



Faculty Senate Agenda

Date and Time: 01/10/2025 8:30 – 9:45 AM

Room: Don 002/003

CALL TO ORDER: Seth Roby

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- I. 08/23/24 minutes: Virginia moves to approve; Veronica seconds. Motion passes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- I. President invited Aidan Keenan from the HC Campus Store to address the Faculty Senate to ask the faculty what their needs, wants, concerns are with things provided by the campus store and the online bookstore:
 1. *Aidan shares that he's the sole employee of the bookstore, open to suggestions and feedback, ex 6933; can reach him on Teams or email: 2369mgr@follett.com. Here to help!*
 2. *Students get textbooks either online or at the store. They seem to be coming directly to the store most often and don't realize there's an online option. Can order free in-store pickup, or have it shipped to them (more expensive).*
 3. *If there's any confusion around access codes, send students to Aidan.*
 4. *When students order books, they come pretty quickly.*
 5. *There's custom apparel on the website, as well.*
 6. *Some changes: Hopefully getting the kitchen up and going. Looking into licensing. Goals: more healthy snacks, grab-and-go options, burgers and breakfast burritos in the future.*
 7. *First week of class: 8:30-4:00. If the lights are on in the store, he's there.*
- II. Nathan read the joint commission report on the Covid pandemic. Anxiety and social isolation exacerbated. Think about the Teams option—recommend students come in person whenever possible. Work on connections to help build emotional intelligence and wellness. Students are used to being isolated. Attending remotely can perpetuate this.
- III. DCAC is now called CCC Campus Coordination Committee—Still a place to feed information to cabinet through ECOS / Seth.

- IV. BOR- budget proposal from governor is in. There has been lots of talk about high volumes of dual enrollment students at all campus in MT and how that looks financially as well as impact in the classroom.
1. *One-Two-Free might not be funded. MT-10 might not be funded, either.*
 2. *As much as 62% of our students are dual enrollment. Not sure who's going to be paying for them to attend.*
 3. *Whispers about reducing a 4-year degree from 120 credits to 90. What is the value of a MUS degree? Big stripping down of core credits, in the humanities especially. Schools that have tried it have failed.*
 4. *John: the move away from liberal arts is dangerous; we need critical thinking.*
 5. *Rick: danger of watering down credentials because of the need for instructors. Asking Seth to push back on the need for rigor and expectations for the experience of educators.*
 6. *Karen: Legislature is in session. Contact your senator and representative. Air your concerns. The pay bill is being discussed next week in appropriations. Call, email, go talk to them in person.*
- V. I've been communicating with Sandy and Kaitelyn (student director) about loosening restrictions for clubs from formation to funding.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

DCAC: name change, focused on new mission statement and making meetings valuable to members

Over 60% participation in satisfaction survey, only 38% of faculty took it. It's on the website under institutional research. All categories higher than they were three years ago.

APRC: Doesn't meet until March.

ASCR: Make sure to submit your changes, new courses, and course revisions.

PAC: has met regularly to discuss promo and tenure, professional dev., as well as other resources and inner working of the college.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Sabbatical – will go to negotiations.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Bi laws language update for ECOS. Two changes to language around committees and groups.

1. V. Committee membership & Function (pg 6) Veronica moves to adopt. Todd seconds. Motion passes.

The elected members of ECOS shall elect their administrative officers as they are defined in Bylaw V, A., (1). A secret ballot vote of the full Senate is needed only if there are two or more candidates vying for the same office. **The President shall serve a one-year term not to exceed three consecutive terms.** The Vice President shall serve as President-Elect. **Terms served as an elected officers shall not count toward the regular three year term served by regular ECOS members.** The Vice President shall serve as President in the President's absence, and shall join the President, when possible, at meetings where the President represents the Senate. If the President becomes unable to serve by reason of resignation from office, leave of absence, or any other cause, the Vice President assumes the duties and title of President for the rest of this term as well as the term for which she or he had been elected, and a new President-elect will be elected by ECOS.

2. Section 3: Membership (pg2) - Todd motions. Rick seconds. Motion passes.

The Senate shall consist of faculty members holding tenure track instructional positions, non-tenure track instructional positions, ~~the Director of Library Learning Hub~~, and the Director of e-Learning. Adjunct instructors who serve on Senate faculty committees are also members of the senate with full voting rights. Adjunct instructors holding current letters of appointment but not serving on senate committees have voting rights when present at a duly called meeting of the senate; proxy rights are withheld.

- II. ECOS will need 1 new member, trades campus preferred: Phil and Nolan both their names forward. Sent to vote via Forms.
- III. Talk from trades about wanting to up soft skill requirements to help those students once they are in the job place.
 1. Difficulty of students not wanting to take gen-ed courses but not getting the soft skills they need.
 2. Make these pre-reqs? Todd: Already do. They need to pass COMX before signing up for second year courses.
 3. Suggestions welcome.
 4. Laura: Seeing the same issues with nursing students—missing soft skills. Stick to rules and policies. Implementing attendance policy, documenting late arrivals, etc.

5. Kim: Could we get PD on teaching discipline-specific soft skills in our courses?
 6. Veronica: What challenges are we noticing? What ideas can we share with each other? How do we want to reinforce behavioral expectations in the classroom? When is that reflected in grades.
 7. Todd: Trades have penalties in place for lateness, etc. Employers and advisory councils keep saying these are the skills needed.
 8. Bill: Shares a story about strict attendance policies.
 9. Gretel: Have attendance policies from the state and have been asked to compromise on those rules. Haven't gotten support on behavior or policy from admin. Has been told she has to pass students.
 10. Rick: Outside the box: We can't add courses, but can we bring in each other as guest instructors to help build skills? Team teach. Comingle.
 11. Kim: Could be a conversation with student life. Also: What we identify as soft skills are changing generationally.
 12. Karen: Use IDD to talk about accountability measures.
 13. Wes: World is changing, yes, but at the same time we get regular updates that employers need people to show up on time. Hours can be flexible, but you have to show up.
 14. Paul: Social aspect is the big issue and inability to communicate with one another. Non-functioning socially. Changed projects to make them rely on one another for a successful outcome. Forcing interaction and communication within the course.
 15. Rick: We always hear about the bad apples, not always the great ones. Give the grades students deserve.
 16. Veronica: The majority of the time we get together as faculty, we're not talking about what we're doing in the classroom. Faculty forum to share challenges and suggestions? WE VOTE YES! Brown bag lunch, maybe? Veronica will spearhead this.
- IV. Kim: What's going on with pathways? Our upper-division courses aren't filling because they're not on some pathways. We need data on this.

Bryon: Supposedly, “they” can’t track how many people are on the pathway.

We’re mad about mapping and assessment because the process isn’t in place yet, and we’re being asked to repeat work we’ve already done that went nowhere.

- V. Discussion on value of offering optional training before an academic school year starts for new hires that have never taught in the classroom before. *This would happen the week before IDD—classes to develop effective strategies in the classroom. Veronica: So important to have a space to think about teaching strategies outside of discipline. Ongoing support is critical, too.*
- VI. Thoughts on length of syllabi and what info should be required to be in there. I was told there are two syllabi templates a long and short one. *You can use the short one but have to post the full one online.*

GOOD AND WELFARE/QUESTION AND ANSWER

1. We will be planning for Spring end of semester BBQ like we did at the end of last year. Thank you to all those who volunteer to help put these on and get them going.

Virginia moves to adjourn. Phil seconds. Adjourn.