

Minutes of
ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Regent Janine Pease, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m.

a. Roll Call.

All committee members were present: Chair Janine Pease, Lynn Hamilton, Todd Buchanan and Kerra Melvin.

1. Action Items

a. ITEM 138-103-R0308: Exception to Policy 301.12, Radiologic Technology programs at four institutions.

This item and the next one are part of a long-term project to bring all two-year programs in the Montana University System into compliance with Board of Regents' Policy 301.12, Roger Barber, Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs, explained. The four radiologic technology programs currently have more credits than the limit established in the Policy, Barber said, primarily because of the clinical hours required for the degree. The programs also take more than two years to complete. As a consequence, the programs are asking for an exception to both the credit limit and the time period, Barber said. The Two-Year Education Council has reviewed the request and recommends its approval, Barber concluded. The committee members agreed to move the item forward to the full Board for approval.

b. ITEM 138-104-R0308: Exception to Policy 301.12, Respiratory Therapy programs at two institutions.

These two programs also have too many credits and take more than two years to complete, Roger Barber explained. The Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology is also working closely with MSU-Northern and its plans to develop a baccalaureate completion program in respiratory therapy, according to Mary Sheehy-Moe, dean of the MSU-Great Falls COT. The additional credits make that coordinated effort much easier for students, Moe said. The Two-Year Education Council also supports this exception request, Barber said. The committee members agreed to move the item forward to the full Board for approval.

2. Level II Items

a. ITEM 138-2004-R0108: Revision of program offerings in Department of Health and Human Development, MSU-Bozeman.

The Department of Health and Human Development has proposed an extensive revision of its program offerings, so those programs are more logical, efficient and relevant to today's students, Dave Dooley, Provost at Montana State University-Bozeman, told the committee. The revisions include elimination of some programs, consolidation of others, and creation of new program names for some, Dooley said. The committee members agreed to move the item forward to the full Board for approval.

b. ITEM 136-2002-R0907: Energy Research Institute, MSU-Bozeman.

MSU-Bozeman has developed several research programs and efforts focusing on energy, Dave Dooley told the committee. The proposed research institute brings all of those programs together under one management umbrella to promote efficiency and collaboration, Dooley said. The Institute was initially before the Board of Regents at its November meeting, Dooley reminded the committee,, but it was pulled at that time at the request of the Governor's office. Those concerns have been resolved, Dooley noted, and that statement was confirmed by Regent Steve Barrett. Provost Dooley also assured the committee that MSU-Bozeman has no interest in preventing other campuses in the Montana University System from establishing similar energy centers,

and has been collaborating with other campuses in the development of its own model. The committee members agreed to move the item forward to the full Board for approval.

c. ITEM 138-2703-R0108: Associate of Applied Science degree in Construction Technology-Carpentry, MSU-Billings College of Technology.

Deputy Commissioner Barber reminded the committee members that this academic program, and the next one, have been offered by the MSU-Billings College of Technology for the last two years, under the temporary approval process authorized by the Board of Regents. The program is now back, before the Board, for permanent inclusion in the institution's degree and program inventory, Barber said.

Sheila Stearns, Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Montana, asked the campus to comment on the temporary program approval process. Ron Sexton, chancellor at MSU-Billings, said that it works very well, especially when campuses are asked to develop a program to meet the needs of business partners, but the long-term demand for that program is uncertain. Regent Melvin asked the Commissioner's office to prepare a short report for the next meeting concerning the temporary approval process. The committee agreed to move the program forward to the full Board for approval.

d. ITEM 138-2704-R0108: Certificate of Applied Science in Medical Coding and Insurance Billing, MSU-Billings College of Technology.

The committee agreed to move the program forward to the full Board for approval.

e. ITEM 138-1001-R0108: Bachelor of Science degree in Geosciences, with two programs of study in Earth History, Evolution and Resources; and Water, Climate and Environment, UM-Missoula.

