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**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
December 7, 2015
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Call to Order

Ronda Callister called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The minutes of November 2, 2015 were adopted.

Announcements – Ronda Callister

Roll Call. Members are reminded to sign the role sheet at each meeting and that absences need to be excused by letting the Executive Secretary know in advance.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht, Noelle Cockett

President Albrecht was not in attendance at this meeting. Michael Torrens, Director of Analysis, Assessment, & Accreditation, was asked to present some data regarding the number of students taking a full load of credits. USU has made many policy changes in this area, including the tuition plateau. Five years ago, 30% of students took 15 or more credits, and in the most recent fall semester 39% were taking 15 or more credits. New freshman have the most radical change going from 40% five years ago to 60% currently.

Michael also presented data comparing USU core revenues and expenses to our peer institutions. We have the lowest amount of core expenses of any of our peers and more revenue than many of our peers. USU brings in \$1417 more per student credit hour in government grants and contracts than we receive in state appropriations which is the highest in the state.

Provost Cockett announced that Brad Cole has been made Dean of Libraries. He has been serving as interim dean for the last 18 months. John Allen is stepping down as Dean of CHaSS. A search committee has been formed and is seeking nominations for applicants. They expect to do on campus interviews for the position before the end of Spring Semester.

Information Items

USU Safety and Health Policy 337 – Mark McLellan. This policy has been completely restructured to focus on individual accountability. The changes to the policy are being driven by shifts in the national landscape regarding university safety following a recent UCLA lawsuit. Core changes to the policy include formalizing the USU Safety Committee; it will now include one member from each of the academic colleges. The revised policy also lists specific basic safety expectations at every level. Multi-use facilities are the responsibility of the unit that oversees the facility and should be the unit to address any safety concerns. Comments were made about safety concerns during an active shooter situation in non-lab settings. These concerns are being address across campus through various units. Although the Faculty Senate cannot change the 300 section of code, Mark is asking for input before this policy moves on through the approval process.

Reports

EPC November Report – Larry Smith. There were seven R-401 changes discussed. Notably among them was an Executive Level Master of Accounting Degree from the College of Business, it is the first degree of its kind in the country.

USUSA Report – Trevor Olsen. Trevor gave a brief summary of the items included in their report. They had a very successful Week of Welcome, focusing on engaging more non-traditional students. They registered 400 students during the voter registration drive. Next semester they will focus on a mental health campaign to educate the campus community on available resources.

Retention and Student Services – Heidi Kesler. Each college is unique and for retention to work it needs to be college specific and implemented at the college level. In the past, student retention was seen as a by-product or outcome of other endeavors. Heidi's 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. Each college has submitted a retention plan for the upcoming year. This year it is expected to be at about a 71% retention rate. Retention scholarships are available to help students continue their full time enrollment. Scholarship nominations are available at <http://www.usu.edu/retention/>.

Athletic Council – Ed Heath. USU currently has an 87% graduation rate of its student athletes, which is the highest in the conference.

Unfinished Business

401.4.3(4) and 402.3.1 FS Reapportionment Proposal (Second Reading) – Ronda Callister. This change allows faculty with term appointments to be counted in the senate apportionment. It also specifies that each unit must have a minimum of two representatives.

The vote on the second reading was unanimous. The proposal passes.

New Business

405.6.2(2) and 405.8.2 Promotion Advisory Committee (PAC) - Improve clarity And specificity (to be sent to PRPC) – Ronda Callister. These two sections of code are written differently and cause a lot of confusion. Ronda would like to move this to PRPC to draft new language and clarify and unify the sections. Specifically clarification of the expectations of the first meeting vs the second meeting needs to be made. Suggestions from the floor included language stating that this is an optional process and deleting the arbitrary date of February 15th that is mentioned in the code. It should also clarify who requests that the meetings be set and it was suggested that the last paragraph regarding the 5th year letter be deleted.

A motion to send the items to PRPC for revision was made. The motion was seconded by Becky Blais and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.