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## Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee Minutes, April 9, 2012

Utah State University

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**Utah State University  
Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (AFT)  
Minutes – April 9, 2012 -- REDACTED**

In attendance: Scott Budge, Britt Fagerheim, Bryce Fifield, Sandi Gillam, Richard Jenson, Anthony Lott, Craig Petersen, Mark Riffe, Aaron Roggia, and Helga Van Miegroet.

- The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by AFT Chair Richard Jenson
- Minutes for the January 30, 2012 AFT Committee meeting were read and approved.
- The AFT Committee approved Bryce Fifield as the Chair and Britt Fagerheim as Vice-Chair. Bryce will serve as Chair, and Britt as Vice-Chair from July 1st through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Britt will then assume the role of Chair from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 through June 30, 2013.
- The AFT committee made the following assignments for two grievance panels that have been filed. Craig Petersen will chair the grievance and will be assisted by Sandi, Mark, Britt, and a presidential appointee. Lynn and Maria will participate on the grievance panel which originates from the CEU campus. The remainder of the panel will be named later, and consist of some CEU faculty.
- Scott Budge updated the AFT Committee about the progress of the University Faculty Code Task Force which he has been appointed to serve on. He noted that the task force is currently working on reviewing and updating Sections 406 and 407 of the code. He believes the work on 407 will likely be moved to the Fall. He expressed concern about the softening of language in the code pertaining to faculty layoffs due to financial exigencies (specifically the right to be rehired if a financial recovery is made). He is working hard to represent faculty and AFT interests on the task force. Although Scott is due to leave the AFT committee on July 1, he has agreed to continue to keep the AFT committee apprised of developments on these code revisions.
- Richard Jenson updated the AFT Committee on the Post-Tenure Review Task Force where he is currently serving. He reported that the task force appears to be moving this process toward a “precipitating event” approach in which only faculty members who have a series of negative annual reviews undergo this more intensive review by peers. Under this approach most faculty would only have annual reviews as long as they continued to have positive reviews. Although Helga generally liked the idea of not having every faculty member subject to the post-tenure review, she expressed concern about the standards that might be applied (that is not applying the “conscientious” / “professional competence” standard). Richard will forward the task force guiding principles to the committee for input.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Jenson.