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**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2009 3:00 P.M.
HASS Conference Room Main 338**

Present: Mike Parent (Chair), Byron Burnham, Steve Burr, Maria Cordero, Renee Galligher, Jake Gunther, Jerry Goodspeed, Ed Heath, Kelly Kopp, John Kras, Glenn McEvoy, Flora Shrode, Vincent Wickwar, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Marilyn Bloxham (Assistant)

Mike Parent called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

John Kras moved to approve the minutes of January 20, 2009. Motion was seconded by Byron Burnham and the motion passed unanimously.

University Business

President Albrecht informed the Executive Committee that the budget numbers were formally released by the legislature today. As was feared, there is an additional loss of \$171 million (3.5%) to the 2009 FY budget. The legislature has two options moving ahead. One is to bring the appropriations chairs back together and give them a third 2009 budget reduction, or second, they can try to backfill and cover this shortfall with other funds, including rainy day funds. It is unclear at this point which action they will decide to take. The hope is the cut can be covered with one time money and the University will not have to make additional cuts to the 2009 budget. The projected additional loss to the 2010 budget is \$320 million, which falls in the expected 15% budget cut range. Combined with the cuts that occurred in the legislative special session this amounts to a 19% budget reduction for 2010. There is hope that one time money may be used to backfill this budget reduction by additional bonding or possibly the national stimulus package.

Provost Coward updated the Committee on the search for VP of Student Services. The search committee has forwarded four names to the President and he will decide which of the candidates are brought in for a campus visit sometime after spring break. The candidates were all very high caliber and would bring some true diversity to the University. Steve Burr asked what campus units should tell search candidates about the budget and furlough situation. Provost Coward encouraged openness and honesty in describing the cuts that have taken place thus far and that we do not know what the next few fiscal years will bring.

Announcements

- The next Brown Bag Lunch with the President and Provost will be Monday, March 16, 2009.
- The next FSEC meeting is Monday, March 23, 2009 in Champ Hall
- Timetable for nominating the Senate President Elect. An announcement will be made in the March Senate meeting. Policy 402.10.3 states that nominations for Senate President Elect shall occur from the floor in the April Senate meeting.

Information Items

FEC Course Evaluation Committee Update – Greg Podgorski. The committee has investigated use of commercially available forms and found the significant issue may be cost. The estimated price tag for three of the most popular forms would be about \$50,000 per year versus the current cost of \$5,000 - \$6,000 per year. Craig Petersen surveyed our peer institutions and our in state sister institutions to see how they conducted evaluations. None of those surveyed used a standardized form and there is enormous variation in the processes.

The committee also looked at our existing evaluation form and Jameson Fargo of the Psychology Department ran an evaluation of its effectiveness. His findings indicated that our form does a good job of measuring and is internally consistent (reliable).

The committee proposed three options. First, do nothing and continue with the current evaluation as is. Second, trim the current form around the edges. Do not completely start from scratch, but reduce the length and options. Finally, build a new form with the expertise we have on campus.

Discussion among the Executive Committee focused on what the current evaluation numbers really mean, who uses the data collected and why, what we are trying to do with the evaluation, and is the cost of a national form really too high. Provost Coward stated that in relation to the amount of money the University spends on salaries the cost of a national form is nominal. Mike Parent suggested that the FEC invite Provost Coward and Byron Burnham to their next meeting to discuss these issues further.

Research Council Report – Brent Miller Jeff Broadbent presented the report for VP Miller. The report presented to the Executive Committee was an abbreviated version; the entire report will be posted on the web. <http://research.usu.edu/files/uploads/FY2008%20VPR%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Provost Coward questioned the information on the dashboard regarding number of proposals submitted and number of grants awarded in the report. They will look into it and make any corrections to the dashboard if necessary.

John Kras moved to accept the report and place it on the consent agenda, second by Steve Burr. Motion carried.

Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee Report – Vance Grange Vance Grange was not in attendance to present the report.

John Kras moved to accept the report and place it on the consent agenda, second by Jerry Goodspeed, motion carried.

Academic Freedom and Tenure Report Mike Parent attended the last meeting of the committee. Diane Calloway-Graham, the committee chair, is on sabbatical. It was decided that for the remainder of the year there would be consecutive people assigned to deal with any grievance issues that may arise.

John Kras moved to accept the report and place it on the consent agenda, second by Glenn McEvoy, motion carried.

