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**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2015
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Call to Order

Doug Jackson-Smith called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The minutes of February 2, 2015 were adopted.

Announcements – Doug Jackson-Smith

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

Faculty Senate Nominations & Elections. Doug reviewed the senate election process and encouraged senators to consider nominees for the upcoming elections.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht, Provost Noelle Cockett

The President gave a brief update on the ongoing legislative session. There are only 15 bills of core interest to higher education, five of which USU actively supports and one that we actively oppose. It is likely there will be some sort of performance based funding, but it is too soon to know the details yet. The President also addressed a recent table published on the USHE website which contained misleading faculty salary and compensation data. He has contacted the USHE leadership and the table has been removed. He presented data to the senate that more accurately reflects USU's compensation comparisons to our peer group which includes other western Land Grant institutions. USU does offer a generous benefit package, and our average salary is 94% of our peer group average.

Provost Cockett gave an update on the current Dean's searches. Two candidates were brought to campus for the Dean of Libraries position. Based on input from those who had the opportunity to interact with them, an offer has been extended to one and hopefully an announcement will be forthcoming in the next two weeks.

There have been four interviews for the Dean of Science position. The committee is doing their review now and coming near to making an offer to a candidate.

Student registration for Summer semester will occur the first week of April and Fall semester registration begins the second week of April. The registrars' office will be rolling out new software for registration.

Information Items

Update on PTR Code Change Process – Stephen Bialkowski. By code, PRPC should have returned their draft of PTR code changes by this meeting. PRPC requests a one-month extension.

Andy Walker made a motion to grant PRPC an extension until the April Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was seconded by Ronda Callister and passed unanimously.

On behalf of PRPC, Stephen asked for input from the senate on three questions related to the PTR code draft the committee has been discussing.

The first question was to eliminate language in section 405.12.2; *“as appropriate to evaluate: (1) teaching, through student, collegial, and administrative assessment; (2) the quality of scholarly and creative performance and/or research productivity; and (3) service to the profession, the university, and the community.”* A motion was made and seconded to make the change to code according to PRPC’s suggestion. The motion passed unanimously.

The second question was whether or not to specify the materials the Peer Review Committee receives. *“This documentation shall at a minimum contain: the department head or supervisor’s negative annual evaluation letter of the faculty member (405.12.1) and the warning letter that led to the forming of the PRC; the previous five annual written evaluations; the faculty member’s current role statement and curriculum vitae; other professional materials deemed necessary by the faculty member; and any professional development plan in place.”* A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendation of PRPC. The motion passed unanimously.

The third question was if an ombudsperson must be required to attend any formal evaluation of a faculty member’s performance meeting. *“An ombudsperson may be requested by the faculty member, the department head or supervisor, and/or the PRC in accordance with policy 405.6.5.A.”* A motion was made to accept the proposal and seconded by Ronda Callister. The motion failed.

Reports – Doug Jackson-Smith

February EPC Items – Larry Smith
AFT Annual Report – John Stevens
BFW Annual Report – Alan Stephens

A motion to approve the report agenda was made by Stephen Bialkowski and seconded by Andy Walker. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

AFT code change proposals from PRPC (Second Reading) – Stephen Bialkowski

Two technical changes and the addition of adding the reason for non-renewal in the letter that goes to the faculty member from the president. A motion to accept the inclusion of a reason for non-renewal was made by Stephen Bialkowski and seconded by Ronda Callister. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to fix the typographical errors was made and passed unanimously.

Other 405 section code change proposals from PRPC (Second Reading) – Stephen Bialkowski.

A motion approve the proposed change that clarifies that the newly drafted role statements should be approved by the provost, but the provost signature is not required on the role statement was made by Ronda Callister and seconded Stephen Bialkowski. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the proposal allowing academic units to employ an annual work plan was made by Ronda Callister and seconded by Bob Mueller. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the proposal clarifying that the annual P&T letter may not serve as a substitute for the Annual Review Letter was made by Ronda Callister and seconded by Stephen Bialkowski. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the proposal allowing academic deans and regional campus deans and/or chancellor to submit a joint letter during the evaluation and recommendation process was made by Paul Barr and seconded by Bob Mueller. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

405.2.2 (etc) Code Change Teaching Role Description for P&T (first reading) – Stephen Bialkowski.

It outlines what is under the teaching role for tenure and promotion and elaborates activities outside of the classroom which weren't really listed in this kind of detail previously. We don't need to vote but do need suggestions if there are any. There was no feedback given.

Change to the Faculty Forum Dates – Doug Jackson-Smith. Doug Jackson-Smith proposed a change allowing for the Faculty Forum to be held on a day other than a regular faculty senate day.

Mike Lyons moved to charge PRPC to amend the code according to the proposal and draft new code. The motion was seconded by Sherrie Haderlie and passed unanimously.

Request Senate ask PRPC to replace “in consultation with” with “by mutual agreement with” for formation of promotion and tenure committees throughout Code – Ronda Callister. Due to time limitations this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.