This program proposal, and the next two, should be considered as a package, Royce Engstrom, provost at The University of Montana-Missoula, explained to the committee. The geosciences department has reworked all of its course offerings, as a result of these new program proposals, Engstrom said, and several existing degrees will be eliminated. The first baccalaureate degree is perhaps the most traditional offering, he explained, and would be appropriate for students who are interested in graduate work in the discipline or intend to work in a traditional geosciences occupation. The program in part f. of the committee's agenda involves unique collaborations with two European universities and provides students with a global perspective on the subject-matter, Engstrom noted. The last program requires students to complete coursework in a closely-aligned field, like environmental sciences or forestry, Engstrom said, in addition to their studies in geosciences. The committee agreed to move all three programs forward to the full Board for approval.

f. ITEM 138-1002-R0108: Bachelor of Science dual degree in International Field Geosciences in collaboration with University College Cork in Ireland and Potsdam University in Germany, UM-Missoula.

See the discussion in part e., above.

g. ITEM 138-1003-R0108: Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Geosciences, UM-Missoula.

See the discussion in part e., above.

h. ITEM 138-1004-R0108: Creation of a new Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, UM-Missoula.

Provost Engstrom reminded the committee that it had approved the creation of new undergraduate and graduate programs in communicative sciences and disorders last year at UM-Missoula.. This request creates an organizational unit and structure for those new programs, he said. The committee agreed to move the request forward to the full Board for approval.

i. ITEM 138-1005-R0108: Conversion of the following Certificates to Certificates of Applied Science: Building Maintenance, Carpentry, Computer System Technician, Culinary Arts, Customer Relations, Heavy Equipment Operation,

Medical Reception, Pharmacy Technology, Recreational Power Equipment, Sales and Marketing, and Welding Technology, UM-Missoula College of Technology.

Regents' Policy 301.12 permits the campuses to award certificates of applied science in addition to traditional certificates, Deputy Commissioner Barber explained. This proposal simply converts several existing certificates at the UM-Missoula College of Technology to certificates of applied science, something that most of the other Colleges of Technology have already done, Barber said. The committee agreed to move the request forward to the full Board for approval.

j. ITEM 138-1501-R0108: Creation of a new Electrical Engineering Department, MT Tech of UM

Two years ago, the Board of Regents approved baccalaureate and master's degrees in electrical engineering at Montana Tech of The University of Montana, Frank Gilmore, chancellor of Montana Tech, told the committee. Those programs are now mature enough to warrant their own departmental organization, Chancellor Gilmore said, and this proposal does that. The committee agreed to move the request forward to the full Board for approval.

k. ITEM 138-401-R0108, Associate of Applied Science degree in Equine Studies, Miles Community College.

According to Shelly Weight, Dean of Academic Affairs at Miles Community College, the institution is requesting this new program in response to community interests. The campus agricultural advisory committee was very helpful in its development, Weight said. Regents Hamilton and Barrett both commended Miles Community College for its collaboration with The University of Montana Western, which already has two and four-year degree programs in equine studies. Regent Barrett was especially pleased to see an alignment of the programs so students from Miles could go on to the baccalaureate program in Dillon. The committee agreed to move the new program forward to the full Board for approval.

l. ITEM 136-2705-R0907: Associate of Applied Science degree in Power Plant Technology, MSU-Billings College of Technology.

This program was also on the action agenda of the Board of Regents at its November meeting, but was pulled at the request of the institution. In the interim, MSU-Billings worked closely with the Governor's office, labor unions, apprenticeship programs and industry representatives to fine-tune the November proposal, Chancellor Sexton said. The following people also spoke in support of the proposal and the process that was used to come up with its final form: Jan Lombardi, Governor Schweitzer's policy advisor for education; Pat Wise, economic development specialist in the Governor's Office of Economic Development; Mark Macki, Supervisor of Apprenticeship and Training Programs with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry; and Dan Flynn from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1638. The committee agreed to move the new program forward to the full Board for approval.

3. Information

a. Diversity Report.

Brad Eldredge, Coordinator of Institutional Research in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, stated that this is a reference document and may be viewed in its entirety on the MUS website. According to Eldredge, the report addresses the goals set out in Board of Regents' Policy 1902, which are: (1) enrolling and graduating American Indian and other minorities in proportion to their representation in the state's population; (2) increasing the employment of American Indian and other underrepresented minorities in administrative, faculty and staff positions to achieve representation equal to that of the relevant labor force; and (3) enhancing the overall curriculum by infusion of

content which enhances multicultural awareness and understanding. Highlights from the report generated considerable discussion.

b. Update on model nursing curriculum.

