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**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2012
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Glenn McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2011 was made by Erik Mikkelsen and seconded by Ralph Whitesides. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – Glenn McEvoy

Roll Call. Members are reminded to sign the role sheet at each meeting.

Open Microphones. Senate members who attend the meeting on the Logan Campus are reminded that the microphones in the room are open and pick up whispers and paper shuffling that can be heard and is very distracting to the members at the distance sites.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht, Michelle Larson, Mark McClellan

President Albrecht told the senate that during the University Founders Day events we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Morrill Act by President Lincoln. All faculty members are encouraged to attend the celebrations on March 2.

The Governor's budget excluded higher education from the general provisions for state employee pay increases. Lobbying has begun for a modest compensation increase as well as for various educational initiatives such as regional campus funding, the USTAR project, funding for student retention and completion, etc.

A recent presentation to the Board of Trustees outlined several capital development projects, one of which was the new Business Building. Ground breaking for this building is anticipated later in the summer. There are two athletic projects in the planning phase thanks to private funding. They are a new strength and conditioning center and a practice facility for the basketball program. Plans for Legacy Field and the student-funded Aggie Recreation Center (ARC) project were also presented to the Trustees. Renderings of Legacy Field and ARC can be seen in the Juniper Lounge in the TSC.

Michelle Larson presented an overview of results from the first semester of course evaluations using the IDEA online evaluation. Numbers presented were for the Short Form at the Logan campus.

	2011 (IDEA)	2010 (Old form)	2009 (Old form)
Total number of courses evaluated	1,690	1,499	1,419
Total number of students enrolled	60,277	55,164	49,922

Total number of evaluations completed	42,483	40,524	37,248
Completion Rate	70.5%	73.5%	74.6%

Response rates are comparable to the prior instrument. Both forms, Diagnostic (Long) and Short, received healthy response rates. Compared to the National Database, USU courses ranked very favorably. The full Power Point Presentation can be found on the Faculty Senate webpage.

Mark McClellan spoke to the senate about the Graduate Program review. The review will be conducted as a self study in order to empower the faculty to have the necessary tools and knowledge to improve the program. The review will be headed up by a faculty task force recommended by the deans and appointed by President Albrecht and Vice President for Research and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Mark McClellan. Department heads received the self study guide on December 15, 2011, and there will be a two month window for a faculty review. Graduate students will also be engaged in the process. The task force will provide feedback at the end of the two month review and a forum of best practices will be organized. Department heads will then be asked to produce a five year plan for improvement by the end of May.

Consent Agenda Items –Glenn McEvoy

ASUSU Annual Report – Erik Mikkelsen
Council on Teacher Education Report – Francine Johnson
Scholarship Advisory Board Report – Patti Kohler
EPC Items – Larry Smith

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Vince Wickwar. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

PRPC Section 402.3.2 and 402.3.4 Vacancies (Second Reading) – Terry Peak.

Doug Jackson-Smith moved to approve, Jeff Smitten seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

Open Access – Flora Shrode, Andy Wesolek. The library faculty would like to propose an addition to the USU policy manual section 327 which addresses intellectual property and creative works. The proposed policy would require researchers, at the point they have a peer reviewed scholarly journal article that is accepted for publication, to ask the publisher to deposit a pdf copy of the article in the online repository Digital Commons. A directory would be provided for publishing faculty of Digital Commons-friendly journals and publishers. This would help the University fulfill its land grant mission of disseminating research findings freely and in a timely manner. The Library is seeking input from faculty before formally proposing the policy change to the Director of Human Resources.

Andy Wesolek explained that Digital Commons is the institutional repository. It was organized in October 2008 with the goal of capturing and making available the intellectual content of the University, such as journal articles, conferences, and presentations. There have been nearly 500,000 total downloads from the repository which houses 20,000 records. In the past year there have been 125,000 visitors with 1/3 of the visitors outside the U.S.

There was a short discussion regarding compliance to the policy, the benefits of pursuing open access, and responses of various journals and publishers to digital repositories.

It was suggested that a draft of the policy be taken through FSEC and the Faculty Senate for feedback prior to submitting it to Human Resources.

Extra Service Compensation – Raymond Coward. The issue of the extra service compensation policy was brought up in the Faculty Forum in November. Provost Coward explained that the University has a policy in place, Policy 376, which has been on the books for 15 years and was last revised in 2004. The policy with highlighted areas was included in the Agenda packet for this meeting.

Attention has been brought to the issue because we are, in a few cases, out of compliance with our own policy. There are universities around the country that have been audited on this issue, with multi-million dollar fines imposed requiring the universities to pay back substantial sums of money. The Provost stressed that the policy needs to be enforced uniformly across the USU system. It was emphasized that final written approval must be obtained prior to the commencement of extra contractual service. In 2009-10 the part of the policy that relates to federal funds was focused on. The OMB prohibits anyone who receives part of their salary from a federal grant to receive overtime or extra service compensation. USU is in compliance with this section of the policy.

USU currently spends about \$6 million per year on overload compensation. This money could be used in other ways, perhaps in hiring more faculty which would minimize the need for extra contractual service.

The Provost reviewed the policy and discussed appropriate application of the policy with senate members. Administration will meet with executive committees from each of the colleges to discuss policy compliance.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Vince Wickwar. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.