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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, December 14, 2015

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 14, 2015 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Ronda Callister (Chair), Paul Barr, Britt Fagerheim (excused) Flora Shrode sub, Dennis Garner, Betty Hassell, Doug Jackson-Smith, Vijay Kannan, Kimberly Lott (excused) Kit Mohr sub, Mark McLellan, Dan Murphy (excused) Sara Urquhart sub, Jeanette Norton, Michael Pace, Robert Schmidt, Charles Waugh, Lindsey Shirley (President Elect), President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio) (excused), Provost Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Atkinson (Assistant) **Guests:** Trevor Olsen, Larry Smith, Francine Johnson, Taya Flores

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 16, 2015 were adopted with one correction to the attendance.

University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Cockett.

President Albrecht was not in attendance. Provost Cockett briefed the committee on a few items. On January 20, Doug Jackson-Smith and a member of the BFW committee will attend a workshop for the Deans, Department Heads, and financial officers to talk about the new budget model. The new model involves returning a portion of the online tuition to the departments based on enrollment numbers per student credit hour. Projected dollar amounts based on Fall 2015 enrollments will be presented. They would like to have this model in place by July 1, 2016.

The Provost also announced a new working group on campus called Aggie Success. The group will work with students who have less than stellar index scores, who meet qualifications but could use some more personal attentions, primarily students with a 2.5 – 2.7 GPA. The group provides a “go to” person for the students to answer their questions and help them feel more connected to the campus community. Larry Smith is the chair of the group and it also includes Regional Campuses and USU Eastern.

Information Items

USUSA No-Test Week Policy – Trevor Olsen. A recent survey of students on the “No-Test Week Policy” generated 2,300 responses, of which there were two main responses; I am indifferent or I am upset. The issue arises when professors give large assignments due in the no-test week, and give a comprehensive final making 80% of the grade due within about 5 days of each other. Trevor asked the committee for feedback on how to develop the policy. Feedback from the committee included a request that it be made a suggestion to or encourage faculty to put the policy in their syllabus, not required. It becomes problematic to include everything that is required and amounts to several extra pages. It was suggested that presentations be made and the policy addressed at department retreats each Fall. Committee members also commented that students’ time management should also be addressed, sometimes life is hard, but deadlines happen. The faculty needs time to grade large projects and changing this policy can impact the time they have to get grades turned in. It was suggested and decided that an ad-hoc committee be formed consisting of faculty and student representatives to meet and work out some more of the details before presenting it to the full senate.

USUSA Academic Senate Charter Changes – Trevor Olsen. To avoid situations of student initiatives blindsiding the faculty, they have created a new Executive VP, who is the Academic Senate president and will have a monthly meeting with the Faculty Senate President. This will help both sides stay aware of issues and ideas.

A vote of the FSEC was unanimously in favor of this change.

Conflict of interest with Faculty who have relatives in their class – Ronda Callister. AFT has looked at this issue and determined that it is an infrequent occurrence, and it is recommended to be avoided if at all possible.

Focus group regarding frequency of campus wide emails – Ronda Callister. The general feeling of the committee was they would rather delete an email than have to throw out wasteful printed flyers sent through campus mail.

Reports

EPC Monthly Report Items – Larry Smith. The Curriculum Sub-committee formed an ad-hoc committee to revisit language on the Provost Office website regarding course syllabi. Three R-401 requests were considered. One was a request from Special Education and Rehabilitation to offer a Certificate of Proficiency for the Aggies Elevated Program. The program helps students with intellectual and developmental disabilities integrate into campus communities. A request from the Department of Health and Physical Education and Recreation to change the name of the Department to Kinesiology and Health Science due to a decrease in physical education and recreation majors, but an increase in Health Science majors was approved. The final request was from the Wildland Resources Department to offer a minor in Wildlife Science.

A vote to put the EPC monthly report on the Senate Agenda passed.

Council on Teacher Education Report – Francine Johnson. Francine highlighted a few items from the report for the committee. Many changes have occurred because of changes in federal and state requirements. School Health was eliminated as a teaching major and minor, Elementary Education increased math requirements, and Theater Education modified the program to meet national standards. Policy changes included: a requirement for all candidates to have a speech and hearing test with a reduced fee of \$5, a new writing exam is required for English second language students, and Elementary Education majors are required to have a B- in all degree courses. There was an 8.2% decrease in the number of graduates recommended for licensing, due to new state policy and national accreditation requirements. The average ACT score for new admissions is 24.88 which are higher than the mean ACT for entering freshman. There is a 97% overall pass rate on the Praxis Test.

A vote to place the report on the Senate Agenda passed.

Scholarship Advisory Board – Taya Flores. The report reflects the dollars that went through the scholarship office for the 2013-14 academic year. Not included in the report is other 3rd party dollars.

A vote to place the report on the Senate Agenda passed.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business on the agenda; however Robert Schmidt updated the committee on the status of the state and federal collaborator position item that has been presented to the Senate for a first reading. Due to conflicts and inability for parties involved to come to a consensus on the issue, the item will not be presented for a 2nd reading and Robert suggests officially pulling it from consideration for the time being.

A motion to officially table the original proposal, and inform the Senate with an information item on the agenda was made by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Robert Schmidt. The motion passed.

New Business

405.12.1 Annual Review of Faculty (First Reading) – Jerry Goodspeed. This proposal clarifies that each department shall establish procedures to review their annual review policies every 3 years.

A motion to place the item on the agenda as New Business was made by Charles Waugh. A second was received and the motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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