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USU FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 27, 2007, 3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: President Stan Albrecht, Provost Raymond Coward, Doug Ramsey, Byron Burnham, Steve Burr, Daren Cornforth, Jake Gunther, Ed Heath, John Kras, Pat Lambert, Flora Shrode, Dallas Holmes (for Adrie Roberts), Vincent Wickwar, and Andi McCabe

Excused: Mike Parent, Brian Atwater

Invited Guest: Michelle Larson, Will Pependorf

Doug Ramsey called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of April 16, 2007

Steve Burr motioned to approve the April 16, 2007 minutes. John Kras seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

University Business

1. President Albrecht announced that he and the Provost are meeting with the new 101 Dominican Republic students; this added to the number bringing the total up to 143 this year. Last week the Prime Minister of Education was here last week signing the agreement to add these additional students. There are also now more than 30 graduate students.

On Wednesday, the first contingent of Armenian students will be celebrating on campus. These students were selected through a national competition and are being supported by Jon Huntsman. These students are the cream of the crop, the best and brightest of the group. Initially two-thirds were going to the U of U and one third here, now all coming to USU.
2. Provost Coward wondered if the information included in the letter he had previously sent to the department heads was getting out. He is interested in getting the word out to all faculty. Ed Heath said that the letter was shared in his department meeting just that day and he thanked the Provost and the President for the increase in the operating budgets. Others had not yet heard anything. The majority felt that the department heads should be the ones to share it with their faculty members.
2. Provost Coward stated that enrollment is not finalized until day 15, but going into day 1, our freshman class will be larger than last year's and the year before. In the last two-year period, we have added approximately 800 new students to the freshman class. We continue to have increases in our out-of-state enrollment. One out of every four in our freshman class are from out-of-state, about a 20% increase over last year.
3. We are returning more of the one-time recycling fees and adding back 1.6 million dollars into the academic enterprises. The President hopes to eliminate this as we make progress on the enrollment numbers.
4. President Albrecht shared that the capital campaign is going well; nine out of eleven cities have been visited. We have two more to visit- Washington D.C. and New York- which will be in September. In each stop along the way, we have had individuals who have reconnected with the university that will play an important role as we go forward with the comprehensive campaign. There are three substantial gifts that we may be able to announce sometime before the end of this year and hope to announce two of those in October in time to celebrate with the Old Main event. We have received to date over \$113 million and have more than 27,000 gifts overall.
5. On the capital side, the AG Appropriations bill includes \$8 million for programming and planning money for our new building across the quad. It was more than were had planned for, so that is very positive in our favor. Other projects include the amazing North Endzone project, the sports medicine complex, the Living Learning Center is now complete, making good progress on the next building project for the College of Education; the groundbreaking occurred earlier this year out at the Vernal campus and we hope to announce the second building there as part of the capital campaign.

John Kras added at this point that the conversation on campus about the President and the Provost has been positive. It is the first time in his twelve years he feels everyone is on board and moving towards the goals we have set. He commended the President and Provost for taking the university in this direction.

Executive Committee Orientation

The charter of this committee is to set the agenda for Faculty Senate and to act as a filter for the Faculty Senate. The Senate Handbook will be kept updated on the web, as the printed copy quickly becomes out-of-date. The handbook has the core material for both the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from each college; one rep each from Libraries and Extension; the FS

president, FS president-elect, and now the FS past-president; a presidential appointee; and the university president and provost as ex-officio members. Doug also stated that if members need to be absent, they must identify a senator from their college to take their place.

Announcements

1. Doug Ramsey announced the approval of the proposed policy amendments that were set forth at the end of last year that include the Faculty Diversity, Development, and Equity Committee; adding the position of Faculty Senate Past President; changing the format of the Faculty Forum; replacing Extension with Regional Campuses and Distance Education for representation on the EPC committee; and revising the membership of the Curriculum subcommittee of EPC.

John Kras motioned to place the Provost's Letter to Department Heads on the Information Items agenda of the Faculty Senate meeting on September 10, 2007 and also the Board of Trustees' approved policy amendments on this and all future Faculty Senate Information Items agenda. Dallas Holmes seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Information Items

1. **Athletic Council Report** – The final 2006-2007 budget numbers are not resolved yet and the Athletic Council has not met to hear the final numbers, nor have they been in a position to approve the budget for 2007-2008.

John Kras motioned to move the Athletic Council Report permanently to the agenda of the October FSEC meeting for the December Faculty Senate meeting. Pat Lambert seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2. **Calendar Committee Report** – Michelle Larson reported the actions taken by the Calendar Committee as well as proposed calendars for two upcoming academic years. The main change is that the fall break was implemented last year, and the fallout has been an imbalance in the number of Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes in Fall Semester. The committee discussed the fact that in the Spring Semester, we hold Monday class schedule on the Tuesday after President's Day to help with that imbalance. The same type of procedure is being proposed for Fall Semester where we will hold a Friday class schedule on the Thursday before fall break. The proposal is to revise next year's academic calendar 2008-2009.

Dallas Holmes motioned to place this report on the Action Items agenda of the September 10, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. Bryon Burnham seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of Committee Appointments and Nomination of Additional Member of the Committee on Committees** – Will Popendorf submitted for approval the Committee on Committees' recommendations for Senate appointments on Senate committees and university committees that include Senate representatives.

John Kras motioned to accept Item #1 of this report on the Consent Agenda and Items #2-4 on the Action Items agenda of the September 10, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting with a few minor recommended changes. Daren Cornforth seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. **Conflict of Interest** – Doug Ramsey presented a request he received over the summer asking the Senate to review how the conflict of interest policy reads. The particular request involves faculty requiring students to buy their own published textbooks and how much in royalties the faculty member makes on the sale of those books.

Pat Lambert motioned to move this item to the New Business agenda of the September 10, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting as a possible charge to BFW to review. Flora Shrode seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2. John Kras proposed a new business item to request the appointment of an ad-hoc committee to look at Faculty Code language and identify potential issues and bring them to the Senate. These would be items that are not issue-driven and intended for PRPC. The committee should only last a year but may be extended at the request of the Senate. It was decided that Doug Ramsey will contact Britt Fagerheim, chair of the PRPC committee, and ask for their thoughts on a new 'Faculty Code Review Committee'. This item will be placed on the next FSEC meeting as an Old Business item.

Adjournment

Ed Heath motioned to adjourn the meeting. Flora Shrode seconded the motion; meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.