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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2009 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Mike Parent (Chair), Byron Burnham, Steve Burr, Maria Cordero, Renee Galliher, Jerry Goodspeed, Ed Heath, Kelly Kopp, John Kras, Glenn McEvoy, Betty Rozum (for Flora Shrode), Nathan Straight, Vince Wickwar, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio). Guests: Ronda Callister, Scott Cannon, Sydney Peterson, Russ Price, Larry Smith.

Mike Parent called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of February 17, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

University Business

President Albrecht gave an update on the responses to proposed code changes. The excused absence policy will be presented to the Trustees. The tobacco policy was unanimously supported as far as a ban on sales and advertising and will be sent to the Trustees for approval. The second part of the proposal, a ban on smoking on the TSC patio, was not approved pending the investigation of additional options.

The 2010 budget reduction will be a 9% cut on the base. The furlough was successful in providing the one-time money to cover the cuts made in January. Approximately 3.5 million dollars was generated from the five day furlough. However, the furlough will not be looked at as an option in 2010. A question was raised as to how conservative the legislature has been in projecting the budget for 2009-2010. If revenue numbers continue to be below estimates the legislature will cover the deficit and not pass on any further cuts to institutions for the 2009 fiscal year. The legislature believes the ongoing 17% reduction provides a base below the worst possible scenario and they have been conservative in protecting the rainy day funds.

Other legislative issues that impact USU are the passage of a bill that includes a Legacy component. This allows children of USU alumni wherever they live to attend Utah State at in-state tuition rates. Also, a bill was passed granting presidents temporary authority to move money across lines. This will give institutions more flexibility as they deal with budget cuts.

Provost Coward informed the committee that 36 sabbaticals were approved for next year. Tier II money increases for Promotion and Tenure raises will be at the same level as the last three years. There will be approximately \$500,000 for the third payment on the electronic journals. There were 1,336,161 hits on the electronic journals last year. If the athletic referendum passes the Tier II increase will probably be 4-5%, if the referendum does not pass then there will be an increase of approximately 6-7%.

There were 258 applicants for the voluntary separation program, and about 100 of them are still under consideration. The estimated savings will be in the 2.5 million dollar range for the individual colleges. A ten day extension was made available for employees who were subject to a reduction in force previously announced.

Undergraduate applications are up about 13%, and the university is conservatively estimating a 1-2% increase in enrollment. The impact of 1% enrollment increase and 4% Tier II increase makes about a \$550,000 difference in dollars that are generated, and a 6% increase yields about a \$700,000 increase. The impact is significant because the university receives the entire new student's tuition not just Tier II money.

Announcements

- The next Brown Bag Lunch with the President will be Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 12:00 noon.
- Chris Corcoran has communicated with the colleges about the elections needed for representatives for Faculty Senate and Senate committees. The Senate has been reapportioned, one college gained one representative and one college lost one representative. Science changed from 9 to 8 and RCDE changed from 1 to 2.

Information Items

PRPC Annual Report – Scott Cannon. The committee presented a printed summary of activity for the last year. There is one matter still in process, Section 406, but the committee hopes to have it completed by the end of the year.

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

Honorary Degrees and Awards – Sydney Peterson. The Trustees approved, at their last meeting, the Commencement speaker and Honorary Degree and Awards recipients. Senator Robert F. Bennett will be the Commencement Speaker and will also receive an honorary degree. Marc C. Bingham, Huey D. Johnson, Bonnie D. Parkin, Bertrand D. Tanner are the Honorary Degree recipients. Faculty Senators are encouraged to attend commencement and be supportive of Senator Bennett. Public Relations and Marketing is working on a press release to make an official announcement.

Vince Wickwar moved to place this item on the agenda as an information item. Second by Byron Burnham, motion carried.

Human Research Protection Program, Policy Changes – Russ Price. The accreditation body for accreditation of the Human Research Program was on campus recently. Recommendations on policy changes were made. A paragraph was added to Policy 307 indicating that any conflict of interest that exists that may impact human research would be ruled on by the Conflict of Interest Committee before going to the Institutional Review Board for a final determination. Other changes included clarification that no official of the university can approve research that has been prohibited by the IRB, and placing into policy other items that are current practice.

Ed Heath moved to place the item on the consent agenda, second by John Kraus. Motion carried.

Old Business

PRPC Items – Scott Cannon. PRPC is not yet prepared to present recommendations to Section 406 Level 2 changes.

FDDE Promotion Advisory Committee Code Change – Ronda Callister. The primary purpose of the code change is to require a meeting of the Promotion Committee. The code change came about because of the ADVANCE program. Faculty indicated that USU does a good job of helping people through the tenure process, but not much is done to help faculty through the promotion process. It is currently difficult to get the committees to meet because of their heavy work load. Following lengthy discussion and debate it was decided that this proposal may not be the best answer to the problem.

Ed Heath moved to send the issue back to FDDE to identify and address other possible alternatives, John Kras seconded and the motion carried.

New Business

EPC Items – Larry Smith. EPC approved a request from Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering to offer a Master of Science degree. There was no meeting of the Academic Standards Subcommittee. The General Education subcommittee is still working on the CIL exam issue. They are examining the collected data and hope to have more to report on that at the next meeting. In November the Commissioner of Higher Education held a General Education conference for the State of Utah. There was a workshop specifically on learning outcomes on the General Education curriculum at Utah colleges and universities. All colleges and universities were asked to consider their learning outcomes and general education curriculum. Utah State already has Citizen Scholar objectives. The General Education Subcommittee reviewed the objectives and offered some revisions.

John Kras moved to place this report on the consent agenda, Jerry Goodspeed seconded, motion carried.

Adjournment

Mike Parent asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

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