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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 28, 2017 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: President Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Vince Wickwar (Past President), Kimberly Lott (President), Rebecca Lawver (President-Elect), Michele Hillard (Exec. Sec.), Pamela Martin, Matt Omasta, Arthur Caplan, Scott Henrie, Lisa Gabbert, Robert Wagner, Juan Villalba, Zsolt Ugray, Dennis Garner, Rick Heflebower, Chris Winstead

Absent: David Brown, Interim Provost Larry Smith (Ex-Officio)

Guests: Mark McLellan, Ed Reeve

Call to Order

Kimberly Lott called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2017 meeting made by Chris Winstead. Seconded by Vince Wickwar. Minutes approved.

University Business – President Noelle Cockett

President Cockett wants the Faculty Senate Executive Committee members to feel comfortable bringing forward faculty issues and concerns to the monthly meetings.

Enrollment for fall 2017 – Enrollment numbers are down on all USU campuses. Reasons for the reductions can be pinpointed. On the Logan campus, changes have been made to the scholarship awards. The quality of the student is going up and up and up and they are receiving either the 4-year Presidential or the 1-2 year Deans scholarship. The university has set up a new scholarship structure where the Presidential scholarship is 100% and the index was slightly raised. There have been changes in the other scholarships. Instead of giving 100% for 1-2 years, recipients are receiving a percentage of that. These changes always seem to have a ripple effect. We are getting a higher amount of tuition from a smaller number of students. USU is down on head count for the three upper divisions because they are full-time equivalent (FTE). Upper division students are taking 15 credits and are utilizing the plateau, which means we are receiving less tuition. Because of the plateau, the university is down \$11M from the fall of 2013 to the fall of 2017. This plateau has been working for students but has had an effect on tuition. The Blanding and Price enrollments have dropped as well and we are going to have to look at restructuring some of the programs and course offerings on those campuses. Students are not recruiting into Price as they once were. USU may focus more on the 2-year programs at Price and Blanding. Studies have shown that enrollment for graduate students is also down this year. All in all enrollment is lower in headcount but almost completely flat in FTE. Faculty can anticipate more students in the junior and senior level classes but will find that they are flat in the other levels.

Huntsman/Koch Foundation Gift – At the last Faculty Senate meeting, President Cockett announced that the university would receive the gift mid-summer. The actual award announcement was made on graduation day. Money from the Koch installment gift has been received. Huntsman gift will come sometime in September. The Huntsman scholars increased from 100 to 400 students. The Koch scholars will also increase over this coming year. A handful of faculty come forward about the Koch foundation. There has not been a representative sample from any specific college. Concerns seem to break down into two categories: 1) is the agreement. Faculty need assurances that they have had input into the agreement and 2) is the broader concern of the reputational effect that comes with the partnership. The president has received both favorable and unfavorable emails. The agreement is available for anyone who would like to read and review it. How do we combat worry when we feel as if everything has been done to protect and safeguard academic integrity? The fear of being labeled has always been an issue for people. Are the concerns individuals are feeling actually liberal vs. conservative? The university community should welcome all ideas, concerns, and debates. Tim Vitale has the agreement and it has been provided to the Herald Journal. Can a simple anonymous survey be done to find out what the individual concerns are? It is felt that many of the issues come from not having enough knowledge or information regarding this agreement. This is going to be a hot button issue at the upcoming Faculty Forum. It was stressed numerous times that the agreement provides for academic freedom and integrity. Perhaps this something that

the AFT committee needs to review and come back with suggestions on how to inform faculty and the campus community who may still have questions or concerns. An information center would be helpful in helping faculty and students understand more about these issues. We will coordinate with Mica McKinney and see how this information can be distributed.

Freedom of Speech Panel – On September 13 the university will be hosting a panel discussion on freedom of speech that will be open to the public, students and the community. This panel is being held because there seems to be confusion on what a university will and will not do regarding the first amendment. The Herald Journal recently published an article regarding freedom of speech and USU absolutely does promote freedom of speech on campus. The university is not allowed to restrict specific messages. Guest speakers who may present at the university will be allowed to express their freedom of speech and all attending should respect that right and act with decency and civility. USU will provide a safe environment for those attending or participating in the event. If an event impedes or interferes with classes it will be stopped. An ACLU lawyer will be a member of the panel as well as Michal Scott Peters, USUSA President and a Faculty Senate representative (Kimberly Lott). The university is encouraging the community to come so that they can be aware of what is and is not allowed on campus. Notices for the panel discussion will be sent out shortly. Texas A&M and Florida cancelled Martin Spencer and both campuses are preparing for a lawsuit on restricting first amendment rights because they are basing the judgement on Charlottesville.

A concern was raised regarding open carry and the question was asked if this would be something that would be covered during the panel. USU is not required to restrict individuals who have a valid concealed carry permit. The university does, however, have to predict the likelihood of violence on campus. These issues will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Information Items

Broadcast all Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) & Faculty Senate (FS) Meetings – Michele Hillard
IVC will be set up in the conference rooms on the regional campuses and an ACANO link will be provide to the satellite offices.

Faculty Senate Calendar – Michele Hillard

The calendar is updated and posted to the website. Faculty Senate leadership may look at moving around reporting dates next year to provide individuals and committees more time to prepare.

Faculty Forum (FF) – November 13, 2017 – Kimberly Lott

There will be a meeting immediately following the October 16 FSEC meeting to discuss the agenda for the Faculty Forum. FSEC representatives have been asked to talk with the faculty within their colleges to assess topics that need to be discussed.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Orientation – Kimberly Lott

The FSEC's job is to bring forth items and represent the faculty concerns. Information should be communicated from bottom up and from top down. The more input not just from FS is helpful.

Reports

Research & Graduate Studies – Mark McLellan

Graduate enrollment is down 6% (75 students). Also, down in non-matriculated by 255 students. New graduate students are up by 23% (151 students). Continuing students are down by 4% and we are not sure what the issue is there. New this year is a big push on training research faculty (monthly). This has been very well received. The Graduate School held a department heads' forum where they listened to the needs of department heads and are working on ways to streamline processes and make them better. This fall the Kuali conflict of interest module will be launched and will be very beneficial to faculty. Next spring they hope to bring IRB on line with Kuali. Last year was a big year for safety. There are three rules for faculty to think about: 1) if you are in charge of a place, activity or program you must be knowledgeable of the hazards; 2) if someone comes into your space, you need to inform them of the hazard and 3) make and keep a record of #1 and #2 being done. Students are using a new app called Grad School Match and 10% of them said that is how they located USU's graduate program.

New Business

Graduate School Feedback – Kimberly Lott

President Cockett would like to get a discussion generated among the faculty as to what they need or want from the Graduate School. This should not a feedback of what we currently have. In an ideal world, what would faculty need/want? The president is interested in getting the key players at the table to discuss this matter. Kimberly Lott is gathering names and will be putting it on the FS agenda. Might be good to have third or fourth year graduate students and staff to also be included. If FSEC members know or think of anyone that would be interested in this discussion, email the name(s) to Kimberly Lott.

Motion to move New Business to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Robert Wagner. Seconded by Becki Lawver. Moved to agenda.

Adjournment 4:27 pm

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