

Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

Faculty Senate & Faculty Senate Executive
Committee

Faculty Senate

9-14-2015

USU Faculty Senate Minutes, September 14, 2015

Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_fsexec

Recommended Citation

Utah State University, "USU Faculty Senate Minutes, September 14, 2015" (2015). *Faculty Senate & Faculty Senate Executive Committee*. Paper 216.

https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_fsexec/216

This Faculty Senate Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate & Faculty Senate Executive Committee by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.





**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
September 14, 2015
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Call to Order

Ronda Callister called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The minutes of April 27, 2015 were adopted.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht, Noelle Cockett

President Albrecht was not in attendance at this meeting. Provost Noelle Cockett gave a brief update on the current enrollment. Official numbers are yet to be released, but it appears that there are about 700 more first time freshman than one year ago, and about 1100 more upper classmen than one year ago. This is due in part to the returning missionaries as well as a great response to our out of state student recruitment. USU was expecting this and prepared well in opening up more seats in lower division courses. Most waitlist students are trying to change sections of a course, not waiting for a seat in a course. In the next few academic years there will be more pressure to open seats in the upper division courses as this group of students advance. The online tuition plateau has resulted in Logan campus students taking more credits. They are adding one or two online courses to their on-campus course load.

Information Items – Ronda Callister

Calendar. The senate calendar is posted on the Faculty Senate web page. Please refer to it for meeting dates throughout the year. <http://www.usu.edu/fsenate/calendar/FSCalendar2015-2016.pdf>

Faculty Senate Members Roster. A complete and up to date member's roster is posted on the Faculty Senate web page. Please refer to it if you need to contact an alternate to attend a meeting. <http://www.usu.edu/fsenate/fs/2015-2016/members/FSMembers2015-2016.pdf>

Broadcast of all FSEC and FS Meetings. Please be aware that the microphones in the meeting rooms are open and very sensitive. Please keep paper shuffling and side conversations to a minimum as these are easily picked up and transmitted to the distance sites.

Filling Committee Vacancies. Committee on Committees Chairperson, Sheri Haderlie asks all Senate members to complete a Committee Survey. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KltJt-abvDwwCnsZ7JNUilc1vKknAsuTRuH8yY6Mkok/viewform>

Possible Reduction in FS Committee sizes. As it becomes increasingly more difficult to find convenient times for large committee groups to meet, it is suggested that we look into changing the make-up of some Faculty Senate committees to allow the representative from the Faculty Senate to also represent their own college or department on the committee as well. Currently there are 15 people who serve on each FS Committee. Senators are asked to check with their units and see if there are any committees that their college feel should still have both college and faculty senate representation separately, or if they are ok with the reduction in numbers. There will be more discussion about this issue in the future.

Code Change 406, 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 met 15 times over a 9 month period and reviewed the issue. They 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 the recommendations back to AFT and BFW for review again since so much time has elapsed and membership on these committees has changed. They will be given sufficient time for review and then the document will be reviewed by the FSEC and then move on to the Senate. Vince is hoping that the approval process can be concluded by the end of April.

Senate Orientation

Role of Faculty Senators – Ronda Callister. Ronda reminded the Senators to keep their units informed. There is a faculty email list provided to the members of the FSEC so they can keep the senators in their colleges apprised of the business and discussions of the Senate. Senators are also encouraged to bring issues of concern forward to FS leadership from their constituents.

Overview of Faculty Senate Webpage – Joan Kleinke. The Faculty Senate webpage is your Resource for the most up-to-date information. The calendar, membership roster, committees list, meeting agendas and minutes are all available there. Joan also asked the senators from distance sites to please email their attendance directly to her and she will add the information to the roll.

Reports

Research and Graduate Councils Report – Mark McLellan. Mark gave a brief presentation of the Annual Report. The full report is available in the Agenda Packet. He reports \$232 million in new awards. Efforts now are focusing on increasing the number of Doctorate degrees. The Undergraduate Research Program is very robust. They are expecting to move up in the Carnegie classification for research institutions due to a change in the way their data is reported. Mark highlighted several achievements contained in the report. They are actively making research presentations to the legislature about the research USU is involved with. This type of communication with the legislature helps separate USU from non-research institutions when budgets are being considered. There has been a very positive response about the presentations from the legislators.

Unfinished Business

405.6.5 Removing “Quinquennial” from the code, second reading – Jerry Goodspeed. This is a result of the tenure review change that was passed in the spring. There is one place in the code that still refers to the quinquennial review that needs to be updated.

A motion to pass the second reading of 405.6.5 was made by Jeannette Norton and seconded by Vince Wickwar. The motion passed.

Presentation on new PTR code – Doug Jackson-Smith. Doug reviewed the history of the PTR code change. The change was passed by the Executive Committee and USU Board of Trustees this summer and is now part of the code. The essential change was the linking of the annual review to the PTR process instead of having them separate and distinct. The information is included in the agenda packet; please disseminate it to your colleagues.

New Business

Proposal to change section 401.4.2.4 to include State Cooperators – Robert Schmidt. There is a longstanding history of Federal Cooperators on campus holding faculty-type positions. Recently there has been a State employee filling the same capacity in the College of Natural

Resources. Robert would like to send this section of code to PRPC to draft a change that would include State Cooperators filling these positions.

A motion to send the proposal to PRPC was made by Doug Jackson-Smith. A second was received and the motion passed.

Proposal to change Section 405.7-12 of the code to allow for presidential exceptions to external reviewers when teaching is the major role assignment, – Ronda Callister. There have been a few cases where external reviewers are not able to adequately evaluate heavy teaching roles. This occurs mostly in trade type situations, i.e. heavy equipment repair. This would only be used when an appropriate reviewer cannot be found.

A motion to send this item to PRPC was made and seconded. The motion passed.

New Business from the Floor

Committee on Committees: Assignment of senators to the Athletics Council. The Athletics Council needed to fill three vacancies to begin meeting. Sheri Haderlie presented the names of Jennifer Roark, Becky Lawver, and Kevin Olsen for Senate approval to fill the vacancies.

Trevor Olsen moved to accept these nominations and Doug Jackson-Smith seconded. The motion passed.

PRPC – Code Section 402.12.7(1) Faculty University Service Award. A new award that was approved last year was inadvertently left out of the code. PRPC would like to add language to the Faculty Evaluation Committee responsibilities section of code to include the Faculty University Service Award. This was considered the first reading and will come back to the senate at the next meeting for the second reading.

A motion was received and seconded to approve the first reading of the code change. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.