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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, March 21, 2011

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2011 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Vincent Wickwar (Chair), Scott Bates (for Renee Galliher), Steve Burr, Byron Burnham, Doug Jackson-Smith, Glenn McEvoy (President Elect), Pam Miller, Mike Parent, Flora Shrode, Nathan Straight, Dave Wallace, Ralph Whitesides, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Ed Heath (Past President), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Bloxham (Assistant) **Guests:** Susanne Janecke, Christopher Neale, Yolanda Flores Niemann, Robert Parson, Sydney Peterson.

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

Approval of Minutes

Ed Heath made a motion to approve the minutes of February 22, 2011. Motion was seconded by Glenn McEvoy and the motion passed unanimously.

University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Coward.

President Albrecht updated the Executive Committee on the budget reduction. There will be a 2% cut, of approximately \$3,100,000, to the overall budget. About \$2,100,000 of that cut is in E&G funds, with the remainder being cut from various budget lines. The cut produced by Senate Bill 6, which increased state employee health premiums, will be covered centrally with funds that were saved and set aside a few years ago. More details will be provided at a later date. The search for the Vice President of Research/Dean of the School of Graduate Studies is moving forward well. The committee has completed video conference interviews and will bring a narrowed selection of candidates to campus in April. Preparations for the President and Provost to have meetings at each college have been completed. They will make detailed presentations on the legislative session as well as Tier 1 and Tier 2 tuition. Faculty will have opportunities to ask questions.

Provost Coward informed the Executive Committee that on Monday March 28, the president of the IDEA Center, Dr. Bill Pallett, will be on campus to give an overview of the new teacher evaluation instrument and to answer questions from faculty about its use and data results. The meeting will be from 4:00 – 5:15 pm in Library 154 and will be broadcast to distance sites. Information on this meeting has been emailed to all faculty.

Announcements

The next Brown Bag Lunch with the President will be Wednesday March 23, 2011 in Champ Hall.

Information Items

PRPC Annual Report – Bob Parson. The PRPC Annual Report reviewed the creation, history, organization and purpose of the committee. The purpose of PRPC is to advise the Faculty Senate on section 400 of the University Policy, often called the Faculty Code, and to ensure that all issues relevant to faculty were being given proper consideration. While this can be carried out fairly quickly for small changes, when it comes to major changes, as has occurred in the past, it has taken several years to revise and implement code changes.

Honorary Degrees and Awards Report – Sydney Peterson. There will be five recipients of honorary degrees this year. Mike Dmitrich, Karen Haight Huntsman, Syng-il Hyun, C.Hardy Redd, and John Wilkerson. John Wilkerson will also be the Commencement Speaker for Spring 2011.

Mike Parent made a motion to place both reports on the Faculty Senate Consent Agenda and Ed Heath seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

EPC Items – Larry Smith. No report this month.

Calendar Committee Annual Report and Proposal – Yolanda Flores Niemann. The Calendar Committee brought forward several recommendations in an attempt to seek input on some scheduling concerns brought forward by faculty. Several problems have arisen when MWF class schedules have been followed on Tuesdays or Thursdays because of holidays on Monday or Friday. Other issues concern the different number of instruction days in the Fall and Spring semesters and the difference between spring break schedules for USU and local school districts. Some people have expressed the desire to have these spring breaks at the same time. There are several options for dealing with these and other issues outlined in the Committee's full report. Recommendations include eliminating the Fall Break and having a week-long Thanksgiving Break instead; eliminating the Monday class schedules on Tuesdays after holidays, and coordinating with the local school districts to overlap Spring Breaks.

Mike Parent made a motion to place this report and proposal on the Senate agenda as an information item for discussion by the Senate. The motion was seconded by Ed Heath and passed unanimously.

FDDE Proposal to Develop a Comprehensive Strategic Visionary Diversity Office at USU – Susanne Janecke. FDDE asserts that USU does not statistically represent the faculty and student population of women and ethnic minorities. To address this issue FDDE is proposing the creation of a USU Office of Diversity that would be staffed with an administrator, modeled after a similar office at the University of Utah. They believe that USU needs to be more aggressive in the recruiting of women and minority faculty and students. There was lengthy discussion about the validity and interpretation of the data used and comparisons made by the committee in preparing their presentation and proposal. Vince Wickwar suggested to the committee members that they go back to the full FDDE committee and reconsider their proposal in light of the discussions. Then, at the next FSEC meeting, present an annual report indicating what the committee has done throughout the year. It might be good to emphasize the current situation with respect to faculty diversity, what is being done on campus to improve it, and how these efforts might be strengthened..

Mike Parent moved to table the issue at this time and bring it back at the next FSEC meeting in April. Steve Burr seconded and the motion passed.

Ad Hoc Committee for USU-CEU Code Changes – Vince Wickwar. The two special meetings of the Faculty Senate on the 17th and 18th occurred as approved at the previous FSEC and FS meetings, and they were very constructive. About half the senators attended. There were no questions or discussions on roughly 90% of the suggested code changes. Good questions and discussions occurred on the rest. They will be considered in the Ad Hoc Committee meetings on March 24th and 25th. The resulting Version 3 of the suggested changes to Sections 401 through 407 will be sent as PDF files to Faculty Senators on the 28th as part of the FS agenda for the April 4th meeting. This version will also be posted on the Faculty Senate Website at <http://usu.edu/fsenate/Code.html>.

Ed Heath made a motion to place Version 3 of the code changes on the Senate agenda as an action item for a first reading and vote. Seconded by Byron Burnham and the motion passed unanimously. (As previously approved, because of its length, the distribution will count as the reading.)

Adjournment

Vincent Wickwar asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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