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**USU FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 24, 2009
Champ Hall**

Attendance: Ed Heath, Mike Parent, Byron Burnham, Steven Burr, Maria Cordero, Renee Galliher, Jerry Goodspeed, Kelly Kopp, Glen McEvoy, Nathan Straight, Flora Shrode, Darwin Sorenson, Vince Wickwar (excused), Stan Albrecht, Raymond Coward.

Ed Heath called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Byron Burnham moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2009. Mike Parent seconded, and the motion carried.

University Business - President Albrecht, Provost Coward

President Albrecht announced he will be giving a State of the University address September 15, 2009. The intent is to build on communication with regard to budget reductions and other issues. Some reorganization issues will also be addressed. President Albrecht assured the committee that any possible reorganization to the University will be guided by code and shared governance, and will not be driven by budget issues but rather to be better positioned to take advantage of opportunities in the future.

The economy is showing a few positive indicators, however the unemployment rate continues to climb and may do so in the near future. State funds are slightly below projections and no one is expecting a quick recovery. USU is anticipating another difficult financial year.

Provost Coward explained that during an administrative retreat held on May 20, twenty-six recommendations on reorganization were discussed and three viable possibilities came out of the meeting.

1. That the President engage the faculty of the Caine School of the Arts in a discussion about the possibility of becoming an independent college. There is the possibility of a significant development opportunity for a school of music that would make more sense if Utah State University had a college of the arts.
2. That the President engage the faculty of the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning department in a discussion about where they see their future and what it would look like if they were moved from the Caine School of the Arts to the College of Agriculture or the College of Natural Resources.
3. That a vocational and career education school possibly be developed due to the merger with the College of Eastern Utah and the vocational programs that are spread throughout Utah State University.

President Albrecht clarified to the Committee that the State Board of Regents passed a resolution that calls for a merger with the College of Eastern Utah with the Utah State University campus system. The process has begun on how to make the merger effective on the faculty side. There will be issues to be addressed concerning the faculty code because of the structure of CEU's faculty. Subcommittees will work on other areas such as finance and athletics. Revision of the Regents policy will also be necessary as well as needed legislative action. There is a February or March time frame for this, with implementation expected by July 1, 2010. The feeling of administration is that this merger will be a good thing for higher education in the State of Utah and USU is supportive of the merger. CEU will be different from the regional campuses in that it will maintain a community college mission and will be headed by a chancellor that will report directly to the President of USU.

The President also updated the Committee on various capital projects currently underway. There was a ribbon cutting for the new facility in Vernal two weeks ago. The Bingham building is progressing well and should be completed in few months. There is an open house in Tooele on September 14 for the new classroom building there. September 24th is the ribbon cutting for the two new building at the Water Lab. The USTAR and Emma Eccles Jones buildings are progressing. One major legislative issue this session will be to try to decouple the state from the federal funding for the Ag and ARS buildings. Assuming this is successful there will be a groundbreaking in May 2010 where the Merrill Library stood.

Provost Coward reminded the Committee a report is due to Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities on September 25, 2009 regarding the 8 recommendations they presented after their 2007 visit, and on October 26th, 27th we will have a single member of the accreditation agency on campus.

Announcements

The Faculty Senate Calendar and Member Roster were given to Committee members. There is not yet an Executive Committee member for the College of Science.

Brown Bag Lunch with the President and Provost is held monthly. Faculty Senate members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Rudy Tarpley has taken a job at New Mexico State leaving the Senate position of Parliamentarian vacant.

Information Items

School of Graduate Studies Report – Byron Burnham Byron presented some of the major achievements of the past year. There has been a continued effort to make the admission process as speedy as possible. They have also published a booklet *The Degree Completion Compass* that lays out timelines and requirements for all of the degrees that USU offers. The response to this booklet has been very positive.

Health insurance was offered to graduate students for the first time last year. This is a very positive step for recruiting efforts. The students pay approximately \$240 per year and coverage is similar to what is available to USU employees. The administrative part of the program is being moved to the Student Health and Wellness Center staff.

The School of Graduate Studies will represent USU at about a dozen grad fairs this fall, going as far east as Michigan. It is a cooperative effort with departments to staff these grad fairs.

Enrollments are down slightly. This is due in part to a change in the way numbers are reported. At one time all grad students whether matriculated or non-matriculated were counted. Only

matriculated students are included in the enrollment numbers now, eliminating students who are only taking a class periodically or professional educators who may take a graduate level class to qualify for a lane change for example.

Motion to accept the report and place on the Consent Agenda was made by Mike Parent and seconded by Jerry Goodspeed. Motion carried.

Section 401 – Composition and Authority of Faculty to PRPC – Ed Heath

Mike Parent moved that the level two changes in Section 401 of the Faculty Code be sent to PRPC and that they report back to FSEC at the next meeting. Seconded by Renee Galliher.

A question was raised about the comment regarding Federal Collaborators in Section 401.4.2 paragraph 3. It was requested that this not be changed. Ed Heath agreed to amend the comment.

Motion carried.

New Business

FSEC Member – Presidential Appointee Approval by Faculty Senate – Ed Heath

Mike Parent moved to accept Byron Burnham's continuing appointment to FSEC. Motion was seconded and carried.

Nominations for Honorary Degrees and Awards Screening Committee – Ed Heath

Faculty Senate is required by Trustees Policy to have 7 names to vote on for the Honorary Degrees and Awards Screening Committee members. The senate votes on and approves 3 nominees, then, the President chooses one of those.

The motion was made by Byron Burnham to nominate Ralph Whitesides, Jeff Smitten and Peter McNamara for the election process for the Honorary Degrees and Awards Screen Committee as an action item on the agenda, second by Glenn McEvoy. Motion carried.

Research Council Member Approval by Faculty Senate

Flora Shrode moved to present Vince Wickwar to the Faculty Senate for a confirming vote as a member of the Research Council. Second was made by Mike Parent and the motion carried. This will go forward on the Consent Agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm.