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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for February 23rd, 2004

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for February 23rd, 2004

Attendance:

Senators:	Kevin Kesler (0930)	Tom Kent (1189)	Marv Halling (3179)
	Kevin Doyle (4025)	Ed Heath (3306)	Carol Kochan (2676)
	Dean Miner (801-370-8469)	Dale Blahna (2544)	Bruce Miller (2232)
	Vance Grange (2702)	Chris Coray (2861)	Janis Boettinger (4026)
Presenters:	Joyce Kinkead (1706)	Stephen Bialkowski (1907)	Jodi Bailey (1086)
	Sydney Peterson (1170)	Terry Hodges (1812)	Lance Seefeldt (3964)
Administration:	Kermit Hall (1157)	Stan Albrecht (1167)	

Call to Order

Kevin Kelsner called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Minutes:

Carol Kochan moved to accept the minutes of January 26th. The motion, seconded by Bruce Miller, was passed.

Announcements:

The next FSEC Lunch with President Hall will be held on Wednesday, February 25th, at noon in Champ Hall.

Committee Reports:

Internal Audits Department

Jodi Bailey, the Director of Internal Audits presented the responsibilities and purposes of internal audits. Her presentation was entitled "Controls are Everybody's Business". The request is for faculty to watch for risks within your own operation, and look for inefficient processes. Any findings can be sent to the Internal Audits department for further handling. Dale Blahna moved to place this report on the agenda as an Information Item. The motion, seconded by Ed Heath, passed.

EPC Business

Joyce Kinkead listed the latest items that have passed the EPC, which included 6 discontinuations of inactive programs. Sydney Peterson also included the proposed name change of the Biotechnology Center to the Center for Integrated BioSystems. Carol Kochan moved to place EPC Business on the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Chris Coray, passed.

Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee

Stephen Bialkowski presented the annual report of the Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee. The main goal of the committee was to determine its purpose and responsibilities. The determined responsibilities included: participate in budget preparation process, periodically report to faculty senate the budgetary and benefit issues, review the financial and budgetary implication of proposals for changes, and report to the senate the fiscal and budgetary trends which may effect academic programs at the University.

The concern is that the current status of BFW is that they are not fulfilling these responsibilities, and changes need to be made that would include the BFW committee in the budget and benefit decision making processes of the University. He then detailed further items in the report, including the higher benefits premiums verses decreased benefits, and that the money from this is being put in a reserve account for possible future need. President Hall explained the reasons for the reserve. He also suggested that several points in the report didn't quite reflect what is actually happening, and further defined the issues. Discussion continued and it was determined that it would be best to delay discussion until more information could be obtained. Chris Coray moved to table the report. Carol Kochan seconded, and the report was tabled.

Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

Lance Seefeldt presented the annual report of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. He explained the function of the committee, which include hearing grievances from faculty against the University, and also sanctions brought by the University against faculty. Carol Kochan moved to place the report as a Consent Agenda Item. The motion, seconded by Dale Blahna, was passed.

Calendar Committee

Sydney Peterson handed out the different calendar schedules that the committee are currently looking at for the 2004-2005 school year. She proposed taking these suggested calendars to the Faculty Senate for input and discussion. Bruce Miller made the

motion to place the calendar on the agenda as an Action Item. The motion, seconded by Chris Coray, passed.

Health Care Administrative Costs

Terry Hodges presented the latest on Health Care Administrative Costs. Blue Cross/Blue Shield has proposed to raise the administrative costs from \$5.28 per member per month to \$12.71 per member per month, which is a 134% increase. Their rationale is that small groups has been subsidizing big groups like USU. Terry will be meeting with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to discuss options and negotiate lower costs. The option is open for USU to bid on other insurance companies if negotiations fail. The question came up whether the USU health plan could be self administered, and discussion concluded that it is possible, but we do not have the network of providers and negotiated prices that Blue Cross/Blue Shield has, which would mean higher costs.

Key Issues and Action Items:

Committee on Dual Career Issues

Kevin Kesler explained a the need for faculty senate representation on the Committee on Dual Career Issues. It was suggested that the issue be brought before Faculty Senate for volunteers.

University Business:

President Kermit Hall and Provost Stan Albrecht were both in attendance to present the University Business. They updated the progress of discussions in the Legislative sessions related to the USU budget. Among the issues currently in discussion are F & A reimbursement, Tier II tuition, unfunded students, Fuel and Power, funding the Climate Center, and pay raise for faculty and staff, and the university holding stock in startup companies. These issues should be resolved soon as the legislative session draws to a close.

Administration met with USU students in an open discussion meeting regarding Tier II tuition. They are proposing a 6% tuition increase for new students and a 4% increase for continuing students. The revenues will be allocated as follows: \$1 Million for the Library, \$2 Million for various student initiatives, \$600,000 for Fuel and Power and/or merit and equity increases. The students asked that no money go towards benefits for faculty and staff. USU needs to finance ongoing deficits. President Hall received the report from the tuition task force, and that he would be meeting with them to discuss recommendations further. He informed the Executive Committee that several Utah State University students traveled down to the Legislative sessions to voice their opinion regarding the issues of the University.

New Business

Students at the Legislature

Chris Coray suggested that the students who went to the legislature on behalf of the University should be recognized and thanked. He moved to recognize these students in the next Faculty Senate meeting. The motion, seconded by Janis Boettinger, passed.

Adjourn:

Kevin Kesler called for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.