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## USU Faculty Senate Minutes, March 29, 2010

Utah State University

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**USU FACULTY SENATE  
MINUTES  
MARCH 29, 2010  
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Ed Heath called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2010 was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Announcements**

**Roll Call.** Senators are reminded to sign the roll.

**University Business – President Albrecht and Provost Coward.**

There were four major issues coming out of the legislative session. Budget reductions were about as anticipated with a 3% ongoing backfill. Over the next year or two we should be able to eliminate the recycling program that was put in place after HB 331 passed. The information from the legislative session also removes the need for further discussion of furloughs for the upcoming year.

Approval for the bonding bill that allows USU to move forward with the Agriculture building was received. Excavation will begin May 10, 2010.

The CEU bill was passed in the Senate 29-0 and in the House 64-1. A measure was also approved for an allocation of one-time monies (\$500,000) to help with the cost of the merger. A ceremonial signing will take place in both Price and Blanding at the end of April. The chancellor search is underway and two candidates have been identified. The candidates will be making campus visits in April before the end of the interview process. An announcement of the outcome will be made as soon as possible.

Also, coming out of the legislative session is a bill that requires disclosure of international gifts of \$50,000 or more. Both the House and Senate also passed a bill that requires the State Board of Regents to approve an Electronics Engineering Degree at Weber State. Approval of this program had previously been denied by the Regents.

The Regents will approve the Tier I & II tuition increase on Thursday resulting in a 7.5% increase.

Provost Coward updated the Senate on current Dean searches. The search for the Dean of HASS and the new College of the Arts should conclude this week. Selections will be announced very soon after the decision is made. A candidate for the Education Dean is on campus for a second visit. The Uintah basin Dean's search is on hold. Steve Hawkes will continue to serve as interim Dean while the process is being re-evaluated.

President Albrecht also announced that the commencement speaker this year will be Danny Glover.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

Mike Parent moved to approve the Consent Agenda items, Doug Jackson-Smith seconded. Motion carried.

### **Information Items**

**Faculty, Student and Administrative Data Report – Michael Torrens.** Michael Torrens was asked by the Provost to prepare an analysis of USU vs. National Trends of faculty and administrative positions. Nationally from 1997-2007, tenured and tenure-track faculty are down 24%. Contingent faculty, instructors, and graduate students are up 13% and comprise the vast majority of instructors (75%). Non-instructional staff is up 24% and administrators are up 41%. For the years 1999-2009 USU's tenured and tenure-track faculty grew by 1.5%, non tenure-track instructors are up slightly to 21% and there is little change in the number of graduate student instructors. Non-instructional staff is down 1.5% and administrators are down 34%. Some of those positions, particularly the administrator positions, were re-classified, but overall USU faculty, staff and administrative composition and trends have not mirrored national trends. USU continues to offer an exceptional quality of education with a high percentage of courses taught by tenured and tenure-track faculty.

**Honorary Degrees & Awards Report – Doug Jackson-Smith.** In addition to Danny Glover there are four other people who will receive honorary degrees.

- Don Quayle: Is the founding president of National Public Radio, is a Logan native and USU graduate. He has been instrumental in working with the Fusion project on campus.
- Scott Simplot: Is the Chairman of the Board for JR Simplot and is acknowledged for his accomplishments in business and his work in support of research in livestock cloning.
- Paula Swaner: Is an internationally recognized psychotherapist, and philanthropist in the area of environmental education, most notably the Swaner Foundation and Swaner Nature Preserve which USU has recently acquired.
- Dominique Welch: Was the Publisher of Salt Lake Tribune for many years and had a distinguished career in Utah media and politics.

**Committee on Committees Election Results – Betty Rozum.** The election results were included in the agenda packet. One change to note is that Natural Resources has elected Todd Crowl. The HASS positions are unable to be filled until the college reorganization is complete.

**Ad Hoc Committee Report on Pre-Tenure Mentoring & Evaluation – Mike Parent.** NWCCU expressed the concerns of faculty to the University administration about the perceived conflict of interest between being an evaluator and being a mentor as they serve on tenure advisory committees. The proposed change to language in the code and the names of ad hoc committee's members are included in the report in the agenda packet. If the language change is approved it will go to PRPC for review and then be brought back to Senate for a second reading.

A motion was made by Scott Cannon to approve the code change proposed by the ad hoc committee. A second was received and the motion passed.

### **Key Issues and Action Items**

#### **PRPC Code Changes – John Engler.**

- **401.1 – 401.5 Composition and Authority of Faculty (Second Reading).** The most prominent change made to these sections was to the phrase "as determined by professional colleagues" which was changed to "as determined by appropriate administrator". Other changes related language clarification or to capitalization errors.

A motion to approve the second reading was made by Mike Parent, a second was received and the motion passed.

- **401.6 – 401.11 Composition and Authority of Faculty (First Reading).** Changes in this section are mainly minor text edits.

Motion to accept the first reading was made by Scott Cannon and seconded by Vince Wickwar. Motion passed.

- **402.1 – 402.3 The Faculty Senate and Its Committees (First Reading).** In several locations there was a reference to the title of Director. The committee recommends it be changed to VP. A question was raised if VP stands for Vice President or Vice Provost. John will take it back to PRPC and have it spelled out.

Questions were raised to the committee about senator's attendance at Faculty Senate meetings. PRPC recommends a few modifications to the section. In 3.4(4,5) new language was inserted to vacate senate seats of senators who would be unavailable for more than half of the year or senators who missed meetings without arranging for an alternate. In (6) a senate seat could be vacated if 4 meetings were missed even when an alternate is in attendance.

A motion to accept the first reading was made by Scott Cannon, second by Renee Galliher. Motion passed.

**Nominations for Faculty Senate President Elect – Betty Rozum.** The code states that nominations for the Faculty Senate President Elect be held at the April meeting and elections be held prior to the May meeting. Any sitting senator who has completed one term or more is eligible to serve unless it is the final year of their term and they have not been re-elected.

Flora Shrode nominated Glenn McEvoy. Vince Wickwar seconded. Scott Cannon moved nominations cease, seconded by Kelly Kopp. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 4:00 p.m.