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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2009 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Mike Parent (Chair), Steve Burr, Maria Cordero, Renee Galliher, Jake Gunther, Jerry Goodspeed, Ed Heath, John Kras, Glen McEvoy, Nathan Straight, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Bloxham (Assistant)
Guests: Scott Cannon, Larry Smith.

Mike Parent called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Byron Burnham moved to approve the minutes of December 8, 2008. Motion was seconded by Steve Burr and the motion passed unanimously.

University Business

President Albrecht informed the Executive committee that USU has been successful in getting a strong endorsement from the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. They have endorsed our agenda as we enter this legislative session. They have also endorsed state bonding in order to leverage other types of funds, and have listed the USU Business Building as one of the projects that should be considered for bonding.

USU has also submitted a list of projects to the Governor for the stimulus package. These include the Agricultural Science Building, the Emma Eccles Jones Building, the Equine Education Building, the Bingham Building and other various projects.

Ronda Menlove is taking the lead in creating a higher education caucus. The caucus will meet every Wednesday throughout the session. This caucus is reaching out and engaging community leaders and business leaders in support of higher education funding.

President Albrecht stated that there is a fine line between being transparent in creating a sense of open communication and not creating fear and panic as we discuss the budget issues. The legislative session begins next week and nothing will be certain until the middle of February.

Announcements

- The next Brown Bag Lunch with the President and Provost is Tuesday February 10, 2009.
- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet again on Tuesday February 17, 2009 in the College of HASS Conference Room, Old Main Room 338.
- The Level 1 Code Changes have been completed. The information will remain on the Faculty Senate website.
- A draft of an announcement that can be appended to syllabi regarding information for students if they feel discriminated against will be presented at the next Faculty Senate Executive meeting.
- ASUSU will present a student resolution on tobacco use at the Senate meeting in March.

Information Items

Bookstore Report. Betty Rozum was unable to attend. Mike Parent spoke in her stead. The bookstore would like to survey the faculty. This issue will be added to the Senate Executive Committee agenda next fall.

John Kras moved to add the Bookstore Report to the Consent Agenda, seconded by Steve Burr. Motion carried.

Old Business

PRPC, Grievance Policies and Procedures Policy 407.1.2 (calendar change – for second reading). Moved and seconded to place this on the Senate Agenda as a key issues and action item. Motion carried.

New Business

PRPC, Grievance Policies and Procedures – Policy 407.1.2 (Language about availability of committee) [first reading]. Scott Canon represented PRPC. The Faculty Senate asked PRPC to modify the last paragraph of the change so that the calendar may be suspended for a reasonable time if key participants are not available. PRPC advises that the words summer or holidays remain in the wording or that other specific language be included to be clear and less open to interpretation, possibly causing grievances spawning other grievances.

Provost Coward questioned the intent of the wording “key participants are not available”, does this require face to face availability? Scott Cannon’s interpretation is that participants could be available by any means; phone, letter, video conference etc. The Executive Committee wishes to have availability defined. It is believed the real concern of the Senate is availability not time.

PRPC will rewrite the alternatives to include more specific language about what availability means and possible examples of means of communication and have it ready to present to the Faculty Senate at the next meeting.

Steve Burr moved to place the item on the key issue and action items as a first reading, second by John Kras. Motion carried.

EPC Items. Larry Smith presented the recent EPC actions. The Nutrition and Food Science department requested a name change to the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science. New abbreviation would be NDFS.

EPC approved a request from the College of Natural Resources for the departments of Environment and Society and Watershed Science to jointly offer the Geography degree.

The General Education sub-committee is methodically looking at the CIL requirement. A survey is being prepared to distribute to faculty on the current state of the CIL exam. The committee will have other action items very soon.

There was a question about the Sustainability Committee and its work. The committee is not yet ready to make recommendations on how to incorporate sustainability into the General Education system. They are trying to get a sense of what is currently being done. Several ideas are on the table and being discussed. Feedback is coming from sub-committees of the General Education Subcommittee, and the possibility of surveying the faculty to find out if sustainability is a part of their courses.

John Kras moved to accept the EPC Report as part of the Consent Agenda, second by Jerry Goodspeed. Motion carried.

Adjournment

John Kras made a motion to adjourn, second by Glenn McEvoy. The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

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