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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 3:00 P.M.
Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Vincent Wickwar (Chair), Steve Burr, Byron Burnham, Renee Galliher, Scott Henrie, Peter McNamara (substitute CHaSS), Glenn McEvoy, Nick Morrison, Bob Pack (substitute Engineering), Flora Shrode, Nathan Straight, Dave Wallace, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Ed Heath (Past President), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Guests: Lisa Leishman/James Nye, James Morales, John Mortensen, Bob Parson, Ed Reeve, Amber Summers-Graham.

Vincent Wickwar called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of Aug 30, 2010 was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – Vince Wickwar

The next Brown Bag Lunch will be October 13, 12:00 pm in Champ Hall.

The Faculty Forum Planning Meeting will be October 18, following the FSEC meeting.

University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Coward.

Overall enrollment continues to increase. USU will have the largest total enrollment over the University's 122 year history. New graduate programs and professional degrees are drawing new students to the RCDE campuses as well. The student body continues to grow more diverse. Six and a half percent of all students are from minority groups. Provost Coward offered an explanation for the growth; the excellence of the product offered at USU. Changes to House Bill 331 have helped increase the out-of-state enrollment.

Three leadership changes were announced last week. Vice Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Byron Burnham will be retiring July 2011. With this vacancy, President Albrecht said the university will review the possibility of merging the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies with the duties of the Vice President for Research. Also stepping down is Vice President for Research Brent Miller. He will be taking a sabbatical leave July 2011. His position will be filled following a national search. The Vice President for Strategic Ventures and Economic Development, Ned Weinshenker, is changing assignments in January of 2011 to become Executive Director and Technology Commercialization Advisor for USU's Innovation Campus.

A new office of Vice President for Commercialization and Regional Development has been created with Rob Behunin named to the position. Becoming effective in January, Behunin will coordinate all the university's commercialization activities. In addition, a USTAR executive committee, chaired by Provost Raymond Coward, has been formed to oversee all seven USU USTAR teams under three main categories: bioinnovations, earth and space innovations, and energy innovations. Also created is a new facilities management team, chaired by Dean Scott Hinton. They will have the major responsibility for equipment purchases and space assignments for the new USTAR building.

Provost Coward asked for an agenda item for the next Faculty Senate meeting regarding the creation of a Washington-Utah Cooperative Veterinary Medical Educational Program in partnership with Washington State University, leading to the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). The new program has been going through the appropriate processes and the Governor is supportive of including it in his new budget. It is necessary for the Faculty Senate to act on this item at the October meeting in order to present it to the Board of Regents for approval and inclusion in the Governors budget for next year. The program would be contingent on receipts of new money for its funding.

Ed Heath made a motion to place the issue on the Faculty Senate agenda as a consent item. Renee Galliher seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

Education Policies Committee Report – Larry Smith. Ed Reeve presented the EPC report in Larry Smith's absence. A motion to place the report on the consent agenda was made and a second was received. The motion passed unanimously.

Honors Program Report – Christie Fox. Amber Summers-Graham presented the report in Christie Fox's absence. The Honors program has moved away from recruiting a large freshman class and requiring applications before the semester begins. The hope is greater retention in the program. Thirty-four students graduated over the year and many students were active in research activities. USU had two Goldwater Scholars and one Goldwater Honorable mention this year. Three students received recognition in the annual Robbins Awards.

A motion to place the report on the consent agenda was made by Nick Morrison and seconded by Flora Shrode. The motion passed unanimously.

Library Advisory Council Report – Flora Shrode. The council is looking for a new chair and members from various colleges. Librarians are trying to reach out and raise awareness of fair use of copyright materials in the classrooms.

Glenn McEvoy moved to place the report on the consent agenda, with a second from Renee Galliher. The motion passed unanimously.

Parking Committee Report – Lisa Leishman. The committee discussed changing the Orange lot east of Industrial Science with the student lot east of the Big Blue Terrace. The motion passed in the committee, however, after further discussion with administration, faculty and students a decision was made to put the change on hold. Also discussed was making the Big Blue Terrace a 24 hour operation. This did not pass at the committee level. There is now a waiting list for the new Aggie Terrace lot. Signs have been posted restricting skateboarding in the Aggie Terrace. Parking rates will increase 4% per year until 2012.

