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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

January 8, 2018

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154

Call to Order - Kimberly Lott

Approval of December 4, 2017 Minutes

Minutes approved as distributed.

University Business - Noelle Cockett, President | Larry Smith, Interim Provost

President Cockett – The Provost's search will be continuing. Three candidates were brought in during the fall semester and there will be another candidate in mid-February. This candidate was vetted through the airport interviews and an agenda for this candidate will be forthcoming. An open forum will be held for all faculty to attend and ask questions. The legislative session will soon begin. Neil Abercrombie is keeping his eye on a couple of items: 1) freedom of speech on college campuses and 2) a neutrality bill that will instruct the university administrators on how to remain neutral on issues. There will also be a new bill defining what harassment is. The Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) budget request has 3 areas: 1) compensation; 2) growth and capacity; 3) completion and 4) workforce development. Throughout the coming months, (February and March) meetings will provide more specifics regarding the legislative session. President Cockett will be forming a committee for policy reviews. There are approximately 400 policies that are being continuously discussed and revised, however, other policies haven't been looked at for years. This committee will develop templates and processes for reviewing policies every 5 years. Recommendations will be brought back to the Faculty Senate.

Larry Smith – Dennis Dolny, the department head for Kinesiology and Health Science and Nursing and Health Professions had a serious stroke Friday evening and is in very serious condition.

Information Items

1. Policy 103 Revision for Accreditation - Mica McKinney

This is a simple quick matter – it is a statement of the university's mission. In preparation for accreditation the university realized that the mission statement hadn't been incorporated into university policies. This was approved in 2003 and will now be added.

2. Faculty Forum Recommendations - Kimberly Lott

The faculty forum was held in November. It is a time for faculty to get together and share information in a closed space. This meeting includes all faculty, not just faculty senators. No minutes are officially released. Questions were asked as to how and where the issues go and do they get any consideration or implementation.

A new survey or inquiry of topic three – Retention of Pre-Tenured Faculty. Discussion was about what can be done to retain faculty. There will be more follow-up on this issue.

Reports

EPC December Report - Edward Reeve

152 courses

Five – R401 proposals were brought forward

There was no report from the Academic Standards subcommittee.

The General Education subcommittee discontinued the 15-year statute of limitations for General Education coursework at USU.

Motion to approve the EPC report made by Rebecca Blais. Seconded by Vince Wickwar. Report approved.

Bachelor's degree in Integrated Studies – USU will submit an R401 for a BA/BS in Integrated Studies. The university's official policy is that a student is in good standing if they have a 2.0 GPA. However, this GPA does not allow students to be accepted into majors that require a GPA range from 2.75 – 3.25. Many students are not being allowed into their majors and they are left with no other option for a degree. Numerous universities are offering this type of degree. The motivation to create this degree and assist students in this academic predicament came from many months of discussions in the student success taskforce. This is a taskforce that was set up by President Cockett to help with student retention and completion. Nothing unusual about this degree. Students that have found themselves in this situation take additional courses hoping that they are going to get a GPA that will allow them to get into their major of choice. Numerous other USHE institutions have this kind of degree and students have been leaving USU to go to other institutions to get this type of degree. This degree program will be housed in the Provost's office. This has been done at the request of USHE in order to help and support those students that fall into this category. This degree does not and will not compete with any other degrees on campus.

1. Council on Teacher Education Annual Report/1-Page - Sylvia Read

Enrollment has gone down as far as admissions. One contributing factor is that every two years the school counseling program and distance special education programs provide admissions. There is a myth that students that are admitted to the education program come from lower ranked students. The truth is that the GPA is high for those students being accepted into the program. Placement of education students is remaining steady at 93% placement in teaching positions.

Motion to approve the Council on Teacher Education report made by Rebecca Blais. Seconded by Vince Wickwar. Report approved.

2. Scholarship Advisory Board Annual Report - Taya Flores

The report includes a few things such as admission index scores, a four-year history of how things have evolved, two-pages for each college including a breakdown of how much money has been given and to how many students. New this year we have included the USU Eastern counterparts. The back page provides a total of scholarship awards.

Motion to approve the Scholarship Advisory Board report made by Vince Wickwar. Seconded by Ronda Callister. Report approved.

New Business

Policy 405.11.4 External Peer Reviews (first reading) - Kimberly Lott

Central committee reviewers were concerned with external letters that were being submitted by faculty. Some external review letters were more letters of recommendation than evaluations for tenure and are not proving promotion/tenure qualifications.

One concern is that some areas are very small and it may be hard to find some people that have enough distance from the faculty member. Those situations can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. For at least a decade those faculty have been concerned about the closeness of an external reviewer and the feeling has been that the current language in the code does not provide clarity for conflict of interest.

Motion to move this policy back to PRPC made by Rebecca Blais. Seconded by Brad Cole. Policy returned to PRPC.

Adjourn 3:55