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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, January 19, 2016

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 19, 2016 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Ronda Callister (Chair), Paul Barr, Britt Fagerheim, Dennis Garner, Betty Hassell (excused, Scott Henrie sub), Vijay Kannan, Kimberly Lott, Mark McLellan, Dan Murphy, Jeanette Norton, Michael Pace, Robert Schmidt, Charles Waugh, Vincent Wickwar, Lindsey Shirley (President Elect), Doug Jackson-Smith (Past President), President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio) (Excused), Provost Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Atkinson (Assistant) **Guests:** John Stevens, Larry Smith

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 14, 2015 were adopted with one correction. A request included in the EPC report regarding a new minor offered by the Wildland Resources Department incorrectly referred to as a minor in Wildland Science instead of Wildlife Science.

University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Cockett.

President Albrecht was not in attendance. Provost Cockett has met with the Gen Ed Subcommittee regarding changes in the USU course prefix. USU will be offering a discount again this year on Summer courses by making the cost of the first credit equal to the cost of subsequent credits. This proved very successful last year in increasing enrollments, however, the increase was largest for online courses. This year they will advertise the discount with the slogan "Take More, Save More". There will be a workshop held tomorrow for all Deans, Department Heads and Business managers to introduce the new budget model which gives ongoing dollars to departments for enrollment regardless of delivery method.

Information Items

403.3.1(11) Relatives in classes – Ronda Callister. Ronda presented code language regarding situations where there are close relatives to the instructor in a course. Comments from committee members included a concern that there is only one type of relationship being addressed, that of a close family member, when there are many other relationships that could also cause concern. The idea was expressed that perhaps this is more of a best practices item rather than needing to be codified. The idea that this relationship needs to be addressed above others is that it is similar to nepotism in a workplace and there are laws that regulate it there. Noelle Cockett suggested that the HR definition of close relative be inserted to clarify which relationships this is referring to.

Doug Jackson-Smith moved to put the item on the agenda as amended. A second was received and the motion passed with one dissenting vote.

402.12 FS Committees proposed changes in committee size – Ronda Callister. The proposed changes cut the faculty committee assignments by 23. Noelle asked that extension and USUE evaluate the committee list to determine which committees they feel strongly need to have their consistent representation. It was suggested that three senators be added to the FEC committee. It was also suggested that we need to include the full list of units when presenting this to the Faculty Senate so that they have a reference point for the discussion.

Robert Schmidt moved to put the item on the agenda as in Information Item to be sent to PRPC as amended. Vince Wickwar seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

EPC Items for January – Larry Smith. The General Education committee has had discussions about changing the USU course prefixed, however it has not yet advanced to be an actionable item. The December meeting of the Academic Standards Committee lacked a quorum so no business was conducted. The Curriculum Subcommittee

examined five short form R401 requests. Among them, a request from Psychology to restructure their PhD program to include two separate specializations; Counseling Psychology and School Psychology. Environment and Society presented a proposal to discontinue the BS degree in Geology Teaching and to also rename the MS and PhD degrees in Human Dimensions Ecosystems and Science Management to Environment & Society. ENVS will no longer participate in the MS Bioregional Planning Program and LAEP will now administer the program completely.

Robert Schmidt made a motion to place the report on the agenda and Mark McClellan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Faculty Welfare – Diane Calloway-Graham. Diane was not in attendance at this meeting. The report was not presented and will be postponed to the February meeting.

Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee – John Stevens. The committee has created a guidelines document to help grievant and potential grievant better understand the process and the timeline. They also have voted to require the use of a short form to file a faculty grievance, not to make the process more difficult but to help clarify the process. They have also discussed the nature of the Tenure Advisory Committee and determined that, consistent with the faculty code, the role of the T&P Advisory Committee is to mentor the Department Head, not the faculty in the process.

A motion to put this report on the agenda was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Vijay Kannan. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

405.12.1 Annual Review of Faculty (Second Reading) – Ronda Callister. There was a brief discussion about providing more information to the full Senate on this issue as the discussion in the last senate meeting seemed a little unsettled.

Motion to place the item on the agenda for a second reading was made by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Charles Waugh. The motion passed.

New Business

405.12.3 CFAC Policy (First Reading) – Jerry Goodspeed/Ronda Callister. This proposal creates the committee with five members. Three of those five members would constitute the appeals panel when necessary. The FSEC discussion suggested a few wording changes for clarity, such as the addition of the phrase “Department Head or equivalent” to avoid confusion in units that do not have a Department Head position. It was also suggested that the committee be made up of faculty representing different departments within the college or unit where possible.

A motion to put the item on the agenda as amended as a first reading was made by Mark McClellan and Vijay Kannan seconded. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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