ASUSU Tobacco Policy – Jeremy Jennings At the request of President Albrecht, Jeremy Jennings presented the revised Tobacco Policy. Last year the student body passed a resolution supporting a total ban of tobacco products on campus. The policy was redirected to the administrative team for a more conservative approach. The revised policy has been presented to the CEA and PEA with overwhelming support. PEA expressed some concerns about the enforcement of the policy, but ASUSU has been assured enforcement will not be a problem.

John Kras moved to place this on the Faculty Senate agenda as an information item, second by Steve Burr. Motion carried.

ASUSU Excused Absence Policy – Jeremy Jennings Jeremy Jennings presented a revision to the excused absence policy which would allow absences for students who are interviewing for graduate school, professional school or internships and a second provision for a University Ambassador program which requires student trips for recruiting purposes.

President Albrecht would like input from the Faculty Senate before he acts on it. Ed Heath moved to include this as an information item on the Faculty Senate agenda, Renee Galligher second, motion carried.

Old Business

PRPC Items – Scott Cannon FSEC reviewed a second reading section 407.1.2 changes, with an additional clarification made that suspension of the calendar may be made by the chair of the grievance committee. Provost Coward noted that not all committees have chairs and this could cause a conflict within 407.4. Dropping the words “by the chair” would again make it confusing and unclear.

Discussion continued and the options of crafting new wording and moving forward, or a complete redrafting were discussed. Mike Parent suggested that when it comes up as a second reading in the senate that these issues could be brought up and a substitute motion to maintain consistency within the code could be made.

The Code Review committee submitted Section 202 for review by PRPC. There are three mechanisms in place to make changes to the Faculty Code. The Review committee questioned if it could be narrowed to two mechanisms. PRPC was of the opinion to preserve the system as it is. There are several checks and balances in place to prevent abuse of the system. PRPC drafted wording for clarification to current policy and procedures. This item can go forward as a consent item. Section 202 as proposed to be amended will be posted on the Faculty Senate web site for review by the members of the Senate.

John Kras moved to include this as a consent agenda item, second by Jerry Goodspeed, motion carried.

New Business

EPC Items – Larry Smith Larry Smith discussed three EPC items. Two of these items came out of the Academic Standards Committee. There is an issue with international students coming to Utah State for classes and struggling with the language. Utah State minimally acceptable undergraduate test scores are relatively low when compared with peer institutions. The Academic Standards Committee proposed and EPC passed the motion that the minimal undergraduate test scores be raised. It is felt that this will be a good thing for the students.

The second action is changing one of the requirements for the Associates of Science degree. Up until now the requirements have been that students take 60 credits, but not specified as to what course content it must be. New language was drafted to state that the requirement is the completion of 60 credits “of which 20 credits must be in the major requirements of an approved bachelor’s degree or at the 2000 level or above”. This language provides focus for the students and better use of their time as they pursue the Associate of Science degree.

The General Education Subcommittee has implemented a new process allowing for accommodations to be made for a small number of students each year that for various reasons cannot pass the QI or QL requirements due to a genuine disability.

John Kras moved to accept the EPC report as a consent agenda item, second by Jerry Goodspeed, motion carried.

FDDE Code Change Proposal – Ronda Callister Renee Galliher presented the proposal which is a follow up to a code change that Ronda initiated a few years ago. The proposal addresses a concern that faculty members felt they were very well supported in the transition from assistant professor to associate professor the support for advancing to full professor was less well defined. The code stipulates that committees are to be formed by the third year post tenure, but there was no requirement for them to meet. This proposed code change would require the promotion committee to be formed and have an informational meeting with the associate professor no later than 18 months post tenure and develop a plan for advancement to full professor.

Feedback is that candidates are requesting that committees be formed but are having a hard time getting them to meet. Discussion followed about the number of committees on which full professors are required to serve. While it is difficult to get committees to meet due to already heavy workloads, discussion and comments indicate the Executive committee feels this clearly is not the best solution to the problem. The question is really how best to support associate professors.

John Kras suggested the proposal go back to the FDDE Committee to try to find a better solution.

Classroom Racial/Cultural Discrimination Issues – Mike Parent Mike Parent introduced Christina Mason who has worked on the Classroom Racial/Cultural Discrimination report with members of the FSEC. Christina expressed concerns about who will be teaching the subject in Connections and the Teaching Academy. John Kras assured her that the text and outside reading all deal with diversity issues and students participate in several reverse role activities. The deeper issues are helping students realize the different perspectives of students from all backgrounds.

Mike Parent asked if Provost Coward would accept the report and be willing to make this process happen. Provost Coward accepted the report and thanked them for the time and effort that has gone into this issue. It is felt that taking the five steps outlined in the report would be a giant step forward for diversity issues on campus.

Adjournment

Mike Parent asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

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