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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, November 21, 2016

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 21, 2016 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Vince Wickwar (Chair), Ronda Callister (Past President), Kimberly Lott (President-Elect), Provost Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Michele Hillard (Exec. Sec.), Rick Heflebower, Lisa Gabbert, Britt Fagerheim, Juan Villalba, David Brown, Leslie Brott, Jeanette Norton, Dennis Garner,

Absent: President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Joan Kleinke, Scott Henrie, Chris Winstead, Mark McLellan

Guests: Heidi Kesler, Larry Smith, Ashley Waddoups

Vince Wickwar called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2016

Motion to approve the October 17, 2016 Minutes made by Leslie Brott. Seconded by Kimberly Lott. Minutes approved.

University Business-Noelle Cockett, Executive Vice President and Provost

Congratulations to Larry Smith, the new interim Provost. Noelle Cockett will move to the President's office January 1, 2017. Larry will move into the interim position at that same time. Working to find an individual who will replace Larry Smith, the Executive Senior Vice Provost. Looking for someone that is familiar with committees, R401 proposals, USHE, Board of Regents, Board of Trustees and faculty code. Faculty will be involved with the search for a new Provost. Working on a timeline that allows faculty to be engaged in the process. Sensitive to faculty involvement, keeping the process going and not suspending it over the summer. Joe Ward will chair the search committee and the committee will be formed in January. Start reaching out for input and open the search in March. The review of applicants will begin in the June time frame. One day to review applications with search committee and one day to do airport interviews. Noelle will meet with each candidate for one hour. The committee should then be able to interview 7-8 applicants in one day. Set up for on-campus interviews in September and negotiate hire. Announcement coming in the September/October timeframe. Applicant information is considered confidential until the candidates are invited to campus interviews.

Another search will also be started for the Vice President of Advancement. This will happen after the Provost search. More information needs to be gathered before moving forward. Reaching out to advancement office and deans to see what is required/needed. Neil Abercrombie and Dave Cowley are filling in until a Vice President is selected.

An article in the Chronicle talked about a California institution's chancellor wanting their campus to be considered a safe haven. USU does not have thousands of students here illegally and will not enter into agreements for the enforcement of immigration laws. No names of undocumented students will be provided to law enforcement unless there is an active warrant. In the future we need to be aware of sanctions for not complying with new immigration laws. USU will continue to watch this situation. Presently reached out to the Office of Global Engagement, student affairs and the USU police to let them know our standing. The institution will do what it can to help the students understand any changes or issues. Some ideas on what/how to assist students:

1. Reach out to health services for students who are afraid they might be reported.
2. Diversity dinner involving students, faculty, and community members – engage local community and educate them on student concerns.. For instance, the moderator would ask questions and the tables would have conversations and then get the information back to the moderator.
3. Offer a free legal clinic (lawyers would work pro-bono). Where could this happen?
4. Need trusted community leader to help with the process.
5. CAPSA may have resources that could help.
6. Students need to make sure they stay in legal status.
7. May need supplemental scholarship funding.

Information Items

FSEC Brown Bag Lunch – November 29, 2016 - Vince Wickwar

Both Noelle and Stan will be at the lunch. Good item for discussion is the undocumented students.

Faculty Forum Discussion - Vince Wickwar

- Sexual Assault
- Guns on Campus (Concealed weapons)
 - There are safe rooms set up for personnel hearings.
 - New video – Run | Hide | Fight
- Koch Brothers and influence on campus
 - Call for greater transparency regarding to money and funding faculty positions.
 - Should it be part of the announcement of the position and search?
 - Set dollar limit could be available as to who funded. (matter of record – no strings attached)
- Shared governance – are department heads taking too much responsibility? (more of a feeling than concrete examples) Code Compliance Committee set up in the past to look at violations of faculty code. Easy to create it again if it appears to be needed.
- Communication with other faculty members. Some faculty have a problem with going through a moderator before mass emails, to faculty, can be sent. They would like to opt into a list-serve that would be for individuals who have similar interests/opinions and doesn't have to have a moderator.

