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## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, September 21, 2009

Utah State University

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## **FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 3:00 P.M.**

**Champ Hall Conference Room**

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**Present:** Ed Heath (Chair), Mike Parent (Past President), Vincent Wickwar (President Elect), Byron Burnham, Steve Burr, Renee Galliher, Kelly Kopp, Glen McEvoy, Flora Shrode, Darwin Sorensen, Nathan Straight (excused), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Bloxham (Assistant) **Guests:** Christie Fox, Lisa Leishman, Ronald Ryel, Larry Smith, Jill Thorngren,

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Byron Burnham motioned to approve the minutes of August 24, 2009. Motion was seconded by Mike Parent and the motion passed unanimously.

### **University Business – Provost Coward**

Provost Coward introduced and welcomed Dr. Jill Thorngren. Dr. Thorngren is an American Council on Education Fellow and will be working with the President for the upcoming year. She is the Associate Dean for the College of Education, Health and Human Development at Montana State University.

Enrollment numbers show that overall headcount is up about 7% for all campuses. We will have the highest total enrollment in the history of the university with 25,065 students. The undergraduate enrollment on the Logan campus was up 3.1%, regional campuses up 17.2%. Total FTE are up 4.5%, this is about 700 extra FTE's resulting in approximately \$2.5 million in unexpected tuition. This is the fourth year in a row the Logan campus will have an enrollment increase. Regional campus enrollment has increased from 5000 in 2004 to 10,000 in 2009. High school graduate numbers have been flat and declining. Growth is attributed to efforts made by the Admissions program for actively recruiting students who would have gone elsewhere for their education.

Negotiations on the merger with CEU continue. Progress is being made on basic but important issues such as: students will be receiving USU degrees, faculty will be USU faculty, employees will be USU employees, and students will be USU students. From this comes a number of other decisions that have been in dispute, for example, once they are USU degrees then it is appropriate that curricular issues come through the USU Faculty Senate. Committees are moving towards a Memorandum of Understanding that would be adopted by the Regents and then become the basis for legislative action. Several name changes have been suggested. USU has agreed to retain the traditional name of the College, but believes the future exists with Utah State, and has proposed the name be Utah State University - College of Eastern Utah. Faculty Senate reapportionment will also be an issue as the merger progresses.

### **Announcements – Ed Heath**

- The next Brown Bag Lunch with the President and Provost will be October 19<sup>th</sup> at noon in Champ Hall.
- Faculty Forum Planning Meeting will be held directly after FSEC October 19<sup>th</sup>
- FEC will report to the FSEC on October 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Information Items**

**EPC Annual Report – Larry Smith.** Noteworthy items from the last year include the restructuring of the John M. Huntsman School of Business, several name changes to departments and programs, and a major revision of the student code particularly section 6 which deals with student academic

integrity. As a result there will be a new online form called the Academic Integrity Violation Form (AIVF). This should streamline the reporting process for faculty who are concerned about students that may be violating academic standards. Vince Wickwar asked that the TOFEL scores be clarified; the scores in the report are undergraduate scores. There is a standalone minor for Climate Change & Energy, in the Plants, Soils, and Climate Department. It needs to be made clear that this minor is available to people in any department. Mike Parent moved to accept the report and place it on the consent agenda, Byron Burnham seconded and the motion carried.

**Honors Program Report – Christie Fox.** The Honors Program has been restructured creating a new Honors Research Fund. Faculty are no longer paid for the mentorship of students in contracts. Some of the money that used to go to faculty is now being funneled directly to students. Students may apply for Research Funds, up to \$400. The Honors Program has implemented a new application process; students may now apply while still in high school. The Honors Program reports a freshman class of 150, which met their enrollment goal. Scholarship awards related to the Honors Program include a Rhodes Finalist, two Goldwater Scholars, one Honorable Mention, and a White House intern. Renee Galliher moved to accept the report and place it on the consent agenda, Vince Wickwar seconded, motion carried.

**Libraries Advisory Council Report – Ronald RyeI.** An institutional repository is being developed to house all institutional academic works that would be accessible not only to the University but would be accessible worldwide. The repository will be an easy place to reference because it will be a permanent source for the information. The libraries have also focused on standardization and communication of copyright issues relating to publications. This is a complicated issue because publishers have different rules. Improving access to remote campuses and standardizing this access is also a priority. A question was raised about journal subscriptions and if the committee has any oversight regarding them. Ronald said that half of the committee's time is spent on this issue. A key component is that you not only have to have current access to online journals but historical access as well. It is a constant challenge to fund the most important journals and identify which ones should not be renewed. Mike Parent moved to accept the report and place it on the consent agenda, Glenn McEvoy seconded, motion carried.

**Parking Committee Report – Lisa Leishman.** Resolutions that were approved by the committee included a resolution to change the designation of the lot at the LDS Church on 7<sup>th</sup> North and 12<sup>th</sup> East from free, no permit required, to a student blue lot. This helps to offset the loss of blue stalls due to the new tennis courts. Resolution 9.2 increased the cost of a motorcycle permit from \$20 to \$40 for students; faculty and staff who have a green permit can still get a motorcycle permit for \$20 and will receive a sticker that allows them to park the motorcycle in their regular faculty/staff lot. A resolution that was not approved would have defined legal parking areas for bicycles and included the ability to cite bicycles. It would be difficult to identify the owners of the bicycles and enforcement such a policy. Bicycle registration is not required on campus. Comments were made that there needs to be additional parking stalls for bicycles. The hours of enforcement in the gold lot on the west side of the business building were changed. The gates are now open at 5:00 pm but there are stalls reserved for faculty and staff. The resolution to extend the hours of the Big Blue Terrace was not approved. The Parking Committee is advisory to the administration, and all resolutions and actions must be approved by the administration. Vince Wickwar asked what is being done to improve traffic flow near the performance hall during performances. Lisa indicated that they are working with the College of HASS to try to develop a better solution for parking for their patrons. The Employee of the Month parking program for the College of HASS is a benefit for HASS employees. The College pays an annual fee of \$500 for this privilege. The selected employee can park in that designated space, regardless of their own parking pass restrictions. Steve Burr asked how the number of disability parking stalls is determined. Federal law mandates that there is one disabled stall for every 25 regular stalls up to 1000, after which it is determined by formula. It is determined per parking lot, not campus wide. Mike Parent moved to accept and place the report on the consent agenda, Steve Burr seconded, motion carried.

## **New Business**

**EPC – Larry Smith.** Neither the General Education Subcommittee or the Academic Standards Subcommittee has met yet. The Curriculum subcommittee has had 44 requests for minor changes in course actions. Last year the committee handled 650 such requests. A major action that occurred was the approval of a proposal to offer an Associate of Pre-Engineering degree. Renee Galliher moved to accept the report and place it on the consent agenda, Vince Wickwar seconded, motion carried.

**Committee on Committees – Ed Heath.** There are still a few senators that need to be appointed to committees by the colleges. Ed visited with some of the colleges in person to encourage the appointments. PRPC has not met yet and the AFT committee is still lacking a member, but progress is being made. It is expected to have the vacancies filled by the next Faculty Senate meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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