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## USU Faculty Senate Minutes, April 27, 2009

Utah State University

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**USU FACULTY SENATE  
MINUTES  
APRIL 27, 2009  
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Mike Parent called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Byron Burnham moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2009. David Paper seconded, motion carried.

**Announcements**

**Roll Call.** Senators are reminded to sign the roll at each meeting. Alternates are asked to initial next to the Senators name they are substituting for as well as sign their name on the alternate list.

**Amendments to Code.** Faculty Senate Amendments to the Code are on the Human Resources webpage under Policies.

**Motion Tracking.** The motion tracking of Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate from 2003-04 to present will be posted on the Faculty Senate webpage.

**Senate President-Elect.** Vince Wickwar has been elected as Senate President-Elect.

**University Business - President Albrecht**

President Albrecht encouraged senators to attend Commencement on Friday and Saturday. The Budget reduction committee will present a final report this week, after which the President will review it and then make more public their recommendations and the response. The difficult budget issues have been addressed with the help and support of the entire university community however, there are many challenges still ahead.

The Jon M. Huntsman School of Business recently recognized the Huntsman scholars and the Armenian students. Mr. Huntsman announced that he will fund two additional chairs in the Huntsman school and will double the number of scholarships provided to Armenian students. It is hoped that the current enrollment of Armenians will grow from the current 13 to 26 by Fall Semester and possibly as many as 52 the next year.

Steve Burr asked if the commencement speeches will be more closely reviewed. Provost Coward replied that the expectations of the student speakers had been made clearer this year.

**Consent Agenda Items**

Motion to approve Consent Agenda was made and seconded. Motion carried.

## **Information Items**

**FSEC Response – Classroom Issue.** The issue was in regards to a student presentation and involved some racially focused materials that were inappropriate. It also raised an important question on the minds of students that were in that class, about what should be done under circumstances like this. There were meetings with the students and others talking through a process of how to diffuse information about how to deal with these kinds of issues. Members of the FSEC made a recommendation to the Provost as a means of possible implementation of solutions for such sensitive issues. It was placed on the agenda to inform senators of what had been done as some of the material may be seen in the fall after moving thru administrative channels.

Flora Shrode offered the following motion as a sense of the senate, second by John Kras:

“April 27, 2009

It is the sense of the Faculty Senate that we renew our commitment to maintain an environment in which we honor diverse viewpoints and backgrounds among students and colleagues. We recommend taking explicit actions that reflect this commitment, beginning with suggestions described in a memo that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee submitted to the Provost in February of 2009.”

Motion carried.

**Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities – Tenure Advisory Committees.** One of the eight recommendations of the accreditation visit in the fall of 2007 was that the university review for possible revision and for consistent implementation the pre-tenured faculty mentoring and evaluation policies. A committee has been formed that represents the academic units of the university that will look into the issue and make recommendations to the President if changes need to be made and if so what. A process must be in place to address the issue that was raised and to come to a conclusion and any solutions if needed.

**ADVANCE Report.** This is the last year ADVANCE will report to the senate. The two faculty code changes that ADVANCE sent forward, addressing non-discrimination and unwanted external reviewers have passed the Board of Trustees. The parental care giving Policy reached the top level of the approval process when it was decided due to the current budget crisis, that it was not the right time to add another faculty benefit. An agreement was reached with parking to provide parking passes for expectant and nursing mothers. ADVANCE has collected data on faculty in the Science and Engineering colleges. The FDDE committee will now expand data collection to all of the colleges. Ronda summarized some of the data collected presented in the agenda packet.

**Committee on Committees.** Chris Cocoran will be on sabbatical next year. Nick Flann will be the chair for the committee next year in his absence. Betty Rozum was asked to be on the committee to fill a vacancy last year and will continue on the committee for the coming year. An appointment will be made to fill the vacancy.

## **Key Issues and Action Items**

**PRPC Items – Section 407 1.2, 4.3, and 6.1 - Grievance Policies and Procedures, Suggested Revisions, Final Reading.** The Faculty Senate sent recommended changes to this section of code to the President. The content was accepted but the procedures raised some concerns. The administration returned this section to the Senate with suggestions that are true to the original intent of the senate and make the document more readable and easier to work with.

John Kras moved to accept the code change in 407, second by Ronda Callister. Motion carried.

**Section 406 Program Discontinuance, Financial Exigency and Financial Crisis – Level 2 Changes.** Most changes are not substantial and none of the changes impact the intent of the code. The Code Review Committee asked PRPC to define what is meant by the phrase “substantial risk to survival” in comment #6 406.6. PRPC recommends an additional sentence be added to the paragraph stating that “A substantial risk to survival is considered one where a substantial reduction occurs in (a) the ability to fulfill the mission of the academic unit, (b) the number of students served by the academic unit, or (c) the number and quality of proposed course offerings”.

David Paper moved to approve the changes as recommended. Jerry Goodspeed second. Motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

Senators whose terms are ending were thanked. Appreciation awards were presented to Past President John Kras and Senate President Mike Parent. President Elect Ed Heath was presented a gavel and sounding block by Mike Parent.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.