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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 21, 2016 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Ronda Callister (Chair), Paul Barr, Britt Fagerheim (excused), Dennis Garner, Betty Hassell, Doug Jackson-Smith, Vijay Kannan, Kimberly Lott, Mark McLellan, Dan Murphy, Jeanette Norton, Michael Pace, Robert Schmidt, Charles Waugh, Lindsey Shirley (President Elect), President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.) (excused), Marilyn Atkinson (Assistant) **Guests:** Larry Smith, Sydney Peterson, Jerry Goodspeed, Tom Lachmar

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 16, 2016 were adopted with two corrections.

University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Cockett.

President Albrecht was in attendance but there were no current issues to discuss.

Provost Cockett requested a meeting with the BFW committee for the upcoming salary and compensation discussion.

Information Items

402.12.7(1) Name change to Undergraduate Faculty Advisor of the Year Award – Tom Lachmar. The proposal is to change the name of the award to "Undergraduate Faculty Mentor of the Year".

A motion was made and seconded to put this item on the Senate agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

HR Code change Policy 350 Educational Benefits – BrandE Faupell. BrandE presented the update to the Educational Policy which clarifies that the Veterinary Medicine program is exempt from this policy and that in some cases educational benefits may be a taxable benefit to the employee.

A motion to put this item on the Senate agenda was made by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Vijay Kannan. The motion passed unanimously.

405.6.2 Promotion Advisory Committee Formation – Ronda Callister. Discussed as New Business.

Faculty Senate President and President-Elect Nominations – Ronda Callister. Ronda encouraged FSEC members to solicit nominations for President-Elect. One year of service on Faculty Senate is required to be eligible. Nominations and elections will take place in April.

Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee Report – Ronda Callister. This item was on the agenda but not presented at the last Senate meeting.

A motion to put the report on the agenda was made by Michael Pace and seconded by Robert Schmidt. The motion passed.

Reports

Professional Responsibilities and Procedures Committee – Jerry Goodspeed. Currently the committee is working on the reduction of the FS Committee sizes. Robert Schmidt thanked them for their work.

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

Honorary Degrees and Awards – Sydney Peterson. Sydney formerly presented the Honorary Degrees and Awards that had been previously announced. The list of Honorary Degrees and Awards was included in the agenda packet and is attached to the minutes. There was some discussion as to the timing of this report in the future, but it was decided to leave it on the March agenda.

A motion to put the item on the Faculty Senate Reports agenda was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Vijay Kannan. The motion passed unanimously.

EPC Items for March – Larry Smith. One R401 proposal was discussed from Engineering making a change to their PhD program. The Curriculum sub-committee discussed allowable reasons for excused student absences and clarified the section “Other Allowable Reasons” in the catalog. The Academic Standards sub-committee discussed, but did not put forward any new policy language regarding faculty members in a class.

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

Unfinished Business

402.10.1 Reapportionment fix for missed section (Second Reading) – Ronda Callister. The second reading contains a one word correction changing the word “one” to “two”.

Paul Barr made a motion to place the second reading on the agenda and Robert Schmidt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

405.6.2(2) and 405.8.2 PAC (First Reading) – Ronda Callister. Ronda called for a motion to move the item forward to Faculty Senate before opening the discussion. Robert Schmidt made the motion and Vijay Kannan seconded. No vote was taken on this motion at this time and discussion ensued.

This version has been drafted by PRPC. The mutual agreement language was not included in this draft so that the other major changes could be addressed first. Ronda gave context and explanation for the addition of the “after meeting with the faculty member” addition. Paul Barr had objected to the proposal previously, feeling that the language was too strong and forced the formation of the CPAC too soon. The argument is that most of the time the problem arises when department heads simply email the faculty the promotion committee list with no prior discussions or input by the faculty. This can more often than not be solved by having a meeting and conversation between the department head and the faculty member prior to the formation of the committee. Paul commented that he was happy with the changes and felt that they adequately address his previous concerns.

