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USU Faculty Senate Minutes, October 5, 2009

Utah State University

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Ed Heath called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes
Darwin Sorensen moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2009. Motion was seconded and carried.

Announcements
1. Roll Call. Senators are reminded to sign the roll at each meeting. Alternates should sign by their own name as well as initial the name of the person they are attending for.

2. Committee Assignments. As of October 5, all the committee positions have been filled and the current list is posted on the Faculty Senate website.

University Business – Raymond Coward.
President Albrecht was unable to attend and asked that Provost Coward address the Faculty Senate on several issues. The proposed merger with CEU is continuing to go forward. Conversations are ongoing regarding a Memorandum of Understanding, which will be the basis for legislative action this winter with the merger occurring July 1, 2010. A merger such as this is a long ongoing process with numerous issues to address. It will likely take several years to fully integrate the CEU system into the USU system. There will be code issues for the Faculty Senate to address. CEU has several faculty members that are called Career and Technical Education Faculty who may not have the same credentials and significantly different job responsibilities than most USU faculty, which may result in significant alterations of the USU Faculty Code, or a new category of faculty ranks. There will be rank and tenure issues to resolve as well.

The President spoke about three proposals in his State of the University address in September. The first was exploring the possibility of the creation of a Caine College of the Arts. The President has met with the Arts faculty and will continue to receive their feedback. He will meet with the Humanities and Social Science faculty who would remain in a separate college, to discuss what he sees as the vision for a Humanities and Social Science oriented college. The LAEP faculty is meeting to discuss where on the campus they should be housed. All possibilities are being considered. President Albrecht will soon form a committee to evaluate the creation of a school that would bring together all the career and technical education oriented programs currently offered at USU, this would provide a logical home for the career and technical education programs offered by CEU as well.

Enrollment figures for the Utah System of Higher Education will be announced today. There will be large enrollment increases at Salt Lake Community College, Dixie College and significant but smaller increases at SUU; the smallest increases will be at U of U and USU. At USU there are significant
enrollment differences between our Logan campus and RCDE campuses. The Logan campus grew approximately 3.5%. When considering all USU campuses, USU will report the largest total headcount enrollment in the University’s history. We will top 25,000 headcount students for the first time. USU has been able to do this without compromising our admission standards; this freshman class will be the second best academically prepared class that the University has ever admitted. One out of every five of our new students comes from out of state. This constitutes first time college students at 19.7%, 18.6% transfer students, and 20.1% of graduate students coming from out of state. We now have enrolled four strong classes in a row.

Information Items

1. Faculty Senate Calendar Revision – Faculty Evaluation Committee reporting date. FEC has been added to the FSEC and Faculty Senate reporting agenda.

2. Faculty Forum. Faculty Forum is November 2, 2009 in the Eccles Conference Center 3:00-4:30 p.m. Executive committee members need to be talking to faculty members to determine what items should be discussed at Faculty Forum. Items that have been discussed in the past have been budget items, health insurance issues, salary compression and inversion, family benefits and child care. Please email your ideas to Ed Heath or Joan Kleinke. The agenda will be set by the FSEC after their regular meeting in two weeks.

Consent Agenda Items

Motion to approve by Vince Wickwar and seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 3:25 p.m.