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## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for March 15th, 2004

Utah State University

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## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004

### Attendance:

Senators:	Kevin Kesler (0930)	Tom Kent (1189)	Marv Halling (3179)
	Adrienne Moore (3023)	Ed Heath (3306)	Carol Kochan (2676)
	Dean Miner (801-370-8469)	Dale Blahna (2544)	Chris Coray (2861)
	Vance Grange (2702)		
Presenters:	Joyce Kinkead (1706)	Tyler Bowles (2378)	Jeff Johnson (2350)
	Karla Petty (1726)	Pat Lambert (2603)	Craig Simper (1156)
Administration:	Kermit Hall (1157)	Stan Albrecht (1167)	
Visitors:	Terry Peak (4080)	Richard Crapo (1080)	
Excused:	Janis Boettinger (4026)	Bruce Miller (2232)	Kevin Doyle (4025)

### Call to Order

Kevin Kesler called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

### Minutes:

Dale Blahna moved to accept the minutes of February 23rd. The motion, seconded by Tom Kent, was passed.

### Announcements:

The next FSEC Lunch with President Hall will be held on Friday, March 26th, at noon in Champ Hall. (It was later decided between the President and the attending FSEC members that this lunch will not take place.)

### New Business

Kevin Kesler explained the Policy code which explains the involvement of BFW in the Budgetary and Degree proposal process. This has not happened in the last few years, and should be revived. Joyce Kinkead, (representing the Provost) moved that the FSEC do an analysis of the rules of BFW regarding program approval. The motion, seconded by Vance Grange, was passed. Dale Blahna proposed not only program approval, but to have them continue in all their responsibilities listed in the Policy Code. The amendment to the motion, seconded by Tom Kent, was passed. The original motion was voted on, and passed.

### Committee Reports:

#### EPC Business

Joyce Kinkead listed the latest items that have passed the EPC, which included 4 discontinuations of inactive programs, and the proposal for a new doctoral degree in Geology. Also underway is a clean-up of the definition of Dual Majors, and adding a composite major definition. Joyce Kinkead moved to place EPC Business on the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Tom Kent, passed.

#### Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee

Tyler Bowles presented the selected Honorary Degrees and Awards recipients. They are Ruth Novak, Merlin Olsen, and Booth Wallentine. The selection for the honorary commencement speaker has not been finalized, and will be announced at a later date. Carol Kochan moved to place the Honorary Degrees and Awards report on the agenda as an information item. The motion, seconded by Vance Grange, passed.

#### PRPC Annual Report

Jeff Johnson presented the annual report of the Professional Responsibilities and Procedures Committee. The issues PRPC are currently reviewing are the return of the ombudsperson proposal, implementation of PRPC recommendations, lecturer sabbaticals, extra service compensation, and recognition of creative works for promotion and tenure. Carol Kochan moved to place the PRPC report on the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Dale Blahna, passed.

Kevin Kesler brought up the inconsistency in the Policy Code of the termination of faculty. This issue applies to temporary faculty hired on grants or contracts. He recommended that PRPC review the code and correct the inconsistency.

### Key Issues and Action Items:

#### Academic Freedom and the Student Bill of Rights

Karla Petty explained the newly approved Academic Bill of Rights, which passed ASUSU last semester. She reviewed the

changes made to the resolution, specifically regarding the placing of a link to the student code on all course syllabi. She also presented the recommended changes made to the grievance process. Discussion continued regarding certain points of the resolution and recommendations were given to strengthen the resolution. Ed Heath moved to make a resolution to be sent to the Provost regarding the placing of the link to academic freedom on syllabi, and place the report on the agenda as an action item. The motion, seconded by Carol Kochan, passed. Chris Coray volunteered to aid the students in this effort.

#### Domestic Partner Benefits

Pat Lambert presented a packet of information that contained comparison data on other institutions and major companies and their acceptance of domestic partner benefits. She explained that without the acceptance of domestic partner benefits, current members of the faculty are being discriminated against, and have strong tendency to seek other employment where these benefits are offered. Also, individuals with domestic partners seeking employment are discouraged to apply for positions where these benefits are not offered. After much discussion President Hall suggested that the issue not be brought up for a vote, but rather that the Faculty Senate be given the opportunity to study the issue and make recommendations for further action. Ed Heath moved to place the Domestic Partner Benefits report on the agenda as an information item, and that the issue be sent to BFW for further consideration. The motion, seconded by Dale Blahna, passed.

#### Blue Cross/Blue Shield Meeting

Kevin Kesler invited Chris Coray, who attended a Blue Cross/Blue Shield meeting to report on the meeting. He explained that the essence of the discussion is that the faculty of USU feel that the Universities per person share of administrative cost is too low compared to smaller institutions. He then said that they were not cooperative in explaining their actions simply because that information is proprietary.

#### Faculty/Course Evaluations on the Web

Craig Simper presented his interpretation of law regarding the privacy issue of putting course and teacher evaluations on the internet. They are that the privacy act does not apply to what is effectively "customer satisfaction" evaluations. Therefore, placing them on the internet is entirely up to the university administration. Chris Coray moved to place this report on the agenda as an information item. The motion, seconded by Carol Kochan, passed.

#### **University Business:**

President Kermit Hall and Provost Stan Albrecht were both in attendance to present the University Business. The Legislature is closed. We received a 1% salary increase and 1% bonus, as well as support for revenue bond projects, and the climate center. They are also providing funding for 770 new students and a 5.7% health benefits increase. The Legislature turned down support to fuel and power costs and operating and maintenance costs. The Capital Improvements budget will receive \$2.5 - \$3.25 million. We also received an approval for Tier II tuition for 4% for on-going students 6% for incoming students, much of this will go towards operating budgets. Also received was a \$1 million engineering initiative, half one-time, half on-going.

#### **Adjourn:**

Kevin Kesler called for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.