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## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, August 27, 2012

Utah State University

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**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 27, 2012 3:00 P.M.**  
**Champ Hall Conference Room**

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**Present:** Renee Galliher (Chair), Dale Barnard, Alan Blackstock, Richard Clement, Todd Crowl, Jennifer Duncan, Curtis Dyreson, Nancy Hills, Doug Jackson-Smith, Yanghee Kim, Vincent Wickwar, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Glenn McEvoy (Past President), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Atkinson (Assistant)  
**Guests:** Larry Smith, Shelley Lindauer, Jeff Broadbent

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Renee Galliher called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Doug Jackson-Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2012. Motion was seconded by Curtis Dyreson, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements**

**Calendar.** The most current calendar can be found on the Faculty Senate website at <http://www.usu.edu/fsenate/>.

**Faculty Senate Members Roster.** The most current member roster can also be found on the Faculty Senate website at <http://www.usu.edu/fsenate/>.

**Brown Bag Lunch with the President & Provost.** Senators are encouraged to attend for an informal meeting with the President and Provost.

**Parliamentarian Needed.** Please let the FS President know if you or a colleague is interested in being the Senate Parliamentarian.

**University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Coward.**

President Albrecht spoke to the Executive Committee about some budget related issues and the upcoming legislative session. There are two major budget priorities that will be brought before the state legislature this year; a \$10 million request to add 20 students to the U of U Medical School and a \$4 million request to advance Dixie State to full University status. These requests if passed will drain money from the greater higher education budget. USU has several issues of concern as we enter the legislative session. Some members of the legislature are saying that compensation for higher education should be left up to individual institutions, which means it would come out of tuition money. For USU a 1% increase in compensation requires a 1.5% increase in tuition. USU is also concerned about funding for our health benefits as we are facing very high dollar amount increases in costs. Mission based funding should be directed at individual institutions based on needs. USU will also seek funding for individual initiatives, U-Star, improved classroom technology, and new buildings and faculty.

There will be a celebration for the conclusion of the university campaign on October 12. On September 26 there will be an official renaming of the College of Natural Resources as the Quinney College of Natural Resources. There will also be a celebration before the UNLV football game in honor of our move into the Mountain West Conference.

**Information Items**

**Graduate Council Report – Shelley Lindauer and Jeff Broadbent.** Shelley Lindauer highlighted several accomplishments for the past year. A new degree, the Master of Science in International Food and Agribusiness was approved, one degree was discontinued, and several others were renamed with some shifts in specializations. This was largely due to the graduate program review that began in January and included department self studies and culminated in departments submitting 5 year plans. Several colleges and departments changed the required credits for PhD degrees to be more in line with peer institutions. Over the last year a new model for tuition awards was put in place which allocates block grants to colleges for disbursement.

Currently about 11% of the student body are graduate students. There is a real need to grow the graduate programs, in particular doctoral programs. There was a 4% increase in applications last fall, but more growth still needs to take place.

There was a question raised from committee members regarding the inclusion of tuition recovery in grant proposals. Jeff Broadbent clarified that faculty are strongly encouraged to include this in all of their proposals that will allow for it. Another person asked if there was a dollar limit on the amount faculty could offer students for teaching assistantship. There is no limit and the faculty is encouraged to be competitive in their offerings in order to attract and recruit the very best quality of students.

A motion to place this report on the Consent Agenda was made by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Vince Wickwar. The motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

**Update on the progress of the Post-tenure Review Committee – Renee Galliher.** The Post-tenure Review Task Force was formed last year to address issues brought forward in the 2007 NWCCU accreditation review regarding the consistency of the 5 year review process. The task force was also asked to address the consistent attempts by the legislature to abolish tenure within higher education, and the perception of the public that tenure is problematic. Throughout the spring the task force visited with all of the college executive committees and held several town hall meetings to get feedback and suggestions from faculty on the tenure process. The task force presented a summary of their findings and a plan for moving forward to the Faculty Senate last spring. Over the summer break the task force charged Renee Galliher and Gretchen Peacock with developing a draft of the needed code changes. When that is complete the Executive Committee will be asked to decide how to proceed with the draft proposal.

**Update on the progress of the 406/407 Task Force – Glenn McEvoy.** This task force was formed to make major revisions in the 406 and 407 section of the Faculty Code. The task force has completed a rewrite of 406 and will present this section to the Executive Committee in the near future. The task force will be meeting on September 7 and begin their discussion of section 407.

**Conversations about possible changes needed in Section 407.5 to bring it into compliance with ADA & FMLA – Renee Galliher.** This issue was brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate President over the summer by BrandE Faupell, Director of Human Resources. This section of the code, in particular, is out of compliance with HIPAA and other federal laws. Brandi offered suggestions on wording that would help to bring these policies into compliance. The committee discussed several options on how to best address this issue, and it was decided that the 406/407 Task Force be included in the discussion since they will already be working on revisions to the same section. It was then suggested that it may be more expeditious to task PRPC with these specific changes in order to approve it and get it into the system. Another suggestion was also made that it might be helpful to have the changes reviewed by University Council.

A motion was made by Dale Barnard to send section 407.5 to PRPC for review. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Duncan and passed unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

Renee Galliher asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

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