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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2010 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Ed Heath (Chair), Byron Burnham, Steve Burr (excused, Helga Van Miegroet, substitute), Maria Cordero, Jennifer Duncan, John Engler, Renee Galliher, Vance Grange, Jerry Goodspeed, Kelly Kopp, Michelle Larson, Glenn McEvoy, Jordan Olsen, Mike Parent (Past-President), Betty Rozum, Flora Shrode, Larry Smith, Darwin Sorensen, Nathan Straight, Dave Wallace, Vincent Wickwar, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio, excused), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.)

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

Approval of Minutes

Mike Parent moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2010. Motion was seconded and the passed unanimously.

University Business - President Albrecht

President Albrecht is meeting with all of the colleges to discuss the legislative session and the budget cut outcomes. The budget cut was reduced by the legislature. They are going forward with ongoing money which is an encouraging sign that they expect more economic recovery. The President is presenting a plan that would eliminate the structural deficit payments (recycling funds) by 2012 and eliminate the need for furloughs in the next year. This will position the University to move forward in a very positive way. The legislature also provided some transition money to help with the CEU merger.

The President also highlighted a few other issues. There will be a 1.5% tier I tuition increase this year. This money will be used to offset the anticipated increase in health benefits for employees. The groundbreaking for the new College of Agriculture building is scheduled for May 4. The CEU Chancellor search is under-way, interviews are being conducted in Blanding and Price. The Emma Eccles Jones College of Education Dean search has been put on hold for the time being. There will likely be an interim appointment made for a short period of time. The Uintah Basin Dean's search has been stopped as well. There is some controversy about the choice of Danny Glover as the commencement speaker, but administration is viewing the choice as an opportunity to educate.

Announcements – Ed Heath

The next Brown Bag Lunch with the President will be Monday April 19th at noon in Champ Hall.

Information Items

ASUSU Initiative – Jordan Olsen. ASUSU proposed a change in the class schedule to allow for a convocation hour; time set aside twice a week to allow opportunities for speakers and other educational advancement. The time arranged for in the proposal is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 – 1:15 pm. ASUSU has collaborated with the Provost's Office, Registrar's Office and the VP of Student Services in arranging the necessary schedule changes. ASUSU would like to bring in a speaker about twice a month and then on Tuesdays, allow time for the Deans to have college and department convocations or other departmental meetings. Concerns about changing of class times and the effect on students' schedules as well as concerns about classroom availability were raised. The consensus was that the scheduling around the adoption of a convocation hour will ultimately have to be solved at the departmental level.

Motion to include this as an information item on the Faculty Senate agenda was made by Mike Parent, seconded by Glenn McEvoy. Motion passed.

Calendar Committee Report – Michelle Larsen. Michelle Larsen presented the Calendar for the academic year 2013. Mike Parent noted that there are 73 instructional days in Spring Semester and only 70 instructional days in Fall. Michelle explained that 70 is the minimum to meet accreditation standards, and that Fall break cuts into the

number of days for Fall Semester. The Summer schedule was discussed with questions raised about whether it should be more standardized or keep the three 4-week sessions.

Mike Parent moved to place this item on the consent agenda, Jerry Goodspeed seconded. Motion passed.

FDDE Annual Report – Jennifer Duncan. Darwin Sorensen questioned what “national availability” means as it is referred to in the report. Jennifer clarified that it is the number of people coming to market in a discipline.

Mike Parent moved to place this item on the consent agenda, Glenn McEvoy seconded. Motion passed.

Committee on Committees Annual Report – Betty Rozum.

Vince Wickwar moved to place this item on the consent agenda, Flora Shrode seconded. Motion passed.

