



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: March 21, 2024

PRESENT:	Suzette Nynas	Matt Queen
	Mara Pierce	Jennifer Lynn
	Debra Schoenfeld	Susan Gregory
	Kari Dahle-Huff	John Pannell
	Paul Pope	Melissa Boehm
	Jim Barron (ex-officio)	Tami Haaland (ex-officio)
	Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)	Tom Manthey (ex-officio)
	Vern Gagnon (ex-officio)	Sep Eskandari (ex-officio)
	Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)	Eileen Wright (ex-officio)

ABSENT:	Austin Bennett*	Sarah Keller
	David Russell (student)	Ann Beste-Guldborg (ex-officio)
	Leslie Weldon (ex-officio)	Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)
	Jana Marcette (ex-officio)	

* *excused*

GUESTS:	Joann Stryker	Kathleen Thatcher
	Andrea Aebersold	Cheri Johannes

PRESIDING: Jennifer Lynn, Chair

Jennifer Lynn called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m. online and thanked everyone for attending virtually.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take the Faculty Fellows survey, sent out by Joann Stryker of Institutional Research, as they need data.

At the Dillon BOR meeting last week, the MUS Teaching Scholars were announced, and they have chosen our own John Pannell and Kari Dahle-Huff!

Senator nominations are due April 1.

Motion carried.

Paul Pope agreed to chair a subcommittee and gather members to create the survey instrument for the Vice Chancellors. The survey will be created next year, ready to implement in Fall 2026.

B. Barnes & Noble First Day Complete

A number of concerns were raised at the open forums this week:

Lack of shared governance before the initial contract was signed

Inability for faculty to choose more than one format/modality for a book

campus our size that does not have the economy of scale to support a campus store. We must address all the questions raised to get a result that is as inclusive and helpful to our students as possible.

The question was raised as to whether we can push implementation back even further. It has already been moved back from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025. Especially since we are implementing a new LMS in the Spring, it really does not make sense to basically implement the book program twice, with two different LMS. Further, even though our LMS is MSU-system-wide, the book program will not be. The LMS integration will happen with Bozeman, and our book program integration with the LMS will have to get in line with all the other requests they handle.

It was noted that there is little trust in B&N, since their answers about how a given concern will be handled vary based on who is answering. It is very disappointing, since they are trying to earn our business. We cannot commit without firmer answers on these concerns. The question was raised as to whether we can cancel this contract and perhaps find another vendor. It was argued that there likely isn't a better vendor out there. The big effort will be educating our students on opting out when that is best for them.

Dr. Eskandari agreed to recommend that we push back the launch another semester (to Fall 2025).

Dr. Lynn will put together a message to send our concerns *in writing* to