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## USU Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, January 22, 2007

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**USU FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**January 22, 2007, 3:00 p.m.  
Champ Hall Conference Room**

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**Present:** Provost Raymond Coward, John Kras, Brian Atwater, Janet Alm, Daren Cornforth, Steve Burr, Ed Heath, Pat Lambert, Gary Merkley, Byron Burnham (for Brent Miller), Adrie Roberts, Will Pependorf, and Andi McCabe

**Invited Guests:** Kent Clarke, Glenn Ford, Dave Cowley, Maria Cordero

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John Kras called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2006**

Pat Lambert motioned to approve the December 11, 2006 minutes. Will Pependorf seconded the motion; motion was carried unanimously.

**Announcements – John Kras**

1. AFT Chair Elect – Academic Freedom and Tenure committee has not yet elected a vice chair and is in the process of doing so.

**University Business – Provost Coward**

1. Legislative session has begun. Nothing of substance to report at this point although we do have some favorable subcommittee reports.
2. The candidates for the Dean of the College of Science are visiting campus throughout this week and the beginning of next.

**Consent Agenda**

**1. Bookstore Report**

The Bookstore Committee does not direct the bookstore in any way and functions mostly as a communication process. Jan Alm stated nothing was pressing and she submitted their Annual Report for review. Gary Merkley motioned to place the Bookstore Committee Report on the Consent Agenda of the February 5, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Brian Atwater seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**2. EPC Business**

Jan Alm motioned to place the EPC Report on the Consent Agenda of the February 5, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Pat Lambert seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**Information Items**

1. Comprehensive Campaign Announcement – Kent Clark presented some information on the leadership and organization, facts about timing, priorities and how they are established, public goals, and where we stand on the action steps. This campaign relies heavily on volunteer leadership. On March 2, 2007, in conjunction with Founder's Day, a dinner-by-invitation and a dessert reception for all will be held to formally announce the three-year public phase of the campaign.

Pat motioned to place this on the Information Items agenda and to invite either the President or Kent to bring this information to the Faculty Senate meeting on February 5, 2007. Ed Heath seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2. USU Early Retirement Update – Vice President Glenn Ford and Dave Cowley presented the proposed changes in the early retirement policy. The change primarily removes the word 'benefit' from the description, which is the difference between GASB 45 and GASB 47 rules. This step would qualify us for GASB 47, which looks at employees actually on the early retirement versus all employees who may potentially take early retirement. More importantly, it reduces the University's liability from \$93 million to \$5 million.

Jan Alm motioned to place this Information Item on the Faculty Senate agenda for February 5, 2007. Steve Burr seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

## **Key Issues and Action Items**

1. Committee on Equity and Diversity – Pat Lambert motioned to place this item on the Key Issues and Action Items agenda for the February 5, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Will Popendorf seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

1. Faculty Senate Review – At the President's Brown Bag lunch for the executive committee, some present questioned the effectiveness of the current set-up of the Faculty Senate. This was derived from low attendance; how the senate is viewed as an effective means of leadership within the faculty; Some issues discussed were size of Senate and responsibilities and length of term of the president. John Kras had researched some of these issues within the sister university system. We are pretty much in line with other universities with one difference is that most presidents are involved for 3 years to help with transition. John asked the committee to think about any changes they may want to address.
2. College Caucus – John Kras would like a discussion at the February Faculty Senate meeting. Bring any issues that the colleges would like to address. By code, caucuses should occur on a monthly basis.
3. In looking at the code, John stated that there are some items that we need to clean up. For example, the Faculty Forum should be just for senators without administration, students or other faculty. Also, the code agenda does not include the topic University Business, which we have been including for a long time now. This should be changed in the code or move it to Information Items.

Pat Lambert motioned that we place on the February 5, 2007 Key Issues and Action Items to charge PRPC with changing the wording of the Faculty Forum section of policy that the fall Faculty Forum is open to all faculty. Jan Alm seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Pat Lambert motioned that we discuss the participation of administrators as faculty in the Faculty Forum. Will Popendorf seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

4. Andi McCabe was asked to give a budget update at the next Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting.
5. Will Popendorf stated that the Committee on Committees recommends a new appointment to PRPC. Brett Shelton was nominated to serve on that committee replacing Robert King. Ed motioned that this appointment be placed in the Consent Agenda for the February 5, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Byron Burnham seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Minutes Submitted by: Andi McCabe, Faculty Senate Assistant, 797-1166