

MSU FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2010
LJ 346
Montana State University-Bozeman
4:10-5:00 PM

Members Present: Caton, Cherry, Eitle, Fisher, Frick, Gerlach, Jacobsen, Kaiser, Lawrence, Lansverk, Larson, Locke, Marshall for Weaver, McClure, Meade, Merzdorf for Eiger, Mokwa, Neumeier, Osborne, Schachman, Sobek, Sowell, Thompson, Versaevel, Wojtowicz

Others Present: Greg Durham, Joe Fedock, Shannon Taylor, Greg Young

Chair Wes Lynch called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present.

Announcements – Chair Lynch

- University governance reorganization groups have been formed and each will meet at different times between 9-11:30 am on May 6.
- Chair Lynch thanked all FS members for their hard work during the AY.

Old Business – Chair Lynch

- Administrative Review Overview – Provost Fedock - The narrative/comment section of the reviews were the most valuable. All numerical and narrative comments were shared with deans and VP's and had an affect on annual review outcomes.
- Expedited Tenure Review – Expedited Tenure Review language was unanimously approved. The policy will now go to Faculty Affairs for final wordsmithing, and then to Leslie Taylor for approval and placement into the Faculty Handbook.

Election of New FS Chair-elect – Chair Lynch

There was a brief Q&A period for both candidates, Shannon Taylor (ST) and John Neumeier (JN).

*How would you address faculty teaching evaluation and teaching assessment if you were elected?
Do you believe the Knapp forms are adequate?*

- JN believes evaluations vary from department to department and the method should be improved upon.
- ST talked about the P&T document and the inclusion of a teaching assessment component and how it is being reviewed by administration. It is in its final version however, the union might impact the outcome.

How will communication between the union—>FS—>faculty going to be accomplished?

- JN believes we will need to have open communications with the union for all faculty union members. Since there are many faculty members are not included in the union, we have to make sure their interests are also articulated. JN stressed that he would be acting on behalf of all FS members and their constituents and encouraged them to apprise him of issues and concerns in order to be brought forward.
- ST believes interaction with the union should be strengthened and will make sure that is accomplished, if elected, especially where adjuncts are concerned. He talked about how FS might incorporate adjuncts into FS discussions and, perhaps, reformulate with the union on how to conduct future administrative reviews.

With then new president, there is a great opportunity to indulge in shared governance. We are slow to get things don. How can we move more quickly? I would like to know how each of you would increase our productivity to be more effective.

- JN believes the key point is communication. FS is sometimes reactionary and members don't necessarily feel they are a part of the decision-making process. Putting more effort into communication and becoming more involved are two things that can make a difference in FS's productivity. Perhaps there are ways to do this by posting activities of the BoR's meetings and university committee minutes on the web, and engage departments that do not have representation on FS to appoint a member or alternate to attend meetings.
- ST believes the web page update is a good idea. FS leadership meets with the Provost and President each week, and they set the agenda and run the meeting.

What would your relationship be with the union and, in particular, what is your position about the union?

- JN believes the union is essential for adjunct faculty. Because 50% of the faculty were in favor of the union, he supports the solidarity of that decision. There are many issues that need to be addressed specifically, the salary disparity among women faculty, and he believes the union will help correct that.
- ST stated that even though he did not initially vote for the union, but has subsequently become a member, he believes the working conditions and salary issues will improve with their presence. He will make sure FS and the union have coordinated efforts.

If both of you are in the union, how will you go about representing those faculty who are not in the union? I want an answer that covers more than just "communication."

- JN stated that he would like those faculty not in the union to become involved in FS and help faculty in the union and the union, set policy. He noted that FS sets policy, it is reviewed by admin and he believes faculty union members will participate in that process. He also believes there will be union members on P&T, also, but is not sure how that will be articulated in the union contract. When it is time for the ratification of the bargaining agreement, JN stressed that ALL faculty who are union members should become involved.
- ST has never worked on a unionized campus. However, he believes more astute attention should be paid to non-union faculty. He believes FS representation of those who are not in the union should be regularly discussed and issues concerning them brought forward to admin and the union so coordination of efforts would begin to evolve.

After soliciting nominations, and holding an immediate election among members (and alternates if members were not present), the results yielded that John Neumeier was elected as Chair-elect of FS.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM

Signature
Gale R. Gough, Secretary

Signature
Warren L. Jones, Chair