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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 15, 2010 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Vincent Wickwar (Chair), Steve Burr (excused), Byron Burnham, Renee Galliher, Scott Henrie, Lyle Holmgren, Doug Jackson-Smith, Glenn McEvoy, Terry Messmer (substitute) Nick Morrison, Mike Parent (excused), Flora Shrode (excused), Nathan Straight, Blake Tullis, Dave Wallace, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio) (excused), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio) (excused), Ed Heath (Past President), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Bloxham (Assistant)

Guests: Noelle Call, David Hole, Larry Smith, Tyler Tolson

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

Approval of Minutes

Glenn McEvoy made a motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 2010. Motion was seconded by Doug Jackson-Smith and the motion passed unanimously.

University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Coward.

No University Business was presented as both the President and Provost are out of town.

Announcements

The next Brown Bag Lunch with the President will be Monday, December 6, 12:00 noon in Champ Hall.

Information Items

ASUSU Report – Tyler Tolson. ASUSU has held several successful events over the last year. Among them, the Aggie Blue Fall Student Leadership Conference was a tremendous success. They were able to raise participation in the event from about 120 to over 300 students. The increased attendance was made possible by the reallocation of interest revenue from one of the organization's accounts, by decreasing the student's cost to attend, and by increasing advertising efforts. ASUSU also participated in the Aggie Think, Care, Act campaign to promote social responsibility, and they held a Global Picnic to promote multi-culturalism.

A question was asked by an FSEC committee member about whether or not ASUSU leaders had made contact with the student body organizations at USU-CEU. There has been extensive contact between the two organizations but they have not developed any plans to integrate the organizations or activities.

Tyler was asked to give a brief overview of the plans for the new Student Recreation Center. They have been working closely with Vice President James Morales throughout the planning phase. Tyler explained, that the Taggart Student Center is really more of a Student Services Center than an activities center. The idea is to expand the definition to include recreation, focus on community building, combine fitness and sports recreation and include other activities that will be housed in one building. The new building would be called THE ARC, The Aggie Recreation and Community Center. Possible locations are the corner of the HPER field or the old Agricultural building. The old Ag building is in the heart of campus and provides easy access to the Eccles Conference Center and the Library. There will be an administrative move to transition current student fees to the new building and, without additional state funds, there would be an additional student fee of up to \$60 per semester. The hope is to have a ground breaking in the next year.

There was a motion made by Ed Heath to place this report on the Senate agenda as an information item. The motion was seconded by Byron Burnham and passed unanimously.

Retention and Student Success Report – Noelle Call. Glenn McEvoy asked why the number of students in SOAR is higher than the number of new students. Noelle explained there are several reasons for this. The number of students who participate in SOAR each year is higher than the number of students who are in the first time, full-time, degree seeking cohort because they have some students who complete SOAR who do not ultimately fall into this cohort. Some of the groups are:

- Students admitted as a transfer with less than 24 transfer credits. If these students do not have more than 24 post-high school credits when they begin at USU they are required to complete SOAR. These students are usually counted in the transfer cohort rather than the freshman cohort.
- Students who are attending a regional campus site, or who are admitted to the 2nd IPEDS (Integrated Secondary Education Data System) RCDE program are not required to complete SOAR. Some students, however, complete SOAR anyway. There are some students who, upon attending SOAR, elect to take all online courses or all RCDE courses, even though they are admitted to the main campus and plan to ultimately get their degree from the main campus.
- Some students who attend SOAR do not register for 12 credits so they are not full-time status.

Nationally women have a higher graduation rate than men but that is not the case in Utah. BYU has had a strong re-recruitment effort for women to come back and finish their degree programs. USU regional campuses are starting to look at this and are inviting students back who leave with more than 60 credits. The daycare at the Brigham City campus has helped to bring back and retain women students as well. Retention is an important issue and it was suggested that it may, in large part, hinge on faculty connecting with and caring about the students. The tracking of student cohorts is driven by national reporting standards based on national definitions of a cohort.

A motion to place this report on the Senate agenda as an information item was made by Glenn McEvoy; a second was received and the motion passed.

Evaluation of Teaching Excellence (Quality Instruction) – Raymond Coward. In the Provost's absence Vince Wickwar presented some background information on the issue. The need for this information item came out of the Faculty Forum when some RCDE and USU-CEU faculty expressed concerns about how they should be evaluated on research when most of their role statement emphasis was on teaching. Vince suggested that once the minutes for the Forum meeting are complete and the Provost has the opportunity to review those he will be able to address the questions that were raised. There was some discussion and then Ed Heath made a motion to place this as an information item on the Senate agenda; Doug Jackson-Smith seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business

EPC Items – Larry Smith. The committee approved several curriculum items. The Academic Standards sub-committee revised language on policies regarding senior citizen audits and dropping courses. Glenn McEvoy asked what is a bachelor degree in Global Communication, which is being offered in the Languages Department. Larry explained that it is an interdisciplinary degree with cultural focus, not only language, similar to International Studies.

A motion to place this item on the consent agenda was made by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Glenn McEvoy. Motion passed.

PRPC 402.10-402.13 The Faculty Senate and Its Committees – Bob Parson. Because PRPC did not have a full quorum at their last meeting, they could not bring this item forward at this meeting.

Proposed change to the description of Lecturer Ranks 401.4.2(1). The proposed change clarifies two points in the policy: that the defined course levels be consistent with the catalog and that higher level courses being taught by lecturers not be a standard procedure but should only occur under special circumstances and with faculty consultation. Colleges who do not have people to teach certain courses would be covered under the special circumstances wording in the policy. The proposal will have no change on USU-CEU practices.

Ed Heath moved to send the proposal to PRPC for review. Renee Galliher seconded and the motion passed.

Old Business

EPC Item – Explanation of new Incomplete Policy – Larry Smith. Larry invited David Hole, the chair of the Academic Standards sub-committee to explain the update on the Incomplete Policy that FSEC members had questions about at the last meeting. The policy as previously written allows undergraduate students one year after receiving an incomplete grade to complete the coursework. The only change recommended was the addition of words indicating that a majority of the course must be completed to justify giving an incomplete and that the student must be passing the class at that point. The policy is designed for extenuating circumstances. Determining what a majority of the course is will be up to the instructor. The changes would allow instructors more room to use their judgment. Students will need to be informed about this policy change.

Adjournment

Vincent Wickwar asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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