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**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting*  
Thursday, March 21, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman of the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee, Trustee Marissa Molina, called the ASA Committee meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

**Board of Trustees Present:** Trustee Marissa Molina, Trustee Barb Grogan, Trustee Russell Noles, Trustee Albus Brooks, Trustee Mario Carrera, Trustee Mike Johnston, Trustee Kristin Hultquist, Faculty Senate Representative Bethany Fleck, and Student Representative, Alaura Ward.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of January 28, 2021 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes - Trustee Russell Noles **moved for approval** of the January 28, 2021 ASA Committee meeting minutes, with a **second** by Mario Carrera. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Faculty Emeritus Recommendations – *Bill Henry, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs*

Eight faculty members are being recommended for Emeritus status to the Board of Trustees. A Professor Emeritus is one of the highest honors in a faculty's career. Faculty must have 10 or more years of employment to be eligible and have a track record that reflects respect and perpetuity. Any retiring faculty member can be nominated but must be voted on with a majority of tenured faculty. Benefits of being emeritus include a listing in the catalog, an MSU Denver email account, and library privileges. The true honor is recognizing a long, distinguished career and the impact made on the university. A reception honoring the Emeritus faculty was recommended for: Kenneth Bisio, Antonio Ledesma, Joseph Morrell, Gerard Morris, Kenneth Prevot, Duane Swigert, Stella Todd, and Rosemarie Walker.

Trustee Hultquist **moved to recommend approval** to the Board of Trustees for the Faculty Emeritus recommendations, with a **second** by Trustee Brooks. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Approval of New Minor- Public Health– *Shaun Schafer, AVP, Academic Effectiveness and Policy Development; Rebecca Trammell, Interim Dean, College of Health and Applied Sciences*

With the upcoming major in public health, the new minor in public health will give students a basic understanding of the medical health field. The 18-credit hour minor has many electives to enable students to be selective for their interests. This minor would be an excellent addition to majors in Social Work and Nutrition.

Trustee Carrera **moved to recommend approval** to the Board of Trustees of the New Minor in Public Health, with a **second** by Trustee Brooks. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

Program Spotlight - How do institutions like MSU Denver serve underserved student populations? – Cynthia Baron, Associate Dean for Equity and Engagement, and Chalane Lechuga, Associate Professor, Department of Chicana/o Studies

MSU Denver is the largest Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) in the state of Colorado. According to the spring 2021 MSU Denver Census Report, forty-seven percent (47%) of students enrolled at the university identified as students of color. Director of the Center for Multicultural Engagement and Inclusion (CMEI) Cynthia Baron reviewed the intentional best practices for a successful HSI: 1) Data informed decision-making; 2) Shared responsibility and accountability; 3) Decolonizing systems and structures; and 4) Recruitment/retention efforts.

Student Affairs' strategic investments to the CMEI include graduate assistants, a Brother to Brother Coordinator in FY 20-21, an Equity Peer Leader program, and an UndocuHub community resource. Diverse faculty play a critical role in recruitment, retention and graduation of all students and students of color, in particular.

Curriculum speaks to the experience of BIPOC students as represented in the three-credit Global Diversity requirement in General Studies and the three-credit Multicultural Requirement for all students. Departments supporting BIPOC students include Africana, Chicana/o/x and Women, Gender and Sexualities Studies.

Faculty Scholarship & Service Spotlight – Double mission of Chicano/a/x Studies (service and scholarship) – Adriana Nieto, Chair and Associate Professor, Chicana/o Studies.

Dr. Adriana P. Nieto is currently the chair of the department of Chicana/Chicano/Chicanx Studies, which has 22 majors and 30 minors. Dr. Nieto has been faculty at MSU Denver for over 17 years. She earned both her BA with a double major in Women Studies and Latin American Studies, and MA from the University of New Mexico in Latin American Studies with concentrations in Borderlands History and Gender Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies with concentrations in Religion and Social Change & Theology, Philosophy and Cultural Theory.

The Family Literacy Program, run by Professor Adriann Wycoff, was created to meet the literacy needs of Metropolitan Denver's lower-income families. The program works to break the cycle of poverty and low literacy by providing intergenerational, unified family literacy services. The Journey Through Our Heritage Program, run by Director Renee Fajardo, promotes self-empowerment and encourages Latinx and multicultural students to become leaders through community service.

Liz Torres Shannon, a 2020 graduate, found her time in the department to be a profound awakening. She was able to combine a lifelong dream of going to college and gaining invaluable knowledge. Bernabé Soto-Ramirez graduated last fall cum laude. His experience in the department taught him the importance of relevance and learning about identity.

The trustees discussed a multicultural requirement for faculty and absorbing the requirements into the general studies curriculum. Tracking post-graduates will be motivating for current students.

Student Success Initiative Spotlight – The Building of the Learning Assistant Program (LAP) and the Equity Outcomes– Brooke Evans

Undergraduate students are hired as Learning Assistants (LA's) to help transform courses to be responsive to research on how students learn. The program started as a partnership with University of Colorado Denver with 123 LA's in 166 supported courses, over 17 departments, which impacted 3,710+ students. The cost is approximately \$70 per student impacted. It has been documented that students with LA's do better in school overall; LA's can connect with students in a way that faculty cannot. The global program started in Boulder in 2002 and gives students a sense of belonging.

Student Achievement Spotlight: Citlalli Loma, Criminal Justice and Criminology Major, TRIO

Citlalli Loma was born in Greeley to a Hispanic family and is the oldest of three children. Her major is criminal justice with a minor in social work and Spanish. Citlalli would like to bring change and social justice to her community. She received a scholarship in August 2017 from the Latin American Education Foundation. In January 2020, Citlalli graduated from the Denver Police Department's Women's Community Academy in January 2020 and had a 4.0 GPA in May 2020.

TRIO is committed to creating a campus community where students' goals are nurtured through

individualized support and the development of an inclusive culture. Citlalli found support through TRIO after her first two years at MSU Denver were difficult. She has had the opportunity to expand opportunities, knowledge and build connections.

Update: Bachelor of Science in Real Estate, College of Business – *Ann Murphy, Dean, College of Business*

There will be an update at the next meeting after Provost Tatum has had an opportunity to meet with Dean Murphy and identify vacancy savings for a faculty line.

**ADJOURNMENT – 3:40 p.m.**