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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

OCTOBER 19, 2009 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Ed Heath (President), Byron Burnham, Steve Burr, Maria Cordero, Renee Galliher, Jake Gunther, Jerry Goodspeed, Kelly Kopp (excused), Glenn McEvoy, Mike Parent, Flora Shrode, Darwin Sorensen, Nathan Straight, Dave Wallace, Vincent Wickwar, Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Bloxham (Assistant)
Guests: Ken White, Greg Podgorski, Ed Reeve, Jill Thorngren

Ed Heath called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Parent moved to approve the minutes of September 21, 2009. Motion was seconded by Vince Wickwar and the motion passed unanimously.

University Business

Provost Coward spoke with the committee about the CEU faculty coming into the USU system. He asked the committee if they believe it is reasonable to create a new category of faculty for the technical and vocational faculty of CEU. These faculty members are highly skilled and well credentialed professionals who do not fit into the USU traditional faculty categories. A handful of faculty on campus would be eligible for the new category as well. It is believed that people on campus have the expertise to write and review code for a new category with input from current CEU faculty.

CEU has about 40-50 people who are tenured. Because they are tenured from a sister institution in the same system of higher education, we are obligated to accept their tenure; however, the bigger issue may be the rank they are designated. Currently all CEU faculty are instructors. There are multiple options being considered for determining rank. Any new hires from July 1, 2010 would be hired under USU tenure rules and role statements. Academic departments will be evaluating tenure applications from academic faculty at CEU.

Announcements

The next Brown Bag lunch with the President will be Thursday, November 12 at 12:00 noon in Champ Hall.

Information Items

Athletic Council Report – Ken White. Progress is being made with the proof of academic improvement plans for both football and basketball. Football has now met the requirements and this will be reflected in the next annual report. Much of the council's focus has been on budgetary issues. The overall deficit is \$848,172. A long-term payment plan is being created to resolve the deficit. A student referendum was passed in the spring that will increase student fees for athletics. Athletics is now conducting both online and face-to-face exit interviews with student athletes. USU Athletics lead the WAC in every academic category. Our graduation rate is still very high compared to other institutions. Athletics has had several personnel changes and facilities updates. The current budget will look somewhat different than previous years because of changes in the reporting mechanism. USU was awarded the prestigious Excellence in Management Cup. Vance Grange asked for clarification on some budget lines and cohort definitions.

Mike Parent moved to accept the report and place on the consent agenda, Jerry Goodspeed seconded and the motion carried.

Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC) Report – Greg Podgorski. The committee has researched commercially available national rating instruments. They range in cost from \$30,000 to \$120,000 per year. Jamison Fargo ran an analysis of the current Faculty Evaluation Instrument. His findings concluded that it is

internally reliable but measures only a few things and it is not a validated instrument. Some individuals on the committee are interested in comparing results with other universities. FEC will be piloting the IDEA rating instrument Fall 2009 semester. The IDEA faculty/course rating form is a nationally-normed instrument. A concern was raised that perhaps the pilot instrument is too complex and may require a huge amount of training for faculty. However, there is a great deal of flexibility built into it as faculty will be able to focus on areas of their teaching that are most important to them. A statement was made that there is nothing in the faculty code that requires course evaluations. They have been the result of administrative decisions and the senate has had input via the Faculty Evaluation Committee (see Section 402). USU peer institutions vary dramatically on course evaluation methods and none of them use a national instrument.

Mike Parent moved and Ed Reeve seconded to place the report on the agenda as an information item. Motion carried.

New Business

EPC Report – Larry Smith. Ed Reeve reported for Larry Smith. EPC approved 112 requests in the curriculum subcommittee; however not all were new courses. The Academic Standards Subcommittee has implemented a preferred email address; students are not required to use the USU email system for university business. FERPA training is ongoing as is the CIL review.

Mike Parent moved to place the EPC Items on the consent agenda, Jerry Goodspeed seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Ed Heath asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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