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## USU Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, March 19, 2007

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**USU FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**March 19, 2007, 3:00 p.m.  
Champ Hall Conference Room**

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**Present:** President Stan Albrecht, Provost Raymond Coward, John Kras, Doug Ramsey, Brian Atwater, Steve Burr, Daren Cornforth, Ed Heath, Pat Lambert, Gary Merkley, Brent Miller, Will Pependorf, Adrie Roberts, and Andi McCabe

**Absent:** Janet Alm

**Invited Guest:** Jeanette Norton

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John Kras called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2007**

Doug Ramsey motioned to approve the February 20, 2007 minutes. Gary Merkley seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**University Business**

1. President Albrecht announced that the final Tier II hearing with the students is tomorrow at 2:00 in the Sunburst Lounge. We will request a 3% Tier II increase, which will generate approximately \$1.3 million if we have a flat enrollment. If we have a 1% enrollment increase, it will generate about \$1.7 million; if we have a 2% increase, it will generate \$2.2 million. We really need the \$2.2 million to cover the initiatives we are representing to the students, but if not, we have the carry forward funds from Tier II from a couple of years ago that will guarantee that the student initiatives are covered. This is all on top of the 4% Tier I increase that came from the last Board of Regents meeting.
2. We are sponsoring an education summit here on campus at the end of March, bringing together the presidents and provosts from CEU and Snow, our regional campus directors and the deans. This meeting will be to move forward with the decisions and plans on the new funding that came out of the legislative session to build these partnerships. Once an appropriate policy is in place, the President will bring it to the Faculty Senate.

**Information Items**

1. **Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee Report** – The President spoke for the committee, who recommended there be four honorary degrees presented at the May commencement. The names have been taken to the Trustees and approved: Cecelia Harrison Foxley, Young-Chul Hong, James D. Laub, and The Very Reverend Frederick Quinney Lawson. Reverend Lawson has been named as the Commencement Speaker for Spring 2008. Steve Burr motioned to move the Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee Report to the Consent Agenda of the April 2, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Ed Heath seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
2. **AFT Committee Report** – Although no one was present from this committee, the report was posted along with agenda and there were no questions. Will Pependorf motioned to place the AFT Committee Report to the Consent Agenda of the April 2, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Ed Heath seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
3. **BFW Committee Report** – Jenny Norton stated that one of the main tasks this year has been examining the impacts on budgets and faculty welfare of the increasing role of off-campus academic programs. Review of proposed academic programs by BFW has continued and the flow of information between subcommittees has improved. Health benefits are an on-going issue and involvement in the EBAB has been strong. Adrie Roberts motioned to place the BFW Committee Report to the Consent Agenda of the April 2, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Brian Atwater seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
4. **PRPC Committee Report** – John explained that the PRPC is meeting concurrently at the same time as this meeting and that is why there was no representation today. Their annual report reviews and brings forward their actions to this point, which was included in this agenda packet. With no questions, Brent Miller motioned to place this forward to the Consent Agenda. Brian Atwater seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

5. **EPC Business** – Steven Hanks was not present, as he was traveling home from Hong Kong. With no questions in regard to the report, Steve Burr motioned to place the EPC Report on the Consent Agenda of the April 2, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Adrie Roberts seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.
6. **NCAA Recertification** – Provost Coward represented Ken White, USU's faculty representative to the NCAA, who asked for time to bring the faculty up to speed on where we are on the 10-year recertification process. The timeline calls for a May 1 submission of a self-study. There is opportunity for student, faculty, and community input and, over this and next month, Ken White, Gary Chambers, and the Provost will be reporting back to groups, one of which is the Faculty Senate. Three areas that the self-study has to be conducted is governance and commitment to rules compliance, academic integrity, and the well-being of student-athletes. The goal of the recertification is that, in those areas that we have identified weaknesses, we have to then identify a plan to address those weaknesses. Pat Lambert motioned to include this as an Information Item on the April 2 Faculty Senate meeting agenda. Steve Burr seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

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

With Britt Fagerheim not present and no questions from the executive committee, Gary Merkley motioned to place the following items on the April 2 Faculty Senate meeting agenda.

1. Committee on Equity and Diversity
2. EPC Curriculum Sub-committee Update
3. EPC Membership Update
4. Faculty Senate Past-President

Daren Cornforth seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

1. **Faculty Senate President-Elect** – John Kras announced that we had one candidate for the position President-Elect for 2007-2008. Andi conducted an electronic vote and reported that there was affirmation on electing Mike Parent as president-elect. He will take over his duties in that position on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. **Course Content and Sincerely Held Core Beliefs** – John explained that this issue got overlooked during the transition. It never got to policy change between the main meeting last year and today. John assured the committee that he will go back and find the policy statement and move it forward through the process of code change.
3. **Representation of Extension and RCDE on Faculty Senate** – Adrie Roberts presented the proposed code changes to code 402.10.1 Apportionment of Elected Faculty Positions and code 402.12.1 Executive Committee Duties and Membership, affecting both Regional Campuses and Extension. Adrie will be prepared to answer questions and discuss how the current caucus (Cooperative Extension and RCDE) came up with the proposal. Gary Merkley motioned to place this item under Old Business on the April 2, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Brent Miller seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
4. **Faculty Appeals Process** – Ed Heath opened discussion by stating that several people have expressed the burden that serving on a grievance hearing panel places on the faculty. They understand that it is a very important process, but they are questioning the length of the process. Provost Coward acknowledged that this can be a very lengthy process, at times up to three days, involving training, the actual hearing, and deliberations. John Kras suggested that the executive committee bring this issue to their caucuses to see what the rest of the faculty thinks and if there is something we can do to shorten the length of the hearing process. Will Pependorf suggested that the AFT committee also look at the issues. John will contact Kim Openshaw and Diane Calloway-Graham and ask them to review this.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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