There were some complaints about the meeting format. Did not want to be talked to. Rather, wanted to have more discussion and debate. Some of this format was related to the topics. Not enough time to discuss the real problems. How can we do this better next year?

Larger number of attendees this year than previous years. Library 154 was a good room for discussions.

Reports

Retention and Student Success - Heidi Kesler

Seen a big increase in faculty involvement in student retention. New initiatives: Professor McGuire led reverse processional for Connections. The students enjoyed it and were involved. Great opportunity to bring the incoming class together. Focus on keeping them together and setting goals and accomplishments.

USU 1010 great predictor of student success. Students are willing to meet with faculty and ask for help in their learning process. Working with students and personalizing their experience.

Aggies for Aggies – mentoring program for student's 4-year college experience. Most are first generation students and are ethnic minorities. They are assigned a student advocate who can help and mentor them. Activities and service projects are included to help them acclimate. These students are then excited to become mentors.

Starting in Spring there will be an Empowering Teaching Excellence workshop that will focus on best practices for faculty to help with student retention. Momentum is building with all these processes.

Admissions Standards – admitting those who are ready to succeed. For the first time had leadership from recruitment and admissions teach connections courses. This has helped change the way they will recruit. Provide open access to those who can truly benefit.

Student Success Task Force looks at what is preventing students from being successful and what can be done to help them. Meetings will be held twice a month. Task force will look at students in the lower index and put them in Aggie prep. After two years they will become a mentor and will then have a faculty mentor (faculty member or alumni in their field of study) for the last 2 years. Students are becoming successful and owning their success. *Motion to move this report to Faculty Senate made by Jeanette Norton. Seconded by Ronda Callister. Moving to Faculty Senate.*

EPC Items (November) - Larry Smith

Academic Standards took action on Transfer Credit Change, bringing policy in line with ongoing practice.
Transferring credits to USU from colleges outside of the United States.
Update on General Education language.
Alternate ways to earn credit including military.

R401s – Five proposals: two name changes and three long proposals.

Recommended members to read the proposals to help understand what is happening on campus with specific programs.

Motion to move this report to Faculty Senate made by Lisa Gabbert. Seconded by Kimberly Lott. Moving to Faculty Senate.

USUSA Annual Report – Ashley Waddoups

Working on mental health issues with students. Doing a lot of student events that will help remove or prevent stigmas for mental health issues. Requesting a new student fee that would provide two more counselors.
Looking for mental health funding.

Destress fest (CAPS, SAVVI, Title IX) made it a light hearted event that would bring students out. Provided pick-me-up items that had positive thoughts attached which will be given to students who attended counseling.

Sexual assault prevention – brought in Elaine Pasqua for a speaking event. Looking at setting up an event where individuals who have survived sexual assault can speak about their experience and healing. Event is scheduled for March 23 at 7:00 pm in TSC auditorium.

Annual dodgeball tournament: all proceeds went to scholarship fund for Frank De Leon. Students sign a memorial book and a Dominican Republic student will be delivering the book to his family this Christmas.

Can drive for SNAC pantry raised over 800 cans for students in need.

Over 5,500 individuals attended the HOWL. It was well attended by USU students.

Motion to move this report to Faculty Senate made by Britt Fagerheim. Seconded by Lisa Gabbert. Moving to Faculty Senate.

Unfinished Business

402.12 Senate Standing Committees (Second Reading) – Ronda Callister

Reduce committee size and faculty time on committees. Moving from 15 to 12 representatives. PRPC will have seven faculty senate members. It will be more effective to have individuals that hear the discussions. Dropping the extension person from EPC.

Motion to move to Faculty Senate for second reading made by Leslie Brott. Seconded by Lisa Gabbert. Moving to Faculty Senate.

Adjournment 4:22

Minutes Submitted by: Michele Hillard, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary, 797-0121