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**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Glenn McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2011 was made by Renee Galliher and seconded by Vince Wickwar. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – Glenn McEvoy

Roll Call. Members are reminded to sign the role sheet at each meeting. Alternates are to sign in the alternate location on the roll and sign for the senator you are substituting for.

Broadcasting all FSEC and FS meetings. We will be broadcasting the meetings to the distance education sites so their representatives may participate as well. Please remember that the microphones in the room are on and pick up even whispered conversations.

Faculty Senate Website. All Faculty Senate information is available on the Faculty Senate web site, <http://usu.edu/fsenate/>. This includes the calendar, meeting agendas and minutes, member's rosters, committee assignments and the senate handbook. Please utilize this resource.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht, Raymond Coward

President Albrecht welcomed and thanked all members of the Senate for their willingness to serve. The President updated the senate on the financial condition of the university, emphasizing that despite the recent heavy budget cuts, the university is in a better financial position than in recent years. This is due in part to: the elimination of the recycling fund with that money being turned back to the departments; redirecting the CIL budget to other places; the combining of the Dean of School of Graduate Studies and the VP of Research offices; and the elimination of the scholarship and athletic program deficits.

The Budget Reduction Committee had recommended that the College of Natural Resources be realigned or downsized. President Albrecht worked closely with the Quinney Foundation to secure an additional \$10 million gift over the next 20 years which will allow the college to continue under its current organizational structure.

The university has office space in the Wells Fargo Building in Salt Lake City and this has become a significant financial drain. President Albrecht has coordinated with the all university units using the space and these units are sharing the cost to keep the office open.

An external review of the Honors Program will take place this month. Martha Bradley of the University of Utah will be on campus September 20 and 21 to evaluate the program and make recommendations.

There was a \$15 million gift given in Moab from Wendy Walker Tibbetts and her family. There will be two celebrations coming up, the completion of the campaign and the 150 year anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln signing the Morrill Act.

Other items mentioned were: the Vice President of Business and Finance is looking at centralizing or out-sourcing the travel and other departments as a cost saving measure; the Agriculture and RCDE buildings are making good progress; student enrollment is up and 71 new tenure track faculty were added this semester; a commitment for \$250,000 from the central budget was made for a new STEM Center which will be housed in the College of Education and the search for a director will begin soon. The university has finalized negotiations with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to take ownership of the property east of 1200 East, locally known as the golden toaster. This is a prime location for the university to build a future building, and in return, the university will give the church property located on the north end of the old trailer court (approximately 1200 East and 1200 North).

Ray Coward reported on course fees. We collect \$4 million a year from students for course fees. We will take this next year to look at our course fee structure and make recommendations to the president. Audits of student fees are being done at other universities and we want to look at this issue ahead of any audits that may be forthcoming here.

Scott Bates asked the President what the consequences of the capital campaign fund raising efforts have been. The president responded that there are now over 200 endowments of which about 170 are scholarship endowments, an increase in endowed chairs, and several new buildings and facility upgrades.

Consent Agenda Items – Glenn McEvoy.

Graduate Council Report – Mark McLellan. Glenn McEvoy invited Mark to introduce himself to the Senate and share his plan for the newly integrated Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Mark met the council of graduate schools across the country in a webinar and it focus on the federal budget and the implications of that for graduate education. It could be quite severe since most of our graduate students are carried on grants. We will watch that carefully and continue to look for funding for graduate students. Mark announced that the tuition awards program will be revised to allow the deans of each college more authority in how best to use the funds available. The graduate program review will address four major issues: recruitment, mentorship, management, and obtaining more funding for students.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Nat Frazer and seconded by Robert Schmidt. The motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

Follow-up to last year's code revisions – Glenn McEvoy. A major code revision took place last year due to the merger of USU and CEU. In the process there were things that needed more time to discuss and debate rather than rush them through the process. Sections 406 and 407 still contain Kras committee recommendations that have not been addressed. The executive committee suggested that another ad hoc committee be put in place to review these sections.

Research has become a smaller percentage of some role statements, especially since the merger with CEU. This makes the portion of the code that says outside review letters are to comment only on research problematic. The FSEC discussed the best way to deal with this and has forwarded a draft of the proposed code changes to the Provost who will discuss them with the deans of all the colleges and will then present a general recommendation to send to PRPC.

There are a few items that have been forwarded to PRPC for review that have to do with whether the appointment of a new Vice President that combines the research and graduate studies offices

has any impact on the way the code is written, as well as the faculty senate vacancy policy that needs to be revised to take into account sabbatical leaves of elected senators.

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Year-One Report – Michael Torrens.

Michael reviewed the past accreditation process with the senate and explained that NWCCU has changed the process dramatically. The new process requires the university submit a report every two years re-evaluating its core mission and themes and progressively adding material to each report as required by NWCCU. It is time to submit our Year-One report. Michael asked the senate for support of the report and encouraged feedback at every step of this ongoing process.

Craig Petersen moved to go on record that the sense of the senate is in support of the Year-One Report as it was presented. A second to the motion was made by Nat Frazer. The motion passed unanimously.

Communication between Faculty Senate and the Faculty – Glenn McEvoy. Glenn asked senators for their thoughts on processes senators use to communicate with faculty on what happens in Faculty Senate and if there are any communication problems. Per code, senators are to meet once a year with their constituents, but this seems to be an issue from some. Senators are encouraged to make sure the faculty know about the senate web site and the information that is available there. Senators asked for guidance in how best to communicate. There seems to be great variability across colleges as to how easy it is to set up a communication system, both for getting information out as well as getting information in from the faculty. Some colleges have faculty senators from every department, others do not. Mike Parent explained that it is the role of the individual senators of each college who serve on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, to bring issues from faculty to the executive committee that will find their way onto the senate agenda. The list of senate representatives on the executive committee is available on the web site, including pictures. <http://usu.edu/fsenate/FSECMembers/FSEC0607.html> Faculty Forum is also an important opportunity for faculty to bring up relevant issues. Senators who have feedback from constituents are encouraged to contact Glenn to discuss it. The FSEC will pursue the issue of how best to communicate with the rest of the faculty.

Adjournment

Mike Parent made a motion to adjourn at 4:23 p.m., seconded by Andy Walker. The meeting was adjourned.