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## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, August 31, 2015

Utah State University

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## FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 31, 2015 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

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**Present:** Ronda Callister (Chair), Britt Fagerheim, Dennis Garner, Betty Hassell, Doug Jackson-Smith, Vijay Kannan, Kimberly Lott, Mark McLellan, Dan Murphy, Jeanette Norton, Robert Schmidt, Charles Waugh, Vincent Wickwar, Lindsey Shirley (President Elect), President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.)

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Ronda Callister called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes. The minutes of April 13, 2015 were adopted.

### Information Items

**Calendar.** Available online at <http://www.usu.edu/fsenate/calendar/FSCalendar2015-2016.pdf>.

**FS Members Roster.** Available online at <http://www.usu.edu/fsenate/fs/2015-2016/members/FSMembers2015-2016.pdf>. Includes a list of alternates for each college.

**Broadcasting Meetings.** Please be aware that all FSEC and FS meetings are broadcast to the distance sites and the rooms are equipped with very sensitive microphones. Please keep paper shuffling and side conversations to a minimum as they will be picked up and transmitted.

**University Faculty Ombudsperson.** Senate leadership is in discussion with administration about the creation of a University Ombudsperson, which would be different from than the P & T Ombudsperson, to provide faculty with informal assistance with disputes.

**Minor Editorial Corrections to PTR Code Change.** There will be some minor editorial changes to the Post Tenure Review packet that was passed in the Spring. Those will be coming back to the Senate this year.

Doug Jackson-Smith made a motion and volunteered to make a presentation to the Senate and a faculty wide email to be sent out to inform faculty of the new PTR changes. Jeanette Norton seconded and the motion passed.

**Faculty Forum. The Faculty Forum will be held November 9, 2015 in Room 154 of the Library.** This is a separate meeting from the scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting.

### University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Cockett.

The President highlighted some of the issues that will be brought before the trustees or dealt with administratively this year. The economy continues to improve and it is anticipated there will be positive things on the economic front; however there will be great competition for legislative dollars. It is expected that funding will be more and more based on performance in the future. There is an increased debate over accreditation. USU is facing its comprehensive accreditation review in 2016. Accessibility will continue to be a critical issue for USU, particularly given changes in demographics among the incoming students. Sexual assault and civil rights on campus is a big issue nationwide. Reliance on shared governance will be increasingly vital as the pace of change in higher education continues to increase. The Freshman class is up about 700 over one year ago. Classroom space, housing and faculty resources are being spread thin.

Doug Jackson-Smith asked the President about online growth and what the staffing model looks like in this area. Is there a conscious decision to move away from tenure track faculty in this growth area? The President and Provost will continue this discussion with faculty. One in three students is taking an online course.

Robert Schmidt asked the President about legislative money given to the Athletics program last fall and if it is an ongoing appropriation. The President confirmed it is an ongoing appropriation. There may be some push back in the legislature to get that changed.

## Executive Committee Orientation

**FSEC Role in Faculty Communication – Ronda Callister.** Ronda reminded the committee regarding their role in communicating with the faculty in their colleges. Please keep in mind that the time between a first and second reading in the senate is a time to get feedback from colleagues.

**Overview of Faculty Senate Webpage – Joan Kleinke.** Everything you need to know is on the Faculty Senate Website. Information is continually updated. <http://www.usu.edu/fsenate/>

## Reports

**Graduate Council and Research Council Report – Mark McLellan.** Mark gave highlights of the dual report. It has been a record year for research funding bringing in \$232 million University wide. Sprinkled through the report are illustrations of their faculty success.

Doug Jackson-Smith made a motion to place on the Report agenda and Vince Wickwar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## Old Business

**Code Change Deferred 407.6.4(1) Reasons for Non-renewal – Ronda Callister.** This change was objected to by University Counsel as it would compromise the Presidents neutral position as an arbitrator in decisions. This will come back to the Senate after a solution is found.

**Code Change 406 Dealing with urgent financial issues – Vince Wickwar.** During the recent budget cuts it was discovered that in practice the code did not allow for the flexibility needed to deal with urgent financial matters. A special committee reviewed the issue and concluded their work at about the same time that the post tenure review conversations began. This issue was put aside until the post tenure review came to completion. Vince reviewed the process the committee followed and a list of significant changes they recommend. He would like to send it back to AFT and BFW for review again since so much time has elapsed and membership has changed. Over the coming months we need to begin the process of review by the FSEC and Senate for approval hopefully finished by the April meeting.

Doug Jackson-Smith moved to send the issue to AFT and BFW for review. The motion was seconded by Vijay Kannan and passed.

**Brown Bag Lunches with the President – Ronda Callister.** We did not get to this item on the agenda.

## New Business

**Resolution to change code to include state to federal cooperators – Robert Schmidt.** In the College of Natural Resources there are faculty which in the code are classified as Federal Cooperators, there are others in the College of Agriculture. These people have faculty type positions, but are funded by the Federal Government. There has recently been a faculty member funded by the State in the College of Natural Resources. They would like to propose that the code language be changed to include such State funded positions.

A motion to place on the agenda as New Business to send to PRPC was made by Vince Wickwar and seconded by Mark McLellan. The motion passed.

### Potential Issues for Faculty Senate Action – Ronda Callister.

- Filling Committee Vacancies (Committee on Committees). Please remind the senators in your college to fill out the survey that has been distributed.
- Possible reduction of number of faculty serving on FS Committees. Large committees hinder the opportunity for good conversation and decision making. Most large committees are now meeting via email as there is not a way to coordinate face to face meetings with such a large group. All committees have representatives from each of the 12 units. They also may have faculty senate representatives. Ronda proposes that a senator could fill both roles on a committee and represent the senate as well as their unit. Ronda suggests that without changing the code if everyone is in agreement, they will move towards this model. It was suggested that the elected alternates also be eligible to fill the senate positions on committees. This will be a topic of discussion going forward.
- Appeals process to be used any place mutual agreement is required for PTR – An appeals process for the PTR process needs to be put into place. Ronda suggests that forming an ad hoc committee to work on the details of this issue and encourages those who may have served on the PTR committee last year to join in this process. Discussion continued about the PTR process and ensuring that possible

interpersonal problems between department heads and faculty be considered in pursuing an appropriate appeals process.

- Exceptions for external reviewers when teaching is the major role assignment. There have been problems with external reviewers who don't know how to evaluate teaching. Provost Cockett talked about reluctance from external reviewers where teaching is the primary assignment. Exceptions can be made if the faculty member agrees to exclude the external reviewers. There is one place in the code that needs the inclusion of the statement found in 8.3(1) "A waiver of the external review process may be granted by the president when such a process is operationally not feasible for a particular set of academic titles and ranks". This appears in the term and tenure sections but also need to be included in the section on promotion.
- 401.4(4c) Term appointment faculty can be senators, but are not counted in apportionment. Should this be changed? This hurts Regional Campuses and USU Eastern the most. Doug Jackson-Smith will propose a code change to remove the conflicting language at the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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