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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, August 25, 2008

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**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2008 3:00 P.M.
Champ Hall Conference Room**

Present: Mike Parent (Chair), Steve Burr, Maria Cordero, Renee Galligher, Jake Gunther, Jerry Goodspeed, Ed Heath, Kelly Kopp, John Kras, Glen McEvoy, Will Pependorf (CoC), Flora Shrode, Vincent Wickwar, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Bloxham (Assistant)

Mike Parent called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

John Kras moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2008. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Announcements – Mike Parent

1. The next meeting of the Senate will be Monday, September 8, 2008.
2. The next Brown Bag Lunch with the President will be Monday, September 8, 12:00 noon, Champ Hall Conference Room, Main #136.

University Business

1. President Albrecht updated the committee on the College of Eastern Utah and Utah State University merger question. House Bill 3 required the appointment of a study committee over the summer to look at issues relating to a merger. Four areas were identified as needing more discussion and committees were formed and met. The outcome of the committee discussion is that the merger effort will be suspended because there are too many issues on CEU's side that need work.

In March it was announced that the University surpassed the \$200M fundraising goal. On August 6th we announced the campaign goal has been doubled to \$400M and the date of the campaign extended to 1 July 2012. Current contributions are \$230 million. The second phase of the campaign will focus on growing the endowment.

We will have three ground breakings over the next few weeks for new buildings. The buildings will be the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education Building, USTAR, and Vernal campus facilities.

Council of Presidents met last Tuesday to look at the system budget. A decision was made to take a more aggressive approach on compensation issues. We will see an impact from the weak economic conditions and are not expecting an infusion of new dollars to the University. A stronger focus will be put on need based aid for students.

2. Provost Coward brought forward 3 issues for future discussion:
 - **Accreditation** – Last years' accreditation process included some recommendations for reviews that need our attention, two of which are issues that the Faculty Senate will need to address. First is the pre-tenure faculty mentoring/evaluation process. It was recommended that the policy be reviewed for consistency and revision if needed. This

issue was presented to our Accreditors by our faculty. Salary distribution is another area that the Faculty Senate will need to begin to discuss.

- **Salary Compression and Inversion** – Salary compression and inversion is another issue that the Provost will bring before the Senate for discussion in the future.
- **Nationally Competitive Salaries** – A presentation was made at the department heads retreat about nationally competitive salaries. There may be others on campus that would be interested in the analysis that was done to make sure they all have this information as they recruit faculty to their departments. Mike Parent requested that the Provost make the presentation at an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.
- **Enrollment** – Questions were asked of the Provost about enrollment. Enrollment appears to be up again but by a small 1-2% margin. Growth will be in our regional campuses. Final numbers will be available at the next meeting. Incoming new students is about 2,675 for the Logan campus.

Executive Committee Orientation

The purpose of the Executive Committee is to set the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. We have sufficient discussion about issues as they come forward to understand if there is more information needed or if they can be placed on the Senate agenda. It can be placed on the agenda in one of two ways. First, as a consent item. If the information is primarily informative and not going to require action to amend the “code”, the report will be part of the consent agenda. If an issue requires a “code” change, it will come forward as New Business for the Senate and will be discussed there. If it is passed by the Senate, the issue is sent to the PRPC Committee where the consensus of the Senate is converted to “code” language and is brought back as a first reading giving the Senate the opportunity to pass the item or send it back for further revision.

Announcements

1. **Senate Calendar** – The senate calendar is on the web and in the New Senator Handbook. It shows meeting dates and committees scheduled to provide reports. It has been distributed to all committee chairs.
2. **Vacancies** –The Committee on Committees maintain committee rosters and make recommendations on filling vacancies for committee positions. Scott DeBerard will be on sabbatical and will not be able to chair the Committee on Committees. Will Popendorf has agreed to serve as the interim chair as a non-voting ex-officio member.
3. **Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee** – Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee was to be chaired by Steven Harris. He accepted an appointment at New Mexico State on August 12. Vance Grange is beginning a second term on the committee and was elected to serve as chair. Vance agreed to accept, however, because a number of people were not in attendance at the meeting he will serve in an interim position or as chair depending on the will of the committee when they can meet as a complete body.
4. **Faculty Evaluation Committee** – Faculty Evaluation committee failed to elect a new chair and the current chair's term is ending. Will Popendorf will contact those responsible for electing representatives to this committee as several vacancies exist
5. **Interim Appointments** – Several senators moved to confirm Will Popendorf as the ex-officio non-voting chair of the Committee on Committees and for Vance Grange to serve as chair of the Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee. Byron Burnham seconded. Motion carried.

Information Items

1. **Code Review Committee** – John Kras reported on the Code Review Committee. They began meeting in January of last year and have completed sections 401, 402, 403, 404, 405. They will

continue to meet and complete sections 406, 407 and the relevant parts of section 202. They will present the first list of recommendations to the Executive Committee at the October meeting.

2. **PRPC** – There is no report from the PRPC at this time. Two issues were sent to the PRPC following the last Faculty Senate meeting. The committee has discussed the issues but has not prepared proposed code revision language. It is expected that Scott Cannon will have the report by the next Executive committee meeting.
3. **Graduate Council Report** – Byron Burnham presented the Graduate Council Report. The greatest achievement last year was instituting health insurance coverage for graduate assistants. As of last week there were about 700 students in the system. The student pays about \$233 for twelve months of health insurance coverage the department pays the rest. About 100 more degrees were awarded last year over the year before. The numbers of applications appear to have decreased; however, the amount of dollars received from applications is up. John Kras moved to include this report as a consent agenda item for the next Senate meeting, it was seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

1. The next meeting of the Faculty Executive Committee is September 22.
2. Questions were raised regarding a code change and the Graduate Council representative to the EPC. This person is elected by the Graduate Council so that communication is better because some issues may arise at the EPC that deal with graduate education that the Graduate Council may not be aware of.
3. A motion was made to include an action item on the Faculty Senate agenda to list the nominees to committees from Committee on Committees. Motion was seconded and passed.
4. Clarification was made on the New Faculty Teaching Academy and who is eligible to participate. Only new PhDs taking their first teaching position are eligible.
5. Steve Burr commented about the 6th north crosswalk and asked if the City of Logan had addressed the safety issues and painted the crosswalk. As of last week it had not been painted. Mike Parent will call Chief Meacham and make him aware that the issue has come up again.

Adjournment

Mike Parent asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Joan Kleinke, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary, 797-1776