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## USU Faculty Senate Minutes, April 25, 2016

Utah State University

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## **USU FACULTY SENATE**

### **MINUTES**

**April 25, 2016**

**Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

#### **Call to Order**

Ronda Callister called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The minutes of April 4, 2016 were adopted.

#### **University Business – President Stan Albrecht, Noelle Cockett**

Provost Cockett updated the Senate on the CHaSS Dean's Search. The search committee has narrowed the field to three candidates. One candidate, Brad Hall, is from USU and the other two are from other institutions. They will be on campus during finals week for final interviews and a decision will follow shortly after that.

The Dean of Engineering position will be open as of July 1, 2016. Chris Hailey has accepted a position as Dean of Engineering and Science at Texas University. An interim dean will be appointed but they will wait to move forward on an official search until the President's search is further along.

Graduation ceremonies have already taken place at some distance campus sites with more planned in the next week. There has been excellent participation at these regional events. The Logan campus ceremony will be Saturday, May 7. All faculty are invited and encouraged to attend.

#### **Information Items**

**HR Code Change Policy 350 Educational Benefits – Ronda Callister.** The change to this policy clarifies that the Veterinary Medicine program is exempt from this policy and that in some cases it may be a taxable benefit to the employee. Refer to the document in your packet for these details.

**Code 405.12.1 Changes Not Approved – Ronda Callister.** These proposed changes were not approved by the President after consultation with the Executive Council. There were concerns that as written it would provide grounds for grievances, and did not clearly define the procedures. The President is open to reviewing this again in the future if the proposal could be redrafted to address these concerns. Provost Cockett explained that the 400 level policies outline a different approval process than the other sections of code, which has caused some confusion on the time allowed to report back to the senate at the Executive level. Charles Waugh expressed dissatisfaction with the communication between the President and the Faculty Senate on these issues. This issue will be revisited in the Fall.

#### **Reports**

**Calendar Committee – Andi McCabe.** The Calendar Committee has approved the holidays and academic calendar for 2019. Christmas that year falls on a Wednesday; the holiday break days will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Committee is trying to work with the local school districts to align the spring break holidays.

**EPC Items for April 2016 – Larry Smith.** Ed Reeve presented the EPC report in Larry's absence. The Curriculum sub-committee processed R401's from the English, PSC, and WATS departments. EPC also elected a new chair, Vijay Kannan.

**Committee on Committees – Sheri Haderlie.** The committee oversaw senate elections for senators and many of the Senate committees. Committee on Committees is now working to fill any remaining committee vacancies.

Doug Jackson-Smith made a motion to accept all of the reports. The motion was seconded by Kimberly Lott and passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

**402.12.7(1) Name change Undergraduate Faculty Advisor of the Year (Second Reading) – Ronda Callister.** This proposal changes the word "Advisor" in the title to "Mentor".

Sheri Haderlie made a motion to approve the policy and Vince Wickwar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**CFAC with amendments from President's Executive Council (Second Reading) – Ronda Callister.**

A motion was made to accept this proposal without the words "cannot be reached" eliminated. The statement was made that these words not only completed the sentence but also clarified the policy and need to remain in the sentence. Jeanette Norton seconded and the motion passed.

**Vote FS President-Elect (by acclamation if no other nominees) – Ronda Callister.** Kimberly Lott was nominated and elected by acclamation for the FS President-Elect.

### **New Business**

**Faculty Senate President & President-Elect Coverage for 2016-17 – Ronda Callister.** The current FS President-Elect, Lindsey Shirley, has accepted a position at another university and will be unable to complete her duties as President next year. Doug Jackson-Smith nominated Vince Wickwar as Faculty Senate President for the next academic year and Vijay Kannan seconded the motion. Vince accepted the nomination. Voting on the motion was unanimous in favor.

**Concluding Remarks, Passing of the Gavel – Ronda Callister.** Ronda thanked Doug Jackson-Smith for his past three years of service to the Senate and he was presented with a thank you gift. Ronda passed the ceremonial gavel to Vince Wickwar who will serve as the next Senate President. Vince in turned thanked Ronda for her service and awarded her a gavel plaque and gift. Michelle Hilliard was introduced as the next Faculty Senate Executive Secretary.

**College Caucus to Elect FSEC Members.** Colleges needing to elect new representation to the FSEC were asked to stay after adjournment to caucus and report on their voting to the Executive Secretary, Joan Kleinke.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.