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## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for December 1st, 2003

Utah State University

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## **Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003**

### **Call to Order**

Kevin Kesler called the meeting to order at 2:58 pm.

### **Minutes**

Dallas Holmes made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 6th meeting. The motion, seconded by Janis Boettinger was passed.

### **Information Items**

#### Enrollment Management/Retention Survey

Melissa Kincart presented the recent results and statistical analysis of the Retention Survey. The selectivity of USU has been around 98%, and a goal has been set at 85%. The average ACT scores for this past year was 23.6, and the goal is 24. The 5 year retention rate has been 69%, the goal is between 70 and 75%. Efforts are being made to increase the retention of LDS missionaries, which are about 400 a year. Students who feel the need to withdraw who have intention to return at some future date will no longer need to reapply. An admissions index has been set for new students that now need to have a minimum ACT of 19 and a minimum GPA of 2.5, which translates to a minimum index of 90. Communications with applying and reapplying students have been enhanced to bolster interest and follow the student through to admission.

#### Banner

Rory Weaver gave a brief overview of the Banner Project. The old data management system was housed in three different information silos: the student database, the employee database, the vendor database, (those who receive travel reimbursement) which means any one person may have their information in up to three databases. The new Banner system consolidates and integrates these databases into one which makes it much more efficient and organized. Before, there have been multiple registration systems for all different constituencies. With Banner, there will be one single registration system that can be utilized by all appropriate constituencies. Banner will not be funded by the Legislature, but by various sources on campus, including money from Tier II tuition and the computer center who has been putting money aside for years in anticipation of such needed changes.

#### UCFSL Letter

The letter drafted by the USU Faculty Senate to the Governor and the Legislature regarding compensation increases has been accepted state wide and endorsed by the Utah Council of Faculty Senate Leaders, (UCFSL).

#### Proceedings of the Faculty Forum

These proceedings have been made available for review on the Faculty Senate website.

Emergency Preparedness/GIS Project The letter from the Faculty Senate endorsing the recently proposed GIS Project has been written and is also available for review on the Faculty Senate website.

### **Consent Agenda**

Janice Hall moved to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Jeff Banks, passed.

### **Key Issues and Action Items**

#### LGBT Recognition

Beth York introduced the proposal regarding the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, (LGBT) community on campus. The need is for a program of visual identification of supportive, and trained faculty who make themselves available for counseling gay and lesbian students. Those faculty and staff

who choose to join this support program could place a sign or insignia on their office doors, and include their name on an online list of supportive faculty. The motion, made by Beth York was seconded by Pat Lambert, and passed with 2 dissenting votes and 4 abstentions.

### **University Business**

Stan Albrecht presented the most recent University Business. The selective investment committee will review the top initiatives in the compact planning process, and make recommendations on the initiatives that should then receive funding. The Tuition Task Force will be responsible for the reviewing the issues pertaining to tuition increases, taking into account the reduction of state support. A Tier II tuition increase of 4% would generate about \$1.7 million, of which \$700,000 to \$900,000 has been given, as one time funding, to the library. The hope is that an on-going base funding for the library could be taken from Tier II tuition, since one time funding is no longer available. Other issues administration is looking into include the possibility of establishing a December commencement, and increasing funding for and development of the engineering initiative.

Kevin Kesler asked for volunteers from the Senate to be on the December Commencement committee. Janice Hall, and Pat Lambert volunteered to be on the new committee.

### **New Business**

#### Student Bill of Rights

The question was posed on what was the reasoning behind the need for a Student Bill of Rights. Karla Petty and Stephanie Kukic explained that it is a simple statement on academic freedom, allowing for all students regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation to believe whatever they want to believe, and to be treated the same way regardless of background. It also includes the intention that faculty be treated the same way, and would not be hired or fired according to religious, political or other beliefs. It has been passed through ASUSU as a resolution and as a general statement from the students.

#### BFW

Stephen Bialkowski, the chairman of the Budget and Faculty Welfare committee, asked for the function and overall purpose of the committee. It was agreed that this issue would be researched and discussed outside the Faculty Senate meeting.

### **Adjourn**

Kevin Kesler called for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.