

**Academic Senate
February 11, 2025
Cowan Hall # 310
Meeting Minutes**

Membership: Valerie Guyant, Trygve Magelssen, Mark Seiffert, Laura Gomez, Kasthuri Udayakumar, Joyce Mphande-Finn, Grant Olson, Casey Donovan, Anna Bowker, Aaron Riggan

Members Present: Valerie Guyant, Trygve Magelssen, Mark Seiffert, Laura Gomez, Kasthuri Udayakumar, Grant Olson, Casey Donovan, Anna Bowker, and Joyce Mphande-Finn by remote attendance

Guests: Jennifer Brown, Scott Guyant

Recorder: Jodi Kueffler

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Valerie Guyant at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes:

- Motion was made by Laura Gomez to approve the minutes from January 14, 2025.
- The second was made by Mark Seiffert.
- Question
- Approved

Agenda:

- Motion was made by Grant Olson to approve the agenda as amended.
- The second was made by Laura Gomez.
- Question
- Approved

Chancellor/Provost Updates:

- An email will be sent out this week regarding the upcoming Montana LeadHERship Conference to be held June 19 and 20, 2025. The conference will include female alumni, professionals and high school students.
- Everyone is welcome to join the Faculty & Staff Yoga tonight at 5:00 p.m. in Donaldson Commons.
- Leadership continues to watch state and federal funding for anything impactful to MSU-Northern.
- The Provost will be presenting at this week's Tech Snacks on the strategy behind course scheduling for next year without any overload.

External Committee Reports:

- **NWCCU**
 - The Provost is working on the year one report, which is due March 1st.
- **UAC**
 - The committee met in January and reviewed a couple policies. The next meeting will be in March.

Senate Committee Reports:

- **Admissions and Standards**
 - There are no new updates at this time.
- **Curriculum**
 - The committee did not meet in January as there were a couple proposals that needed to be voted on by the College of Health Science before proceeding.
- **Financial Aid**
 - There are no new updates at this time.
- **General Education**
 - The committee is preparing for the next assessment.
- **Graduate Council**
 - There are no new updates at this time.
- **Instruction, Research, Faculty Development & Cultural Programming**
 - The Brownbag Lectures have been scheduled for this semester.
 - Working on new presentation format similar TED Talks where experts can share their information with the campus.
- **Library & Instructional Technology**
 - The Innovative Teaching and Learning Festival is scheduled for February 19th.
 - The Library is hosting Black History Month events with film screenings each Tuesday.

Proposals:

- There are no new proposals at this time.

Old Business:

- 24-10; New Course Proposal - THTR 4XX Advanced Directing for Community Performance

- 24-11; New Course Proposal - THTR 3XX Design for Community Stage (Set, Costume, Lighting)
- 24-12; New Course Proposal-THTR 3XX The Actor's Instrument
- 24-13; New Course Proposal-THTR 4XX Special Event Management
- 24-14; New Course Proposal-THTR 2XX Production Management and Stage Management for Community Theatre
- 24-15; New Course Proposal - THTR 2XX Community Theatre Stagecraft (Set, Costume, Lighting, Props)
 - A motion to batch 24-10; 24-11; 24-12; 24-13; 24-14; and 24-15 was approved at the previous meeting.
 - Proposals were all updated to reflect the class objectives are not just to learn a skill, but also to be able to teach the skill.
 - Proposal 24-13 was edited to remove “several” and change “event” to “event(s)”.
 - A motion to approve proposals 24-10; 24-11; 24-12; 24-13; 24-14; and 24-15 with suggested edit to 24-13 was made by Mark Seiffert.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question
 - Approved
- Discussion on ways to improve the Curriculum Proposal Form.
 - Form has changed from 2 ½ pages to 6 pages over last few years.
 - Financial questions are redundant since a fiscal analysis form is filled out separately and attached.
 - The Provost plans to compare current required paperwork for Board of Regents with NWCCU paperwork for later discussion.
- Discussion on proposed changed to Board of Regent Policy 301.11 Undergraduate Degree Requirements.
 - There is a push to allow a 90-credit bachelor’s degree.
 - Which courses would be cut if this goes through? General education, content area or from both?
 - This would cause issues as students enter graduate programs and lack those credits.
 - Need to articulate the value of bachelor’s degree.
 - 90 credit degree should be set up as a separate degree from bachelor’s degree.
 - Need to review requirements for state licensure for compliance as well.
- The Provost inquired at the last meeting to see if Academic Senate would like to look at the accuracy of how course evaluations are measured. Valerie Guyant is working on setting up a committee to review this.
- Discussion on student assessment.
 - Currently in a fact gathering stage to look at examples of how other schools handle assessment.
 - Would like to try something new instead of just fixing current system.

New Business:

- Scott Guyant, Instruction and Reference Librarian, requested Academic Senate consider adding the Library Director or Librarian as an ex-officio member of Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council Committee. This would allow the Library to be involved in all new curriculum discussions. The Academic Senate By-Laws would need to be amended if this change is approved.

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Seiffert.
- The second was made by Laura Gomez.
- Question
- Approved

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jodi Kueffler