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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, November 16, 2015

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Present: Ronda Callister (Chair), Paul Barr, Britt Fagerheim, Dennis Garner, Betty Hassell, Doug Jackson-Smith, Vijay Kannan, Kimberly Lott, Mark McLellan (Excused), Dan Murphy, Jeanette Norton (excused John Carman Sub), Mike Pace, Robert Schmidt, Charles Waugh, Vincent Wickwar, Lindsey Shirley (President Elect), President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio) (Excused), Provost Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Atkinson (Assistant) **Guests:** Ed Heath, Heidi Kesler, Ed Reeve, Trevor Olsen.

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 October 19, 2015 were adopted.

University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Cockett.

The President was not in attendance, as he was attending APLU along with many of the University Administration team. Provost Cockett reminded the FSEC about upcoming ribbon cutting for the Brigham City campus building on December 1.

Information Items

USU Safety and Health Policy 337 (revised) – Mark McLellan.

A motion to put this item on the agenda as an information item was made by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Paul Barr. The motion passed.

Reports

EPC Items for November – Ed Reeve. There were 178 course actions considered and seven R401 forms, mainly for USU Eastern courses.

Vijay Kannan made a motion to place the report on the agenda and Vince Wickwar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

USUSA Report – Trevor Olsen. Items highlighted from their report included and increased attendance at Diversity Week of over 300% from previous years. The Howl was sold out before the event, which caused a few problems. Some tickets were sold after the fact for upwards of \$200 each, and several counterfeit tickets were identified. Safety is still an ongoing issue at the event. Students are concerned about the no test week policy not being adhered to by faculty. Some faculty require large projects due during that week and then have a final scheduled for early finals week, which does not give students adequate time to prepare. A faculty member asked why there is no faculty voice in the student government body. Trevor said he believed it was easier for students to come to faculty senate meetings rather than burden faculty with the responsibility to come to their meetings.

A motion to accept the report and place it on the agenda was made by Britt Fagerheim and seconded by Kimberly Lott. The motion passed.

Retention and Student Success – Heidi Kesler. In the past, student retention was seen as a by-product or outcome of other endeavors. Her office is working to change that by providing students, and their parents, with long term 4 year plans, both academic and financial. Projections for the upcoming year are an increase of 2% for each of the colleges. Some data differences were noted in their report and that is due to the use of different data sets by her office the Office of Analysis, Assessment, and Accreditation.

A motion to accept the report and place it on the agenda was made by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Vijay Kannan. The motion passed.

Athletic Council – Ed Heath. USU has the second highest graduation rate in the Mountain West Conference and the highest in Utah. Dave Cowley will be present at the Faculty Senate meeting to answer any questions regarding the budget. Ed explained that current practice on the Athletic Council is not in line with current code as there are some extra people on the council that the code does not address. This is perhaps something that needs to be remedied. He also explained that their policy prohibits contact by coaches to faculty about grades or other problems and if this is happening to let them know about it immediately. Ed introduced the new Vice President and Director of Athletics, John Hartwell. John gave a brief summary of his background and his vision for USU Athletics. He will work especially hard on overcoming some of the financial challenges the program faces.

A motion to accept the report and place it on the agenda was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Paul Barr. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

401.4.3(4) and 402..3.1 FS Reapportionment Proposal (Second Reading) – Ronda Callister.

Motion to place this on the agenda as an action item was made by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Vijay Kannan. The motion passed.

New Business

405.6.2(2) PAC Improve, Clarity & Specificity – Ronda Callister. Included with the agenda packet is a document containing track changes with the original code and Ronda's suggested edits. Robert Schmidt suggested that FSEC just vote to send the issue to PRPC for drafting code language rather than try and draft code now. Discussion continued on the function of the 3rd year meeting; if it is an informative meeting, evaluative meeting or a voting meeting. Doug Jackson-Smith asked that PRPC look for parallels in non-tenure track lines as well. The current code is very confusing and Ronda would like to have clarifications made in the code to improve the process.

A motion was made to put on the Faculty Senate agenda and include in the packet materials that outline the rationale for changes and provide a list of principles to guide the change with the intention of sending it to PRPC for code writing by Doug Jackson Smith and seconded by Vijay Kannan. The motion passed.

405.6 mutual Agreement – Ronda Callister. After some discussion about possible changes to the requirements of this section, Noelle Cockett questioned if this is the right time to move forward on this item. Her recollection of the PTR discussions last year was to give the new language in the code time to run for a year or so and see how it was working before making other changes to that code language. Her feeling was that it was better to wait for the appeals process to pass before moving this through the system. FSEC members discussed this and finally agreed that, although they feel they are moving in the right direction with this proposal, it would be best to wait before bringing this forward. No action was taken.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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