Roger Barber provided a brief overview of the extensive memorandum that was included in the Board of Regents' meeting materials concerning the model nursing curriculum. The State Board of Nursing has always been a participant in the development of that curriculum, Barber noted. But in order to safeguard its regulatory responsibility over nursing programs, and out of respect for the Board of Regents' authority over those same programs, the State Board of Nursing has also been somewhat reluctant to comment on the model curriculum, Barber said. At a meeting in early January, however, the State Board provided some guidance, he noted, and that information is set out in detail in the memorandum. With that clarification, Barber concluded, the nursing programs in the Montana University System have confidence now on how they should shape their coursework under the model curriculum.

c. Update on two-year and certificate programs and possible moratoriums.

At its September meeting, the Board of Regents asked for an update on the programs that were still out-of-compliance with Policy 301.12, which establishes guidelines and parameters for two-year degree and certificate programs. The Regents also decided, at that same meeting, to put all out-of-compliance programs on moratorium at its May 2008 program. Deputy Commissioner Barber presented the Board with a list of programs that have yet to comply with the Policy. Barber also told the Board that all of the campuses are aware of that list, and several of them are well along in making the necessary revisions of their programs.

d. Discussion of campus recruiting strategies.

Jed Liston, Director of Admissions at The University of Montana-Missoula, and Stacy Klippenstein, Vice President for Student Affairs at Montana State University-Billings, provided an overview of recruiting strategies and programs for prospective students at their institutions. Other campuses in the Montana University System confirmed that they utilized similar strategies and programs.

e. Grateful Nation.

Two benefactors have established a program to cover tuition expenses and mentoring services for all children of Montana soldiers killed while on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. President Dennison from The University of Montana-Missoula provided a short overview on the program, which includes all campuses of the Montana University System even though the money for the program is being deposited with the UM-Missoula Foundation. The two men responsible for the program are David Bell, vice president for Allied World Assurance Co. in Bermuda and a UM-Missoula alumnus, and John McCarrick, a New York attorney. President Dennison praised them for their generosity and vision.

f. Indian Education for All student projects at the UM-Missoula teacher education program.

Several representatives from the School of Education at UM-Missoula presented a brief overview on the efforts of that program to incorporate Indian Education for All materials in its teacher education coursework. Students in the program are required to enroll in a capstone experience that includes the creation of course materials and lesson plans on some topic, and a significant number have focused on Indian Education for All, according to the speakers. Tootsie Schrowe, an education student, described her project on Montana Indian tribes to the Board, and noted that it has already been adopted by current teachers in the field. Other speakers included: Roberta Evans, Dean of the School of Education; and Anne Garfinkle and Lisa Blank, faculty members in the School.

g. Proposal to award graduate degrees, retroactively, to architecture students, MSU-Bozeman.

Provost Dooley described his institution's decision to award masters degrees, retroactively, to past graduates of the architectural program. The details of the decision were included in a memorandum to the Board of Regents.

h. NASH Access to Success update.

Commissioner Stearns provided a brief update on the National Association of System Heads (NASH) Access to Success initiative. Montana is one of a handful of postsecondary systems and/or states to participate in that effort, and several members of the Commissioner's staff have already attended national meetings of their workgroup. Commissioner Stearns will also be participating in those meetings, which focus on such issues as affordability, transferability, developmental education and data.

4. Consent

a. Level I memorandum.

The committee agreed to move the Level I memorandum to the full Board for approval.

b. ITEM 138-105-R0308: Addition of International Baccalaureate score to Policy 301.16, Writing Proficiency.

Deputy Commissioner Barber informed the committee that the writing proficiency policy should be revised to include the appropriate proficiency score for International Baccalaureate students from Flathead High School. The committee agreed to move the recommended policy change to the full Board for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The Committee adjourned at 4:56 p.m.