A motion was made to accept the changes and forward the proposal to the Faculty Senate. Mark McLellan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Concerns were raised about including mutual agreement language. Doug Jackson-Smith expressed concerns about slowing down the process at this point to develop language to include it. Doing so would likely push passage of the changes into next fall, and possibly be send back from the Executive Committee. It would be more beneficial he feels to get the majority of the changes passed and then come back and revisit the mutual agreement language issue separately.

Jeanette asked about a red-lined section by PRPC, “receiving oral and written input by the faculty member” and suggested some wording changes to “after meeting with the faculty member and receiving their oral and written input” to make it a little stronger.

Doug Jackson-Smith moved to put 405.8.2 on the agenda with the above amendment, Paul Barr seconded. Charles Waugh questioned the language requiring the meeting “no later than spring semester of the third year” would possibly jeopardize the promotion of faculty if the meetings are not held. Noelle clarified that it would be heard in a grievance that policy had not been followed in the promotion process. Discussion then proceeded with questioning whose responsibility it is to see that the policies are followed, the department or the faculty. After some discussion it was suggested that it be changed to saying the committee will be formed no later than spring semester of the third year, and it is recommended they meet at that time since making a committee meet is beyond the control of the department head.

Doug and Paul agreed to include this change in his motion, and voting was unanimous.

Vijay Kannan expressed a concern in the 2nd paragraph regarding the wording about the PAC ensuring there is a signed role statement. It is not the PAC's responsibility, it is the faculty's. Doug suggested adding "as stated in the candidates current signed role statement", and deleting the middle sentence of the 2nd paragraph.

Michael Pace made a motion to include this change in the proposal presented to the Faculty Senate. Vijay Kannan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PTR Edits Remaining Sections 405.12.3 – Doug Jackson-Smith. The next piece that needs to be discussed is the Professional Development Plan.

Charles Waugh moved to put this item on the agenda and Vijay seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Items

New Criteria for Scholar of the Year – Janet Anderson. Noelle Cockett presented this item. In the past Student Government has handled this award as part of the Robbins Awards, but recently it had been transferred to the Provost Office. The associate deans have reviewed and updated the criteria with a focus on academic success. They have also revised the nomination process focusing on the faculty member nomination that knows the student and wants to promote the nomination. This is not in the code, but Janet wanted to bring it to the faculty's attention.

Doug Jackson-Smith moved to put the item on the agenda as an information item. A second was received and the motion passed unanimously.

Proposal for Parking Fee Supplement for Alternative Transportation – Robert Schmidt. Robert Schmidt serves as Faculty Senate representative on the Parking and Transportation committee. He would like to see the faculty have more of a stake in the financing of other transportation options on campus. He suggests paying about 5% more and then contributing those funds (about \$10,000 each) to Zim Ride, Aggie Shuttles and Aggie Blue Bikes. Noelle Cockett commented that the parking fees do go towards parking infrastructure. There could be a shift in dollars to cover more of the shuttle expenses and allow a portion of the student fees to cover other infrastructure expenses. Doug Jackson-Smith suggested that it would be easier to talk about a new alternative transportation fee if there were a concrete proposal on how that money is needed, i.e. new busses, new bikes etc. Committee members questioned if it is a new revenue issue or if it is an allocation issue. Ronda asked that Robert bring back a more specific proposal and bring the issue back to the FSEC at some point in the future.

Oversight of Donations – Jeanette Norton. Jeanette is questioning if there is a need for policy in the Faculty Senate Code that the AFT review third party agreements to protect academic freedom and the role of faculty in choosing tenured faculty members in these types of agreements that create faculty positions with temporary funds. Doug Jackson-Smith said he would like to see some specific examples of different kinds of donor centered professorships and have the AFT review them and see if there is some guidance that they would like to give.

Doug moved to send this issue to AFT, a second was received and the motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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