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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for October 6th, 2003

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for October 6th, 2003

Call to Order

Kevin Kesler called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He welcomed the Faculty Senate to the new school year, and explained one minor change in the format of the agenda, which is to allow for discussion of items taken out of the consent agenda later on in the meeting.

Minutes

Janis Boettinger made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 8th meeting, and Jeff Banks seconded the motion. During discussion amendments were suggested to point out that the Policy changes were specifically referring to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and to clarify the number of reports Sue Guenter-Schlesinger presented in the meeting. With these amendments the motion was voted upon and passed.

Announcements

Craig Petersen gave the Faculty Senate an online tour of the University Dashboard. To get to the USU Dashboard from the home page click on About USU, and then on Facts and Figures.

Consent Agenda

Dallas Holmes moved to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Karla Petty, passed.

Key Issues and Action Items

Emergency Preparedness/GIS Project

Eric Hansen explained the original need and creation of the old Emergency Preparedness program, which now consists of large information manuals. It has since been determined that these bulky manuals are less effective when safety information is needed immediately when dealing with emergencies. The remedy proposed is the creation of the same emergency manuals in an electronic format, which can be accessed instantly through a GIS program, (Geographical Information System). This would greatly improve the safety of the facility and of emergency personnel in an emergency situation. The cost for the project is estimated at \$50,000. Stephen Bialkowski moved that the Faculty Senate write a letter of support for the new Emergency Preparedness project. The motion, seconded by Stephanie Kukic, was passed.

Letter to the Governor and Legislature regarding budget proposals for 2004-2005

Kevin Kesler briefly described the Utah Council of Faculty Senate Leaders (UCFSL) and their backing of the Board of Regents budget proposal, with a few minor suggested language changes. He proposed for the USU Faculty Senate to draft a letter to endorse the Board of Regents proposed budget, so long as it continues to align with the Universities budget requests. The letter will be sent in conjunction with similar letters sent from other supporting Utah State colleges and universities to the Governor and the State Legislature. President Hall mentioned his support of writing a letter backing the Board of Regents budget. Brent Miller moved to give the Faculty Senate Executive Committee permission to draft such a letter supporting the Board of Regents budget proposal. The motion was seconded by Dennis Welker. Voting on the motion was postponed to after the presentation of the University Business. When University Business had completed voting commenced, and the motion passed with two dissenting votes.

University Business

President Hall and Provost Albrecht presented the University Business. They defined where the administration is in its efforts to get the legislature to approved an across the board increase in faculty salaries. USU has lost 34 faculty in the last 12 months, and has only retained several others who would have otherwise left by making counter offers. President Hall explained that he personally has been

talking with, and will continue to talk with all the legislatures in support of these budget changes. He then reviewed parts of the current USU Budget, including the fuel and power crisis between USU and UofU, Libraries, the Engineering Initiative, and the USU/Weber Nursing Partnership. He asked Kevin Womack to give a brief report on the Animal Science Renovation. He explained the need for better student living facilities, and the proposed West Housing/Parking Complex.

The Utah State Alumni magazine has won an award as being one of the three best alumni magazines in the west, and USA Today recognizes the student athletes of USU as #10 in the country with an 81% graduation rate, and #2 in the increase of graduates in the athletic program. A Fire station will be built on campus, and the search for the University Auditor, and VP for Administrative Services are progressing, and the positions will soon be filled.

New Business

Committee Vacancies

Kevin Kesler presented four committees that have vacant positions that need to be filled. He asked for volunteers, and the results are: Kathy Piercy will serve on the Selective Investment Committee, Janis Boettinger will serve on Departmental Teaching Award Selection Committee, Vince Lafferty will serve on the Committee on Committees, and a position is still open on the Calendar Committee.

Faculty Forum Topics

Kevin then opened the floor for suggestions for possible topics for the upcoming Faculty Forum. Suggestions included Funding for the Health Care system, The future of campus parking, moving faculty evaluation from public websites to the QUAD, graduate school student recruiting, recruitment and retention of female faculty in the college of engineering, a faculty union, and details on the think campaign.

Adjourn

Kevin Kesler called for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.