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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, January 21, 2014

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 21, 2014

3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Yanghee Kim (Chair), Dale Barnard (excused), Richard Clement, Jennifer Duncan (excused Flora Shrode sub), Jake Gunther, Steven Mansfield, Glenn McEvoy (excused Ronda Callister sub), Robert Mueller, Jason Olsen (excused), Robert Schmidt, Vincent Wickwar, Doug Jackson-Smith (President Elect), Renee Galliher (Past President), President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Atkinson (Assistant)

Guests: Bryce Fifield, Taya Flores, Karen Mock, Larry Smith.

Yanghee Kim called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

There was a correction in the attendance listed for the December 9, 2013 meeting and correction of a misspelled name. No substantive changes to the minutes were suggested. The minutes were adopted.

University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Cockett.

President Albrecht told the Executive Committee that the department visits are going well. The next legislative session begins next week. The first week of the session committees will be focused on base budgets. It will be the president's task to help the legislators understand the cuts previously taken and the program review process we have undertaken. The second week of the session committees will be deciding the budget priorities. Compensation will be high on the Presidents priority list, as well as mission based funding and the second phase of funding for the Vet Science and Graduate programs. He also informed the committee that the Founders Day celebration will be different this year than in recent years. The focus will be on faculty and student achievements. Speakers will include: Joyce Kinkead (Utah's 2013 Carnegie Professor of the Year), Briana Bowen (2013 Truman Scholar), Chuckie Keeton (representing student athletes), and Lars Hansen will be featured in a Distinguished Presidential Lecture Series.

Provost Cockett reported that she has met with the Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee regarding the revision of the role statement template. If faculty would like to change their role statement to the new wording of "conscientious performance" they should talk with their department head and dean. A question was asked about whether the senate should revise section 405 of the code to reflect practice and the updated wording of the role statements. BFW is concerned with the unevenness of expectations in service across campus. They suggest making the percent of service in keeping with how much the faculty actually do, but if that is part of the role statement it would have to be adjusted yearly. Perhaps the service component would be more appropriately expressed in a yearly work plan. Noelle will continue conversations with BFW and will formally present the proposed changes to the FSEC in February for inclusion on the March Faculty Senate agenda. Noelle also asked if the Faculty Senate would consider a small stipend to accompany the Shared Governance award. There was also discussion that the Robbins Awards is not the appropriate venue to present this faculty shared governance award; graduation or the Faculty Forum might be more suitable. They are also thinking of a department and college service recognition, and Noelle wants to know what group could help with the criteria for that proposed award. It was suggested that FEC who already picks the Teacher of the Year and Advisor of the Year would be the appropriate committee.

Information Items

Scholarship Advisory Board Report – Taya Flores. The format of the report is pre-Banner and the Board is happy to consider any format changes the FSEC would like them to make. It was suggested that they add trends by college for next years' report as well as separate categories for admissions awards, academic awards, service awards and needs based awards.

Rhonda Callister moved to place the report on the consent agenda, Doug Jackson-Smith seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Pick Date for Spring Brown Bag Lunch with President (Mar. 20-21, 24-26) – Yanghee Kim. The committee briefly discussed their availability for the suggested dates. It was decided to hold the Brown Bag Lunch on March 25, 2014 at 12:00 noon.

Code change to 402.12.5(1) Referencing policy 202 (Second Reading) – Stephen Bialkowski.

Steve Mansfield moved to place the item on the agenda as Old Business, Doug Jackson-Smith seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

EPC Items - Larry Smith. The January EPC report is short, but of note was that the Political Science Department established a Center for Study on American Constitutionalism, which is being built on an existing project.

A motion to place the EPC January report on the consent agenda was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Renee Galliher. The motion passed unanimously.

FS Attendance Issues – Robert Schmidt. Senator attendance at meetings continues to be an issue. There are very clear guidelines in the code, but the penalties are loosely enforced. By the code senators may not miss more than 2 meeting unless they are excused. There is wide latitude for excuses, and all they need to do is let the Executive Secretary know they cannot attend and find an alternate. In the past 4 meetings, there were 14 senators with one unexcused absences, and six senators with two unexcused absences. These six positions could be declared vacant, but it is unclear as to whose responsibility this would be. Teaching during the meeting time should fall under unavoidable, scheduled conflict. It was discussed that the unavoidable absences have Alternates assigned for the semester they are out. Alternates need to sign the role for themselves AND for the name of the person they are replacing. This should be announced at every meeting at both the beginning and end of the meeting. We also need a larger pool of Alternates in some colleges.

Doug Jackson-Smith moved to place this on the agenda as new business with action resulting in sending this to PRPC for the code changes needed. Rhonda Callister seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FEC Feedback on Faculty Code 405.12 Post Tenure Review Proposal – Karen Mock. The majority of the committee did not feel that the current process needs to be fundamentally changed but recognized the problems with the uneven application of the process across campus. The process is fine, it just needs to be followed. Karen asked if there was data on the evenness of the process or how it was determined that the process is not being followed. Renee responded that it began with the 2007 NWCCU visit and their conversations with faculty. As such, the task force held town hall meetings and invited faculty to share their experiences with the P&T process. Our policy was compared with other institutions and it was found that a triggered review is quite common among our peers. Our code is about mid-range in comparison. Another concern of the FEC was that if we switch to a process where these annual reviews triggered a comprehensive review, and that's the only time you got a comprehensive review if you were in trouble, that would change things and would make the reviews much more infrequent and would potentially make it less of a standard. At least now we have a review no matter how you are doing.

AFT Feedback on Faculty Code 405.12 Post Tenure Review Proposal – Bryce Fifield. The AFT committee questioned if implementation of the proposed changes would result in arbitrary and capricious decisions by department heads. The AFT committee was generally in favor of a triggered evaluation system. They worked through the proposal and made edits. The problem issue that AFT had was there appear to be multiple paths that a faculty member might go through in a remedial process. They wanted to fix the language to better clarify which path applies. In a formal poll, the AFT committee was in favor of adopting the proposal with the recommended changes they indicated.

A lengthy discussion followed as to what direction we want to go. Renee Galliher suggested that we bring the matter to the full senate for a vote. Doug expressed that this is worthy of a full discussion in the senate, there is a lot of history to the matter and it should be discussed.

Jake Gunther moved that the issue be dumped and go no farther. The motion died for lack of a second.

Steve Mansfield encouraged an up or down vote in the full senate to decide whether to move forward with the issue or not, and then on an affirmative vote, decide what options are available. It was discussed whether or not a formal senate resolution would be more appropriate. Robert Schmidt expressed the need for someone to make a coherent, concise summary of the issues involved.

Renee Galliher moved to put the issue on the agenda as new business and Steve Mansfield seconded. The motion passed with two dissenting votes.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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