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Faculty Senate Minutes, February 5, 2007

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**FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
February 5, 2007, 3:00 p.m.
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

John Kras called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2007

Diane Calloway-Graham motioned to approve the minutes of January 8, 2007. Christopher Terry seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Announcements – John Kras

John Kras encouraged faculty senators to run for president elect. Nominations for this position will be accepted in the March meeting. Candidates must have served a minimum of one year as an elected senate member. If the elected candidate is on his or her last year of senate assignment, that term will be extended to fulfill the new assignment's term requirements. Provost Coward added that this is a serious role and President Albrecht depends on the faculty president to meet with and share ideas.

University Business – Provost Raymond Coward

1. The President was in Salt Lake at the legislature and unable to attend today's meeting. The legislative session is now in its fourth week but issues are still very early on. Provost Coward will be happy to answer specific questions.
2. We finished campus interviews for four candidates for dean of the College of Science. The President has invited back one candidate next week, which will be more of a family-oriented trip. They hope to have an announcement soon.
3. Tomorrow night, the Provost and President are meeting with students regarding Tier II tuition. The Regents makes a formula-driven decision as to what the legislature actually puts into the budget and Tier II is set by individual campuses where we engage with students and find out what they would support.
4. It is early on in the enrollment process, but the numbers look very good at this time. We need to duplicate last year's success for the next three years and we will be in a significantly different position with our dollars.

Consent Agenda Items

1. Bookstore Report
2. EPC Business
3. Committee on Committees Recommends the Appointment of Brett Shelton to the PRPC Committee Replacing Robert King and the Appointment of Hilda Fronske to the Athletic Council

James Barnhill motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Robert Schmidt seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Information items

1. Comprehensive Campaign Announcement

Kent Clarke with the Advancement office stated that on March 2nd, we will publicly launch USU's first comprehensive campaign. President Albrecht is planning on taking more time at a later date with the Senate explaining more in detail, but Kent wanted to invite and encourage the Senate to include the events of March 2nd as part of their schedule. In conjunction with the annual Founder's Day dinner, there will be an announcement event; invitations will soon go out campus wide. At this event, the goal amount and objectives will be announced. We have already made significant progress towards the goal we have placed.

2. USU Early Retirement Program

Vice President Glenn Ford informed the Senate of the proposed changes to the University's Early Retirement Program. Prior to July 1, 2004, the language talked about early retirement being a privilege and not a right, and that it needed administrative approval. On July 1, 2004, a change was made to call it a benefit. By adding the word 'benefit', we are able to offer it equally to all including those under grants and contracts.

The GASB rules determine guidelines on how to report liability. GASB 47 (current rule) is based on actual enrollment; GASB 45 (new rule) is based on all employees who may **potentially** enroll in the program. The difference is our actuarial liability of \$5 million under GASB 47 and \$93 million under GASB 45. In order for us to maintain the lower liability, we would have to qualify for the GASB 47 rule by July 1, 2007, which would require the removal of the word 'benefit' from our current policy and the inclusion of administrative approval when the request is in the mutual best interest of the employee and the university. This change is consistent with pre-July 2004 language.

Key Issues and Action Items

1. Committee on Equity and Diversity

This was an open discussion on the proposal to create a new Faculty Senate committee to deal with faculty equity and diversity. Will Pependorf motioned to adopt the resolution as a proposal to create a standing committee on equity and diversity by charging PRPC to write this into faculty code. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Jenny Norton stated that the BFW committee had discussed the possibility of this falling under their responsibility. The committee felt they had enough charges and that they would not be able to give this new sub-committee the intensity it deserved. Pat Lambert suggested that someone from BFW sit on this committee for sake of sharing information.

2. Review of Faculty Forum

John Kras stated that the Faculty Forum code calls for senators to meet in November for a forum. However, history has shown that the forum has been open to all faculty to address issues. The options are to follow code and just allow senators or change the code to open the Faculty Forum up to all faculty.

Tom Schroeder moves to open the forum to all faculty and to charge PRPC with preparing the language to reflect this. Pat Lambert seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. The language will come back from PRPC for two readings, then for a vote.

3. Dean's Tenure and Promotion Committee

Britt Fagerheim reviewed the new code as written by PRPC. Christopher Terry motioned to accept this as code. Tilak Dhiman seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. College Caucus

John Kras asked that the colleges caucus between the April 2 Faculty Senate meeting and the April 16 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting, as we will be making the new committee assignments. Will Pependorf is working on the preparations for this and will provide the information soon. If an executive committee member's term is up this year, those colleges need to nominate a new representative during those caucuses. The nominated rep needs to have been in place as a senator for one year.

2. Status of Administration as Faculty

Discussed in the last Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting was a concern about administration hearing certain faculty discussions. On the other hand, administration is important to our process and administrators that are faculty are truly interested from that standpoint. It was pointed out that all meetings are public knowledge and becomes so with minutes. One senator questioned how much influence administration has over decisions and how often faculty 'hold back' when administrators are present. A suggestion is to have the colleges run their caucus and bring issues to the forum – it depersonalizes those concerns and it still brings the issue forward. The administrators then can, and should, be there for solutions. If senators have further ideas they want to share, they were asked to get with their executive committee member in their college or with John Kras.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

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