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## USU Faculty Senate Minutes, April 3, 2017

Utah State University

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## USU FACULTY SENATE

### MINUTES

April 3, 2017

Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154

#### **Call to Order - Vince Wickwar**

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

*Motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting made by Becky Blais. Seconded by Robert Schmidt. Minutes approved.*

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

Honorary Degrees and Awards – It is now official and the university will announce the honorary degrees and awards.

Inauguration for President Cockett – On Thursday May 4 a concert and inaugural address is scheduled at 7:30 pm in the Ellen Eccles Theatre. Apparently this will be a surprise program for the president. Tickets will be required, however, they are free and can be requested on-line. Friday May 5 is the official hooding ceremony for graduates and dignitaries. Saturday is undergraduate commencement and there will also be an installation ceremony for the president.

A notification has been sent outlining how the salary compensation will be handled. The state decided on a 2% increase of which 1.5% will come from state funds and 0.5% will come from Tier 1 tuition. USU has decided to go with a 1.25% increase for all employees unless they are on a performance development plan (staff and faculty). This decision was made with the input from college deans, vice presidents, the Budget and Faculty Welfare committee, the staff association and others. The president is grateful for everyone's input. The other 0.75% will be used for merit/equity/compression. Department heads will work with their deans and directors will work with their vice presidents to establish this distribution. Health insurance premium increase – funds have been identified to provide \$15/per employee per month (\$180) to be used for the health care premium increase. All increases are effective July 1. Raising Tier 1 tuition by 2.5% will cover the salary increase as needed. It also helps with electrical, library and other operating expenses. This money, however, is not to be used for advisors. A Tier 2 tuition increase of 2.5% will be used for faculty promotion increases, scholarship support, IT software licensing, and funding faculty and staff insurance premium increases. A portion of the Tier 2 tuition will help with the mental health and wellness initiative on campus. Students are pleased that this increase will assist with adding an additional counselor and staff member in the counseling center.

The Accuplacer test is going away and will shift to an on-line program. This is gaining great support from the students. It does a much better job of placing them in the appropriate courses. This, in turn, will speed up graduation for a number of students. It

has already been rolled out and students are sending out thank you notes that are stating their positive interaction with this system.

Larry Smith – Status of provost search. Original goal was to do public launch by end of March. The position announcement went live on March 24. It was posted in the Chronicle on March 28. It will be sent to all faculty and staff very shortly. It will take approximately three to three and a half months to build the pool and we will not deviate from the early August airport interviews. Asking for help from faculty to help build the candidate pool.

### **Information Items**

#### **Election Schedule | Procedures - Leslie Brott**

Almost completed Faculty Senate elections. Next week Leslie will be sending out a Faculty Senate interest survey regarding which committees members would be interested in serving on. Now that we have reduced the size of committees we need senators on the committees, not just “random” faculty. Faculty are not required to sign up for or sit on a committee, but it would be very beneficial. Today there will be a caucus for some units to choose their Faculty Senate Executive Committee members. This will be done at the close of the meeting. Units that need to caucus are:

College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences  
Jon M. Huntsman School of Business  
Caine College of the Arts  
Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services  
S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources  
University Libraries  
Regional Campuses  
USU – Eastern

For a couple of the units, the caucuses will be done virtually/electronically. An individual is eligible if they have two years left on their term and have been a senator for at least one year. Members can serve on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for two consecutive terms. At the April 17 Faculty Senate Executive Committee both old and new members will meet together.

Open up nominations for Faculty Senate presidency – President Elect – Rebecca Lawver was nominated by Jeanette Norton. No other nominations were made. *Motion to close nominations made by Leslie Brott. Seconded by Becky Blais. Nominations closed.*

*Motion to elect Rebecca Lawver as Faculty Senate President-Elect by acclamation was made by Kimberly Lott. Seconded by Leslie Brott.*

### **Reports**

#### **Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee – Michael Lyons**

This committee’s primary responsibility is tenure and promotion grievances. There were no such grievances this year. However, one concern was raised that focused on familial relationships between faculty and students. The decision was made that this was being handled adequately and that no oversight was needed. There was also a concern regarding the general relationship between Student Affairs and the academic branch. This concern was with interference with Student Affairs on the assessment of students.

Grades are being expunged without notifying the faculty member, department head or dean. This issue was raised informally and happened with two non-tenured faculty members. Student Affairs can only change a grade to a W and that is allowed only for certain cases such as: sexual assault and medical, or mental health issues. An electronic system is being set up that will let faculty know when a letter grade is being changed to a W. There was another issue brought to the committee regarding a student advocate that had contacted a faculty member directly without having the authorization from the student who had the issue. Student code is currently being modified to answer these questions and clarify the process. These changes will be coming out soon.  
*Motion to approve the AFT report made by Becki Lawver. Seconded by Becky Blais. Report approved.*

#### **Professional Responsibilities and Procedures Committee – Jerry Goodspeed**

This committee deals with the faculty code. This year has been a pretty light year. With the change in code, the committee will be decreased from 15 members to 7. All members must now be Faculty Senators. Since the Faculty Senate, which has at least two representatives from every unit, has to approve every action, there shouldn't be any problems with units not having input or representation.

*Motion to approve the PRPC report made by Robert Schmidt. Seconded by Matt Omasta. Report approved.*

#### **EPC (March) Report - Ed Reeve**

Ninety-three course actions approved by the Curriculum/EPC committees.

Three – R401 Programs Proposals:

Request from the School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences to offer a Masters of Aviation Science.

Request from the Department of Engineering Education in the College of Engineering to offer an On-Line Certificate in Engineering Education.

Request from the Department of Environment and Society in the S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources to restructure the Environmental Studies Bachelor of Science Program.

Gen Ed course approvals as follows:

ARTH 3755 (CI)  
BIOL 4650 (DSC | CI)  
PHIL 1500 (BHU)  
WATS 3450 (DSC)

Senate Bill 196 - USU Implementation of Senate Bill 196 as it relates to Math ACT scores.

1. No longer waive the QL requirement for students who receive an ACT Math score of 25 or higher. If approved, this would be effective for students who begin attending USU Summer 2017 or later.
2. Award 3 credits for students who receive an ACT Math score of 26 or higher, or an

equivalent SAT Math score. If approved, this change would be effective for students who took the ACT exam September 2016 or later. Like other examinations, this information would be posted as transfer credit with a P grade, and would be listed as ACTM 1XXX (QL) on the transcript. As transfer credit, the credits will count toward the 120 credits needed for graduation, but will not count toward the 30 credits in residency at USU.

Academic Standards Subcommittee:

Looking at the Academic Renewal Policy. This item was tabled until the group can see a report on student success from peer institutions and USHE in order to continue.

Looking at the Academic Integrity Policy. Further edits will be presented at a future Academic Standards meeting and a vote to accept the revision will be held at that time. *Motion to approve the March EPC report made by Jeanette Norton. Seconded by Courtney Flint. Report approved.*

**Adjourned: 3:40 pm**