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## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, February 22, 2011

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**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2011 3:00 P.M.**  
**Champ Hall Conference Room**

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**Present:** Vincent Wickwar (Chair), Scott Bates (for Renee Galliher), Steve Burr, Byron Burnham, Doug Jackson-Smith, Glenn McEvoy, Pam Miller, Flora Shrode, Nathan Straight, Blake Tullis, Dave Wallace, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio) (excused), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Ed Heath (Past President), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Bloxham (Assistant) **Guests:** Rhonda Miller, Bob Parson, Larry Smith.

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Vincent Wickwar called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ed Heath made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2011. The motion was seconded by Byron Burnham and passed unanimously.

**Announcements**

The next Brown Bag Lunch with the President is March 23, 2011 at 12:00 pm in Champ Hall.

**University Business – Provost Coward.**

The budget numbers from the state legislature are due out later today. The feeling is optimistic and the 7% cuts will probably be backfilled. The search committee is meeting to review the pool of candidates for the Vice President for Research/Dean of the School of Graduate Studies position. Provost Coward believes there are some very attractive candidates. The search for the director of the Swaner Center is also moving forward. The Ecology Center position is currently in negotiations. Glenn McEvoy asked about the legislative bill regarding tenure for professors. It is scheduled to be heard on Friday, it is widely believed it will not get out of committee. President Albrecht is taking the position that losing tenure would put USU at a competitive disadvantage with our peer institutions elsewhere in the country. The president is taking an educational approach to dispel the misconceptions that many have about tenure.

**Information Items**

**Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee Annual Report – Rhonda Miller.** The committee has been focusing on getting more representation for health care benefits and has made remarkable progress with the implementation of the Benefits Advisory Committee. BFW has completed a survey of faculty regarding their opinions about USU's benefits and compensation in order to become aware of any other issues that faculty would like to have addressed.

**Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee Annual Report – Richard Jenson.** Richard Jenson was not in attendance at the meeting, but his report was in the agenda packet. (He was at the AFT monthly meeting!)

There was a motion made to place the BFW and AFT items on the consent agenda. The motion passed.

**BFW Survey – Doug Jackson-Smith.** A survey was conducted, referred to in BFW report, to provide systematic feedback from faculty on benefits and compensation. Seventy-five percent of tenured or tenure track faculty in the system replied, the exception was in RCDE which had a lower response rate, about 20%. Nathan Straight asked if the distribution of the survey was thorough and said that he would be willing to remind RCDE faculty, at their upcoming meeting,

that this survey is available to them. Doug believes the survey provided good feedback in several areas. In general faculty are very satisfied with the health care benefits and more than satisfied with the retirement benefits. Compensation is the area of immediate concern as is merit and salary compression. There were no questions on the survey regarding rank. The survey results will be posted on the Faculty Senate website when they are completed. Faculty will be notified of the results of this study via college-by-college distribution lists.

A motion to place this item on the Faculty Senate Agenda as Information Items was made by Steve Burr and seconded by Ed Heath. The motion passed.

### **New Business**

**EPC Items – Larry Smith.** There was no January meeting of the Academic Standards subcommittee. The General Education subcommittee had only a few actions. The Curriculum subcommittee reported three program proposals. First, a 12-credit certificate proposal in Design Thinking for Innovation which is interdisciplinary in nature, involving business and art students on a study abroad program in Europe. The second proposal considered was an 18-credit certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling. This would primarily be for professionals in related fields. Finally, HPER proposed a masters Plan B option for three specializations. All proposals were approved.

Glenn McEvoy moved to place the report on the consent agenda. Ed Heath seconded and the motion passed.

**PRPC Items – Bob Parson. Section 402.10 - 402.12 "The Faculty Senate and Its Committees (Second Reading).** Additional changes will be incorporated from the review of the ad hoc committee for this section.

A motion was made by Glenn McEvoy to place this item on the Faculty Senate Agenda as an action item. Doug Jackson-Smith seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Section 401.4.2 (1) – Proposed change to Lecturer Ranks.** The Code Compliance Committee suggested changes to this section and PRPC adjusted the language to read “collectively agree”. Provost Coward indicated that the Deans are concerned with that wording, and that “collectively agree” is too undefined and infers that everyone agrees rather than the authority resting with the department head. It is the responsibility of the department head to make teaching assignments. Bob clarified that the intent of the language was to imply that the department head and faculty would meet together not individually, and that it would preclude the removal of a full professor and replacing him or her with a lecturer. Byron Burnham suggested the section read, “in the case of graduate level courses...lecturers may by assignment teach courses 5000 and above after a full consultation between the department head and faculty”.

Bob will take the section back to PRPC for further word smithing and present it to either the Faculty Senate Executive Committee again or include it in the code modifications that the ad hoc committee will propose.

**Section 405.11.4(1) – Vince Wickwar.** Mike Parent made a motion at the previous Faculty Senate meeting to send this section back to PRPC through the Executive Committee with the following language, “external peer review (required of core faculty ranks only)” and that the last sentence be reconsidered. External letters are needed for research faculty but not for Federal Cooperators/Collaborators, even though they are given full rights of faculty members but do not have a USU role statement. After some discussion it was determined that the ad hoc committee will address this issue.

**One-Year Renewal of USU-CEU Faculty Senate Apportionment - Vince Wickwar.** Last year there was approval for the participation of USU-CEU faculty on the Faculty Senate, three to be members of the Senate with one of those members being a member of the Faculty Senate

Executive Committee. This approved motion was for a one-year period, but could be renewed if needed. As the faculty code has not yet been updated to include USU-CEU a one-year renewal is needed. In addition, it is proposed that a USU-CEU representative be elected to each of the Faculty Senate standing committees. The logic for this is the same as already followed for RCDE representatives.

A motion to put this on the agenda as an action item was made by Glenn McEvoy and seconded by Doug Jackson-Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

**How to proceed with code changes to integrate USU-CEU? - Vince Wickwar.** An ad hoc committee was formed, and has been meeting regularly since October to review the code for necessary changes to incorporate USU-CEU. The normal code change procedure would be to take the proposed changes to the PRPC committee. However, while PRPC has served us extremely well, it will be unable to process the volume of changes that are expected from this review in a timely manner, as evidenced by their still working on the changes proposed by the Kras committee three years ago. Taking several years would greatly exceed the time line within the charge made by President Albrecht. In addition, that time line is very important to our colleagues at USU-CEU. Vince is requesting that two special Faculty Senate meetings be held to discuss and review the proposed changes. Members of the ad hoc committee and PRPC will be invited to these meetings. They are scheduled for March 17, 5:00-6:30 in the CHaSS Deans Conference Room, Main 340 and March 18, 3:00-4:30 in Library 154. The reservations are such that discussion could continue well beyond the nominal adjournment time. Proposed changes, updated after these special meetings, would be presented for votes in the following, regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meetings.

A motion was made by Ed Heath and seconded by Steve Burr to place the adoption of the proposed schedule and additional meetings as an action item on the Faculty Senate Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

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