senate will meet next Tuesday.

15. HLC report

Ron Royer reported that the report and other materials have been distributed to all team members. The materials are also available to the public on the webpage. Meetings with divisions and departments are under way. The team visit begins Monday March 31. There will be open meetings with faculty, staff, and students. There are still a few logistics to work out for the visit.

Adjourned at 5:25.

Respectfully submitted,
John Webster, Secretary

Next meeting will be held at 3:30 pm on February 28 in the Westlie Room.