Faculty Evaluation Committee Report on Course Evaluations Pilot Study – Greg Podgorski. The FEC committee conducted pilot testing of 43 courses, representing the 7 different colleges and RCDE. Courses of different levels, sizes and methods of delivery were selected for the pilot test. When the results were returned, several focus groups were formed to solicit feedback and a survey was also conducted. The diagnostic form was generally viewed favorably with regard to the information provided to faculty. Students and departments both felt the form was too long. They also did not like the lack of the two open-ended questions we currently have on our evaluations. The committee recommends the adoption of the IDEA Center Short Form of Student Ratings of Faculty Instruction with the open-ended questions added to it. They also encourage the use of the diagnostic form at the request of the faculty members who are developing their teaching or who would like to improve their teaching. The committee also recommended a switch to an online administration, outside of class. Departments could also develop and include additional questions to the online form, thereby giving the more tailored information to the departments.

A motion to place this on the agenda as an action item was made by Nathan Straight and seconded by Byron Burnham. Motion passed.

BFW Report – Vance Grange. Budget and Faculty Welfare committee addressed two issues at their last meeting. The first was a recommendation from PRPC about Term Faculty Members asking if the BFW committee wanted to address the issue. It was decided that the BFW committee could not give it adequate time and attention. The committee agrees with PRPC that the Faculty Senate should form an ad-hoc committee to address Term Faculty Roles and the code regarding Term Faculty Roles. They recommend that a member of BFW be included on the ad-hoc committee as well as other representatives of other Faculty Senate committees as appropriate and administration members as well.

The second issue addressed by the committee was medical coverage for disabled former employees. The committee feels that the issue was not well presented or well researched. A reduction of such benefits might be beneficial as a cost saving measure, but intermediate measures should be considered before implementation of the policy recommendation. Alternative coverage for disabled former employees should be carefully investigated and explained. Some means should also be provided for employee group representatives to study, discuss and understand the ramifications before implementation these policies.

Mike Parent explained that USU offers a better benefit package because faculty and other employees in the past took increases to benefits in lieu of salary increases. Mike moved that the discussion about the medical coverage for disabled former employees be included on the agenda as an information item, second by Darwin Sorensen. Motion passed.

New Business

EPC Items – Larry Smith. The April meeting of the EPC is the last meeting of the committee for the academic year. The Curriculum Sub-committee heard 23 requests for course actions that were approved. Ed Reeve was elected as the chair of the Curriculum Sub-committee. There were a few General Education course approvals, in the General Education Sub-committee. They have also worked on the CIL Exam issue, but have not reached the point of action yet. A motion was approved to move the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning to the College of Agriculture.

A motion to place this report on the consent agenda was made by Byron Burnham and seconded by Jerry Goodspeed. Motion passed.

Committee on Committees Election – Betty Rozum. One more committee on committee's person needs to be elected as well as a female representative to the athletic counsel. Faculty Senate has to nominate a representative to the Graduate Counsel. There is a list of people who are willing to serve.

Renee Galliher moved to place this on the agenda as an action item, Vince Wickwar seconded. Motion passed.

PRPC Items – John Engler.

Section 401.6 - 401.11 (second reading). There were no recommendations for changes from the Senate.

Motion to include as an action item on the agenda was made by Mike Parent, seconded by Vince Wickwar. Motion passed.

Section 402.1 - 402.3 (second reading). One recommendation was made from the Senate to write out VP as Vice President, and that change was made.

Motion to include as an action item on the agenda was made by Mike Parent and seconded by Vince Wickwar. Motion passed.

Section 405.6.2(1) (second reading). The purpose of these changes is to clarify what it is that the tenure advisory committee will produce in terms of feedback for the faculty members. Mike Parent commented that this is a very complex issue and changes the language substantially. Lengthy discussion was held on the mentoring process and the expectations of the committee to assist and/or advocate for the faculty member.

No motion was made so the original language will go as an action item on the agenda for a second reading.

CEU Apportionment - Ed Heath. Motion to bring this forward as an action item was made by Mike Parent, seconded by Glen McEvoy. Motion passed.

Proposed changes in AFT Committee – Ed Heath. Ed addressed the issue of expanding the committee to lessen the burden on all committee members. Section 402.12.3 allows any member of Faculty Senate to serve on the AFT committees as well as college level appointments for grievances. Enlarging the actual membership of the AFT committee would require a code change. Ed will present this information to the new chair of AFT.

Adjournment

Ed Heath asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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