A motion to place this report on the consent agenda was made by Nick Morrison, and seconded by Glenn McEvoy. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

PRPC Section 402. – 402.9 – Bob Parson. Changes were made for consistency with wording and organizational structure. Section 402.6.4 was deleted from the code and the suggestion made that it be included in the Faculty Senate Handbook as a guideline.

Ed Heath made a motion to place this item on the agenda as an action item. The motion was seconded by Glenn McEvoy and passed unanimously.

Summer Enrollment Committee Report – Raymond Coward & James Morales. The committee was formed for two reasons. First, to evaluate the low enrollments for the summer semesters and what might be done to increase them; and second, to discuss how to better utilize the resources and facilities on campus during the summer months. The committee has been active for approximately a year. The Provost and James Morales will meet with the BFW Committee and the EPC Committee for thorough discussions of this issue.

The Committee focused on the Logan Campus undergraduate enrollment only. The current schedule presents several problems for students who wish to take courses during the summer. Students find it hard to take courses in a streamlined fashion without overlapping courses and that comes with the challenges of not having a standardized bell time. The second factor is the financial pressure for students to work during the summer. Incentives to help them enroll in the summer might be worthwhile. The third factor had to do with the growth of online courses contributing to the reduction of on-campus enrollment. The fourth factor is that there is a lack of clarity regarding the proper mix of courses offered and the process of determining which courses are offered. The funding model for faculty salaries needs to be revised to add incentives for instructors to teach courses. The full report offers suggestions for each of these issues as well as out-of-the-box ideas to increase enrollment in other areas. President Albrecht would like changes implemented by summer 2011.

John Mortensen has proposed a four-week workshop session beginning in May, then a seven week session beginning in June and ending before the July 24th holiday. Classes would be held Monday – Thursday with 90-minute class times. Bell times would be enforced as they are in the fall and spring semesters.

Questions were raised about the economics of the enrollment problems (e.g., recent budget cuts have forced departments to make offerings online instead of face-to-face). Provost Coward agreed and pointed out that the committee has recommended that the funding model needs to be changed.

Lengthy discussion on several issues ensued. Questions were raised about the tuition discount given in the summer. But legislative leadership is concerned about the use of our facilities and the best use of the resources we have been given. This problem could be resolved with stronger recruitment efforts in several areas for new enrollments. Course offerings are plentiful but the current scheduling system makes it very difficult for students to put a class schedule together without overlap of courses or times. Regional campus and broadcast enrollments are increasing while Logan campus enrollments are declining. Regional campuses will continue to offer their current schedule, but for broadcast courses they would look at the model recommended in the proposal. The university needs to view course offerings more as a complete system rather than competing entities to expand the use of facilities and increase enrollments.

Ed Heath made a motion to place the report as an information item on the December agenda, Byron Burnham seconded and the motion passed.

Further discussion about the timeline for implementation followed. The possibility of only placing the proposed summer schedule changes on the October agenda was discussed. Concerns were raised about the need for other committees to see the report and have input before it is presented to the Senate. The report is not in final draft format and lacks the approval of other committees and the President. The only recommendation that is certain is the summer session schedule change to a 4 week and 7 week plan. The point was made that the Executive Committee can make the motion to place it on the agenda pending approval of the other various committees and it can be pulled off of the agenda if needed.

A motion to place the calendar issue on the October agenda as an information item, pending Calendar Committee approval, was made by Ed Heath and seconded by Glenn McEvoy, The motion passed.

Code Compliance Committee – Ed Heath. Section 401.4.2(1) addresses the responsibilities of lecturers and the level of courses they are allowed to teach.

Ed Heath asked the FSEC to send this section to PRPC to evaluate and clarify the language with the input of the Code Compliance Committee. Discussion followed about the possibility of a special senate meeting to discuss the issue as well as possibly forming an ad hoc committee to study it. Due to the lateness of the hour it was decided to postpone further discussion.

Adjournment

Vincent Wickwar asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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