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USU Faculty Senate Minutes, March 13, 2017

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**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
March 13, 2017
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Call to Order

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting made by Ronda Callister. Seconded by Kimberly Lott. Minutes approved.

University Business - Noelle Cockett, President

Legislative session – A 2% salary increase was approved for all state employees. In the past two years, and probably this year as well, the Governor is the one recommending whether it is classified as a COLA or performance based increase. However, his recommendation does not cover the university. However, for all universities and colleges in the state, 1.5% will come from the legislature with the remaining 0.5% coming from elsewhere. The university is looking at a Tier 1 tuition increase to cover the costs. They are also looking at Tier 2 to cover promotion and tenure increases. A few of the rules have been solidified regarding the salary increases. For those receiving a promotion and tenure increase of 15% they will not be eligible to receive any portion of the additional 2%. President Cockett is pleased with the approval of an 8% increase in state contribution to the health care premium. This helps cover much of the premium increase for the coming year. The 90% of the premium paid by the university will be covered. The 10% paid by faculty and staff will be partially covered. Other funding coming to the university has good news and bad news. The growth money is being fully funded at \$4M overall, however, USU did not have an increase in enrollment on the 15th day, with the result that the university will not receive any growth money. In the other two categories: 1) performance measurement (SB117 articulates money on degrees, graduates, retention, enrollment etc.) \$16.5m is available in the coming year; 2) market demand (to be funded by taxes from growth industries.) The original market demand request was for \$14M, but the legislature only funded it at \$1.5M.

A resolution was passed declaring mental health a public health crisis at institutions in higher education. No money is being put into this effort. In response, USU students approved a student fee increase of \$13 for full time students to add more counselors to the counseling center.

Voted down – sexual harassment among students. USU demonstrated that we already have policies and procedures in place. Academic freedom – already have policies and procedures.

Decreasing the age for allowing concealed provisional gun permits from 21 years of age to 18.

A summary of legislative bills will be sent out to the campus community to let them know about the legislative session.

Board of Trustee commencement speaker and honorary degree committee. A news release will be going out April 3, 2017 Commencement speaker is Adam Grant, professor of Wharton School of Pennsylvania.

Three other recipients of honorary degrees are:

Ted Stewart, former chief judge of the District of Utah
Don J. Wang, successful businessperson and strong community leader
Beverly Jean Larson White, Utah's longest running woman to serve in the Utah State House of Representatives

There will be an investiture during commencement this year for President Cockett.

Thursday, May 4 there will be an hour-long public event that will highlight students and student accomplishments along with the President's inauguration celebration.

Information Items

Code 366: Parental Caregiving Modified Duties Code Change - Ronda Callister

The Parental Caregiving policy has been in place unofficially for eight years. After initial controversy, we are finally moving forward to codify and expand the policy from only covering tenure and tenure track faculty to all faculty.

Some faculty think this policy does not go far enough. It works well for those who have a 2 & 2 teaching load of less, but they wish it did a better job of relieving the teaching of those who have higher loads. For example, the Library and Extension/Research faculty have difficulty utilizing this benefit. To acknowledge the challenge and encourage administrators to address the issue a new sentence is now included in the policy: "Administrators in Library and Extension are encouraged to explore the possibilities of making this policy work in their units."

Although cost constraints at the university level limit the usage and many wish the benefits applied more broadly across faculty, overall, senators stated this is a move in the right direction. There are still some areas that they would like to see improvements. Faculty Senate Leadership are willing to continue the conversation to make improvements and make it something that would work for everyone. Any new language suggestions should be sent to Ronda Callister.

Motion to support this code with certain changes made by Ted Evans. Seconded by Chris Winstead. Three votes in opposition.

Code 402.12.1-8 Update on Size of Faculty Senate Committee Code Change - Vince Wickwar

Code change was approved by the Board of Trustees on the March 3 meeting. Most standing committees will move from 15 – 12 and PRPC will go from 15 to 7 members, with all of them being current Faculty Senate appointees. This should have a huge impact on PRPC and help speed up the process.

Reports

EPC February Report – Michele Hillard

Motion to approve the February EPC report made by Becky Blais. Seconded by Ronda Callister. Report approved.

Old Business

Code 405.12.1 Review of Faculty (Second Reading) - Ronda Callister

This code change was originally started after a difficult process of revising the post tenure review process. Several faculty members felt that they needed to be more included in the process. Multiple iterations have been going back and forth. Looking at doing this in the spirit of shared governance.

Motion to move to President's Executive Committee made by Becky Blais. Seconded by Kimberly Lott. Moved to President's Executive Committee.

Adjourn: 3:45 pm