

MINUTES FOR MAFS MEETING

October 24, 2012

Chair Peter Linehan called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Motion to approve previous meeting's minutes by Robin Yaure, seconded by Jackie Schwab, carried.

Bookstore manager Amy Cody demonstrated the online book request site for faculty (available at www.bookrequest.psu.edu or through the Penn State Mont Alto bookstore site) as an alternative way to submit requests for textbooks. She also presented the Faculty Center link (through the bookstore site) which shows what textbooks are being used in courses at other universities with Barnes and Noble bookstores.

Doug Prowant, new Information Technology director, was introduced. Doug present information on summer upgrades, including new collaboration tables in GS 101A, additional wireless access points, and the new phone extension for the help desk (6300). A discussion was held regarding keeping GS 101A open later in the evening for student use (beyond the current 5 P.M. closing time)—this will be looked into. Doug also announced a university-wide ITS strategic planning meeting on November 5 at 2 P.M. in the library.

Based on the Core Council report, Madlyn Hanes, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses, was asked to close under-enrolled degree programs (less than 20 students). She directed campuses and deans to close programs. Among those to be closed is the English program at Mont Alto. Based on the MAFS constitution, closing of a program involves a vote from the Curricular Affairs committee followed by a vote from the Faculty Senate. Our decisions are then presented to the Administrative Council on Academic Education and Nancy Herron, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, in a prospectus from Mike Donchescki. Upon approval, the University Faculty Senate will vote on closing the program. Robin Yaure motioned, Lisa White seconded, that the closing of the English program be referred to the Curricular Affairs committee for discussion, to be reported back to MAFS at the November meeting. Motion carried.

Peter Linehan presented information regarding the chancellor search committee. 4-5 faculty members are needed to serve on the committee with a senior faculty member to serve as chair. Peter is asking for 10 faculty members to be willing to serve on the committee with 2 individuals willing to serve as chair. Interested individuals should contact Peter by Monday, October 29 if interested. The position will be advertised in November with candidate selection in January 2013.

Kendra Wolgast presented information on athlete weekly progress reports. Athletes should be presenting weekly progress reports to their faculty members. The information is then passed on to Naomi Radio who can then reach out to student-athletes if any problems should arise in their academic progress.

Robin Yaure and Lauraine Hawkins presented information regarding resources available to aid faculty with academic advising meetings. Kendra Wolgast announced that athletes now have priority scheduling for the Spring 2013 semester.

Robin Yaure stated that the Academic Festival committee is revisiting their judging guidelines and any faculty members with feedback should contact her. A call for proposals is expected in January.

Zig Herzog presented information from the sustainability committee regarding sustainability focused courses. Courses can be listed on the schedule of courses as “sustainability focused”. Anyone who instructs a course that fits that description should contact Zig.

The Mont Alto Student Senate representatives present expressed their support of keeping the English major available at our campus.

Motion to adjourn was made by Freya Qually, seconded by Ed Hipkiss, carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward L. Hipkiss, Secretary