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## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, February 21, 2017

Utah State University

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## FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 21, 2017 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

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**Present:** President Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Interim Provost Larry Smith (Ex-Officio), Vince Wickwar (Chair), Ronda Callister (Past President), Kimberly Lott (President-Elect), Michele Hillard (Exec. Sec.), Erin Davis for Pamela Martin, David Brown, Leslie Brott, Jeanette Norton, Chris Winstead, Scott Henrie, Lisa Gabbert, Vijay Kannan

**Absent:** Mark McLellan, Dennis Garner, Juan Villalba, Rick Heflebower

**Guests:** N/A

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

*Motion to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2017 meeting made by Leslie Brott. Seconded by Lisa Gabbert. Minutes approved.*

### **University Business** - Noelle Cockett, President & Larry Smith, Interim Provost

Legislation – President Cockett has been down to the Utah State legislature every week for at least one day each week. The Higher Ed appropriations is now sitting with executive appropriations. There are still very small amounts of one time monies. There is approximately \$25M that could be split amongst eight USHE institutions. Salary compensation is performance based adjustment and is not COLA nor merit. Once the president knows what the budget is the Provost will meet with the Budget, Faculty and Welfare committee. Tasking the BFW with setting up a meeting with the Provost as soon as the legislature closes. The sooner the meeting can be scheduled the sooner a plan can be formulated and communicated. There is probably not going to be Higher Ed funding for buildings. USU is hoping for money this year, but that is not likely to happen. The only way higher ed buildings would be funded is if the state does a building bond and that is a very unpopular option. There is a bill moving through the legislature changing the age of a concealed weapon carrier from 21 to 18. We'll wait to see how this turns out. Another topic of discussion is Freedom of speech and insuring that the first amendment rights are upheld on campus. USU already has this policy in place. If an issue is sited toward a specific person that doesn't fall under 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights. The president will be sending out some directions on 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights. There is a very fine line between what is political and what are first amendment rights. USU cannot engage or endorse any political candidates or issues.

The retirement dinner has not been very successful and the president was wondering if we held retirement dinners for staff members and let faculty and administrators have gatherings within their own units. It is a good idea for staff to feel acknowledged and appreciated.

Next week the central P&T committee will be meeting to discuss 70 dossiers.

Last Thursday the Provost search committee had their first meeting and outlined the process for getting the search to the place of public launch. A number of housekeeping and paperwork items need to be done before the posting can go out to the chronicle. The timeline is still on task. Slight slippage on the date for airport interviews. These will be held on August 5-6 and the committee is planning on completing campus interviews in September. Search is moving forward.

### **Information Items**

#### Parental Caregiving Modified Duties Code Change - Ronda Callister

This policy refers to faculty members who will be having or adopting a child. This policy allows them to take a semester off from teaching. This would avoid the disruption of having someone else take over a course for six weeks during the semester. The President of USU has agreed to honor this but not many people have used it. The average use of this policy is approximately 2 ½ times per year. It requires the faculty member to take a 10% cut in pay and department heads will incur some costs in covering the expenses. Non-tenured faculty have now been included in this policy. It is now with the Executive Committee and if approved it will go to the Board of Trustees.

*Motion to move to Faculty Senate as an Information Item made by Lisa Gabbert. Seconded by Jeanette Norton. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.*

Update on Size of Faculty Senate Committee Code Change - Vince Wickwar

Second reading has taken place and last Wednesday the Executive Committee approved moving forward. Request is currently at the Board of Trustees for approval on March 3. This is relevant due to the upcoming Faculty Senate elections.

*Motion to move to Faculty Senate as an Information Item made by Leslie Brott. Seconded by Kimberly Lott. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.*

## Reports

Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee - Michael Lyons

*No representation – this report will be postponed until the March FSEC meeting.*

EPC February Report - Vijay Kannan

At the meeting on February 2 the following were discussed and approved:

- 15 Semester Course Approvals
- 7 General Education requests for QI/CI designations
- Academic Standards' report submitted and approved

*Motion to move to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Kimberly Lott. Seconded by Leslie Brott. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.*

## Old Business

Code 405.12 Review of Faculty (Second Reading) – Ronda Callister

Annual review of faculty – Executive Committee had some minor changes. Ronda Callister worked with Provost Smith to add some specificity to insure that this is happening. The issue that the FSEC committee has is with the approval by the dean. They have some concerns about diminishing the faculty governance. Consultation with the dean is appropriate but approval by the dean may not be, however, the deans want to be part of the process and know what is going on. Context is that when this policy came up out the executive committee Ronda thought it would be proactive to bring before the deans before executive committee. Look at the detail carefully - consultation is with dean, not approval by him/her. Dean approval is really only in the what if scenario and shared governance is in effect. In practice when one sees the word consultation it has not been interpreted as meaning approval and deans can't be excluded entirely from the process. Heads and deans have a lot at stake to grow and develop a quality department. If faculty come up with a majority vote the dean wouldn't even be part of the process. A flow chart might make it easier to follow and understand. Take out the phrase "approved by the dean" and come up with something less strong.

*Motion to move to the Faculty Senate agenda pending the removal of "approved by the dean" made by Jeanette Norton. Seconded by Lisa Gabbert. One vote in opposition (David Brown).*

## Other Business

Some faculty are finding that the new security software Duo is not working well and they are having issues with why this was not run by the Senate before this was implemented. Their problem is they feel they have to log in too many times. Any problems, questions or concerns can be forwarded to Eric Hawley.

**4:00 Adjourn:** 4:20 pm

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