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USU FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

December 5, 2016

Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154

Call to Order

Vince Wickwar called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Minutes of the November 7, 2016 meeting approved.

University Business - Noelle Cockett

The Provost received an email document requesting information on what is currently happening, and what can be done regarding diversity and inclusivity at USU. The document was signed by 383 people across all USU campuses and this covers faculty as well as students. We currently have several groups and councils that focus on diversity and inclusivity. They are: 1) Access and Diversity office; 2) Diversity Council and 3) Faculty Diversity and Equity. The AAEO office works with diversity and they oversee the diversity awards. Provost Cockett asked the Faculty Senate to email any information regarding other groups or ideas on how to improve diversity and inclusivity to her. Mica McKinney is organizing resources through the Cache Valley free legal clinic.

Prepping for the 2017 legislative session. Senator Urquhart did not run for office again and he was replaced by Senator Vickers. Senator Hillyard is no longer on the senate appropriations committee and that is a slight disadvantage for USU. The legislature has instructed USU to set up performance metrics. The university will be looking at total awarded degrees and certificates and will need to show progress on retention. Currently deciding on what pools of money will be designated. The three different pools are: 1) Growth; 2) Metrics and 3) Market Demand.

University of California has stated that they would be a sanctuary campus. USU will not declare themselves as a sanctuary campus. Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) does not believe that the state institutions can do this. USHE has released an analysis of what can and cannot be done regarding this situation. It isn't that USU doesn't want to protect students, it is that we want to be reasonable in what we promise we can do. We can make statements about a safe campus, particularly for our undocumented and international students. The university will not help immigration round up people and the campus police have been told that they cannot do that unless they have a warrant. Applications ask if students are here legally or not and that question is only for financial support. Departments should never ask if students are here legally. The Office of Global Engagement has sent out letters to students asking them to ensure that their VISA and status is up to date. Students need to be aware of when they leave the country and want to return. No formal plan has been put in place yet with USHE and the state.

Information Items

Faculty Forum Discussion - Vince Wickwar

The forum was held on November 14, 2016. It was a chance for faculty to get together and discuss various topics. Unlike faculty senate this is a closed meeting to administrators and the press and there was good attendance this year. Topics of discussion focused on: sexual assault, guns on campus ([Run, Hide, Fight](#)), Koch Brothers Foundation, shared governance and faculty feeling isolated. Some faculty felt like it was more of a training session rather than an open free flowing discussion.

Reports

Retention and Student Success – Heidi Kesler

Works with student affairs and the Provost's office to help with retention and student success. The goal is to remove any barriers that keep students from being able to come to USU. Scholarships are being increased including the merit retention scholarships and need scholarships. For a need scholarship the student is required to maintain a 2.75 GPA and students have to take 15 credits during the semester that their scholarship is awarded. The retention and student success office works with associate deans and advisors to search for and find students for the scholarships. The website: www.usu.edu/retention provides information that can assist the faculty and administrators. Last year was a record year for freshman enrollment. Retention has been raised by between one and two percent for this year.

*Motion to approve the Retention and Student Success Annual Report made by Becky Blais .
Seconded by Ashley Waddoups. Report approved.*

EPC Items (November) - Larry Smith

Business of the Academic Standards Subcommittee includes all the language when revisions/changes are made. Discussed credit transfer for students outside of the United States and General Education language and how to earn credit through experience.

No General Education report.

Five R401 program proposals submitted.

Last EPC report from Larry Smith, as he will be moving into the Interim Provost position. Ed Reeve will become the Interim Vice Provost and will be reporting EPC activity to the Faculty Senate.

Motion to approve the EPC Report made by Victor Lee. Seconded by Kimberly Lott. Report approved.

USUSA Annual Report – Ashley Waddoups

The USUSA officers developed Legislation declaring mental illness a crisis. Working with Representative Ed Redd on resolutions regarding mental illness across the state and would like to get money from the legislature to help with this issue. Looking at charging a student fee for mental health funding. This fee would be \$3.50 per student, per semester to help provide more counselors. Need to do whatever is necessary to reduce the stigma of mental illness. The desire is to get students to come in and get the help that is needed. Next semester there will be a full week dedicated to mental illness. Looking at bringing in faculty and staff to provide help and wisdom regarding personal experiences and successes. Contact Ashley.Waddoups at ashleybwaddoups@gmail.com or president.ususa@aggies.usu.edu to provide suggestions or ideas on what USU can do to help with and remove this stigma. Also working with Athletics and the Provost's office on sexual assault prevention. The PR campaign is working well in getting the word out. Organized a dodgeball activity to help remember Frank De Leon, the USU student who died in an aviation accident. A memory book was put together and will be delivered to his family in the Dominican Republic. Money from the tournament, approximately \$800, was given to the Frank De Leon scholarship fund. The food drive for the SNAC pantry collected over 700 cans and broke records with stuff the bus for the food pantry. Over 5,500 people attended the HOWL this year. Upcoming events: 1) event is being organized that will speak about sexual assault and the healing process. This event is scheduled for February 1 and will be titled "We are Survivors", 2) large scale PR campaign called "Aggies for Everyone" will spotlight how accepting we need to be of different cultures, religion, races, etc. Faculty is being asked to encourage students to run for student body offices.

Motion to approve the USUSA Annual report made by Ronda Callister. Seconded by Donna Gilbertson. Report approved.

Unfinished Business

402.12 Senate Standing Committees (Second Reading) - Ronda Callister

Code change to make Faculty Senate committees smaller and reduce the amount of time of the committees. The AFT, BFW, FDDE subcommittees will move from 15 to 12 members. EPC will be reduced by one. PRPC will go from 15 to seven members and those seven members must be on the Faculty Senate.

Motion to change code made by Ashley Waddoups. Seconded by Becky Blais. Code change approved.

Adjourn 4:12 pm