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**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2014
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Call to Order

Yanghee Kim called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The minutes of January 6, 2014 were adopted.

Announcements – Yanghee Kim

Roll Call. Members are reminded to sign the role sheet at each meeting.

Contact the Faculty Senate. An electronic contact form is available on the FS webpage to contact the FS leadership.

BFW work on changing the service component of faculty role statements – Alan Stephens.

Many departments have difficulty finding faculty willing to serve on FS committees. BFW wants to re-write faculty role statements to upgrade the image of the service component. They are working closely with the Provost to do this.

Nominations of FS President-Elect – Yanghee Kim. Elections will be in March or early April. Senators are asked to consider colleagues to nominate for this position.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht, Noelle Cockett

President Albrecht was not in attendance. Provost Cockett informed the senate that the President had prepared a presentation for the legislature on how USU had handled the recent budget cuts and program reviews. He feels confident that our base budget will be largely intact in this legislative session. This week the legislators are asking for budget requests. He will make another presentation on behalf of all higher education in the state focusing on compensation issues. It is also believed that the legislative session will focus on mission-based funding as well as issues such as student participation, student completion and economic development.

Noelle has been working on a new role statement template. The changes reflect a more appropriate standard of excellence and effectiveness in order to achieve tenure and/or promotion and new language dealing with the service component. BFW, FSEC and the FS Presidency helped to craft new bullets dealing with service. Any faculty who would like to use the new role statement template should contact their dean or department head.

Noelle is also moving forward on a new faculty award at the university level for institutional service. FEC will work on the implementation of this award. The recognition would be given at the Spring commencement.

Consent Agenda Items – Yanghee Kim

Scholarship Advisory Board Report – Taya Flores. The report has been in the same format since 2001. They will be making some changes to it for the next year; for instance, awards will be separated into categories.

January EPC Items – Larry Smith. No discussion.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Renee Galliher and seconded by Stephen Bialkowski. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Code Change to 402.12.5(1) Referencing Policy 202 (Second Reading) – Stephen Bialkowski. No discussion.

A motion to pass the second reading of changes to section 402 was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by John Stevens. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Open Nominations for Faculty Shared University Governance Award – Yanghee Kim. The Shared Governance award has been awarded by the FS leadership for the last two years. It is presented at the annual Robbins Awards. It was first introduced to the senate by the FS President in the February 2012 meeting. The full senate has never voted on this award. Yanghee asked the senate members if as a body they wanted to present the award this year. The provost's office is working on creating another award for faculty recognition that may replace this award in the future. A senator questioned why wouldn't we present the award this year? Another senator commented that faculty members do not have enough opportunity for recognition and others urged senators to submit nominations.

Doug Jackson Smith moved to present the award again this year to faculty from within the USU system, Kathleen Mohr seconded and the motion passed.

FS Attendance Issues – Robert Schmidt. According to the code senators are allowed up to two unexcused absences before their seat can be declared vacant. Having an absence excused is as simple as finding an alternate. If you have cc'd Joan on your correspondence to secure an alternate, you will be marked as excused, even if the alternate does not come to the meeting. When an alternate attends a FS Meeting, they need to sign the role next to their name AND next to the name of the person they are substituting for. Robert also suggests that the code be clarified to show that scheduled teaching is a legitimate reason for missing the FS meetings, even though it fits under the "other" category.

A motion was made to clarify the code to state that scheduled teaching is a valid reason to miss a meeting. Steve Mansfield seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FEC Feedback on Faculty Code 405.12 Post Tenure Review Proposal – Karen Mock. The FEC engaged in a lengthy discussion on this issue at their recent meeting. Their sense is they would prefer to work on a revision of the current process rather than implement a new policy. They did not get deeply into details or work on specific wording or other changes. The committee is happy to work on a revision or new policy either way the FS decides.

AFT Feedback on Faculty Code 405.12 Post Tenure Review Proposal – Bryce Fifield. The AFT discussion focused on what problems we might anticipate if the new policy is implemented. Of concern to them is the lack of specific dates or timelines which may cause overlapping reviews being implemented. They are concerned that it may be arbitrarily enforced, but that is true of any policy including our current one. The committee made a few changes to the proposal and agreed generally as a committee they would support the new proposal with their changes.

Discussion to ascertain Senate's position on the 405.12 Code Proposal – Yanghee Kim.

Yanghee reviewed the history of the task force and their proposal. A lengthy discussion followed, acknowledging they would be setting minimum standards for each department to follow, thereby eliminating arbitrary department head decisions. Yanghee outlined the four possible actions the senate may take:

- Keep the current code as it is written.
- Keep the current code with revisions.
- Accept the task force proposal in its current form.
- Accept the task force proposal with revisions.

A senator asked for clarification, for the benefit of the new members of the senate, as to whether other institutions policies had been evaluated during the PTR review process. Renee Galliher described the review process which has included town hall meetings on campus and at the regional campuses and a review of our peer institutions promotion and tenure policies. Our policy was middle of the road in comparison to others.

Jake Gunther made a motion to keep the current code as it is currently written. The motion was seconded. Comments were made that this would be a worst case scenario. Due to limited time, a motion was made, seconded and passed to keep discussions limited to one minute per speaker. The policy as it is now is applied very unevenly across campus and is open to broad interpretations. One senator asked the senate not to give away the power of peer reviews. Another stated that we could be in the same situation with a new code as far as it being applied unevenly across campus. The alternative is to continue the process, send it to PRPC to incorporate the comments and findings from the committees that have reviewed it and then return it to the senate for a vote.

Yanghee called for a vote on the motion on the floor. There were votes in 8 the affirmative. The motion to keep the current code as it is currently written did not pass.

Doug Jackson-Smith made a motion to ask the FSEC to identify specific decision points to be presented at the next FS meeting. A friendly amendment was made and accepted to include documentation of the discussions. Scott Bates seconded the motion and amendment and the motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm.