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Faculty Senate Minutes, October 1, 2007

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

Approval of Minutes from September 10, 2007

Diane Calloway-Graham motioned to approve the minutes of September 10, 2007. Sylvia Read seconded the motion. Will Popendorf suggested some minor changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements – Doug Ramsey

1. Doug Ramsey asked for the roster to be passed around for roll call.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht

1. The President stated that we have our largest headcount enrollment in the history of the university. We have finished our last two visits in the campaign loop. The next few weeks will be a time to bring closure to what we have been working on. Justin Hamilton will be doing a scholarship event for us during a soft opening of his new restaurant in Park City.
2. President Albrecht provided an overview of the upcoming legislative session and some of the things we'll be giving some attention to. We are concerned with the legislative fiscal audit that deals with lapsing funds in the vacant position pool. We are putting together some responses on that and hope to bring a more detailed report to the Faculty Senate once the data is gathered. Our initial primary focus on the capital project side will be the new building that goes on the quad where the old library was – a USU and Department of Agriculture partnership project. Other items are compensation and retention. There will be a new teacher initiative that will have a positive effect. The Engineering initiative will be good to go for another year. USU has been invited to list a series of institutional priorities that focus on the student side of the operation – concepts include student retention; improving our graduation rates; and programs to increase women and minority enrollment in the STEM programs.
3. We had our NCAA site visit for accreditation last week and President Albrecht complimented anyone who was involved in that. The board wants to take what they learned at Utah State out to other institutions, to use USU as a model program. In addition, the Northwest accreditation visit is coming up later this month.
4. Provost Coward reported a record number of student enrollment with Fall enrollment at 24,421 - the largest in history. Of those, 58% are here at Logan and 42% are at regional campuses. Enrollment here at Logan is stable - up 1% - but our enrollments at regional campuses are up 8%. At Logan, we had the third largest first-time freshman class in the last decade. The number of out-of-state first-time students in the freshmen class here in Logan is 20% higher than last year and 69% higher than it was just two years ago. The enrollment of minority first-time freshman is up 25% compared to last year. In addition, the number of international students more than doubled from last year. Graduate student enrollment is down slightly-1.6%, while undergraduate student enrollment overall is up 3.6%.

Information Items

1. **Central Committee and Promotion and Tenure Code Questions**
[Code 405.7.2(5) and Code 405.8.3(5)]
Flora Shrode presented some questions requested by a former PRPC member:
 - a) Should the names of all Promotion and Tenure Central Committee members be made public?
 - b) Should the code specify that all members need to be present as is the case for tenure advisory committees, Code 405.7.1(1)?
 - c) Should the Central Committee produce a brief written summary of their recommendation for the record, for the candidate, and the file?

Dallas Holmes motioned to move these items forward to PRPC individually for their consideration and rewrite and that they be resubmitted back to the Faculty Senate. Mike Parent seconded the motion. Will Pependorf suggested that PRPC bring back more than one proposal for the Senate's consideration.

Charlie Huenemann motioned to amend the motion so that PRPC also reviews language which would describe the composition of this committee to include at least one rep from each college. Sylvia Read seconded the motion to amend. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

Vince Wickwar motioned to call for a vote on the original motion. By show of hands, 23 were in favor; 29 opposed.

Will Pependorf motioned to establish an ad hoc committee to investigate these issues and present a series of recommendations to the Senate before sending them to PRPC. An amendment was proposed to bring forward along with these recommendations what the current practice is. Pat Lambert seconded the motion. Before the vote was called, including the next section, 'Code Suggestions/Questions Regarding Tenure and Promotion: Timing of Letters to Candidates and Meetings with Provost', was accepted by Rudy Tarpley, Parliamentarian. The motion passed with one opposition.

Roberts Rules of Orders states that the Senate President, in any way he deems appropriate, can appoint the committee. Doug Ramsey asked for volunteers and appointed Sandi Gillam, Charlie Huenemann, Betty Rozum, Chris Corcoran, and Flora Shrode. Flora will serve as chair.

Consent Agenda Items

1. Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility (403.1 and 403.3.1)
2. Faculty Senate Supernumerary (402.3.1)
3. Senate Standing Committees (402.12.1(2)(b))
4. Parking Committee Report
5. Graduate Council Report

Mike Parent motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. John Kras seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Key Issues and Action Items

1. **Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee Election** – Will Pependorf announced and conducted the election for the list of three Senate members to be presented to President Albrecht for selecting one to serve on the Honorary Degrees and Awards Screening Committee.
2. **Resolution in Support of the President's Signing of the Climate Commitment** – Jenny Norton presented the proposed resolution.

Charlie Huenemann motioned to accept the resolution as written. Pat Lambert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

3. **Reasons for Non-Renewal** – Britt Fagerheim explained that PRPC was charged to look at policy 407.7.2 code language but needed clarification on what part of the language they were to review. Pat Lambert explained that the idea was to make it parallel to decisions for tenure and promotion. What the language permits is for department heads, without reference to the P&T committee, to make a decision of non-renewal. The request was to make the language parallel to the promotion and tenure process in order for a non-renewal to take place, including that the department head confer with the P&T committee before making a decision.

Dean Frazer added that the intent of the code as it is currently written is so that the decision for non-renewal during a probationary period can be an administrative decision.

Ed Heath motioned to charge PRPC to review the language and appropriately clarify this decision-making process. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

New Business

1. **Faculty Forum** – Doug Ramsey announced that the Faculty Forum will be in place of the regular Senate meeting in November on the 5th. The Forum is intended to bring faculty together to discuss issues that the Faculty Senate should look at. Attendance includes all faculty and administrators as invited. The Faculty Forum Executive Committee will meet on October 17 to prepare the agenda. Requests for items to be included can be forwarded to the representatives on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Adjournment

Doran Baker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Douglas Jackson-Smith seconded the motion; the meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

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