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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

September 11, 2017

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154

Call to Order - Kimberly Lott

Approval of the May 1, 2017 Minutes

Motion to approve the May 1, 2017 minutes made by Vince Wickwar. Seconded by Matt Omasta. Minutes approved.

University Business - Noelle Cockett, President / Larry Smith, Interim Provost

Larry Smith updated the senate regarding the Provost candidates. Ten airport interviews were conducted and three candidates will be brought on campus for addition interviews. Two will interview in September and the third will come the middle of October. The interim provost asked the faculty senators to review the names and application materials for each candidate and plan to attend the open forums.

The search for a new College of Engineering Dean has now kicked off. Maura Hagan is serving as the search committee chair and Ed Reeve as the facilitator. The search committee met last week and they are developing the position announcement and job description. This information will be launched on the search website by the end of September.

President Cockett discussed the "Free Speech" panel that was held on Wednesday, September 13 at 5:00 in the Perry Pavilion. The panel was titled "Free Speech on Campus where is the Line". The Institute of Government and Politics sponsored the event and the panelists included Michael Peters, USUSA President; Marina Lowe, ACLU Utah; Justin Fawson, Utah House of Representatives and Kimberly Lott, Faculty Senate President. The university hoped that by bringing this panel forward to the students that they would understand that USU does support free speech even when the message is something that they may not want to hear. The event went well and there were approximately 100 attendees.

Enrollment numbers are not official until day 15 but by virtue of last year's data, we can see if we are on track. The Logan headcount for freshmen is down, while FTE is up and the number of student credit hours are tracking higher. Regional campuses are down and they tend to track similar to Weber State University and Salt Lake Community College. One of the reasons in the decline is that when economic times are good and robust people in non-traditional degree programs go to work rather than attending classes on the regional campuses.

Koch Foundation gift of \$25M - President Cockett gave a brief overview of the Koch brothers. Charles & David Koch developed their wealth through oil and are very conservative. They have used their wealth to promote republican candidates. Jane Mayer wrote a book entitled Dark Money that focuses on the Koch brothers. Recently, they have been using their wealth to provide gifts at institutions of higher education. They have now provided over 300 institutions with monetary gifts in the United States, including Utah State University and the University of

Utah. USU has received one gift of \$25M from the Huntsman foundation and the partnership with the Koch Foundation will be the second gift. Receiving the second gift, from the Huntsman's, was contingent upon USU accepting the Koch Foundation gift. These gifts will be given in increments of \$2.5M a year over the next 10 years. This is not the first gift that has been given by the Koch Foundation. Other gifts were given in 2008, 2013, and 2017. The Koch gift will fund six new faculty members (three tenure-track and three non-tenure track). An internal MOU has been developed with Dean Anderson to insure that the faculty pay will be underwritten using Huntsman funding in the case that the Koch money would be pulled. Koch Scholars will increase from 10 to 30, the faculty of Economics and Finance will govern the Koch gift, and they will be the ones determining the curriculum. The Huntsman scholars will also increase. There will be 400 Huntsman scholars; this includes 80 graduate and undergraduates who will be given money to assist in their student research. There are three agreements now in place: 1) the Huntsman gift agreement, 2) the Koch gift agreement and 3) an affiliation agreement with a newly established center for growth and opportunity. The first two which are gifts agreements required review and signature from different entities on campus. The affiliation agreement is covered in the Regents Policy 271 and it requires an official vote by the USU Board of Trustees. All three agreements are available to anyone who would like a copy by contacting Tim Vitale and submitting a GRAMA request. The center of growth and opportunity this is something new to the university. This was a new document and it is set up with a director and an academic director. The academic director is someone here, within the university, and has a chain of supervision that goes up through the university. In other words, this is so the university can use the system to adhere to academic standards in both the curriculum and the research being conducted. Frank Caliendo, Department Head of Economics and Finance is the first academic director for the center. He was a very deliberate choice by virtue that he knows curriculum, he knows faculty, he has access to the research that students and faculty are doing, and he does an annual review of all faculty. This decision was better than bringing in someone from outside or hiring someone else. The second thing that was done with the affiliation was to set up a trademark license agreement. The center is approved to use USU logos and trademarks on materials that it is agreed that they can be used on. This is how the university can control the academic rigor and standards of the type of research that is going out from the university. If, at any time, the research is considered biased or of low quality it cannot be affiliated with USU and the university can terminate the affiliation agreement if it is felt that those conditions are not being adhered to. The concern about the faculty hires is laid out very clearly in the agreement. The hiring of the six faculty will be done according to USU policies. There is no Koch or Huntsman Foundation input in the hiring of this faculty. The university has used the Academic Freedom policy 403 to guide what kind of research can be conducted by faculty and they are using policy 403.3.5 Reasonable Care to ensure the quality and rigor of the research that is being performed. The President's responsibility to the institution was to develop a type of agreement that could stand scrutiny by anyone and adhered to the policies to be strong on academic rigor and to let the departments determine curriculum both in the classroom and through the Koch scholars. USU also has the control over review of the research being conducted by and affiliated with the center. The President is a firm believer in academic freedom. As an administrator, her role does not determine what faculty can and cannot research. All gifts and affiliations must adhere to USU policies. President Cockett feels very confident about the agreement from the standpoint that she clearly understands what has been the concern regarding the Koch Foundation money in the past. President heard there were concerns regarding this agreement. If you are interested in more information, pull together a panel discussion with pros and cons of the Koch gift and open it up as a debate/discourse. The President's hope is that the faculty are discussing different ideas and having that open dialogue and discussion.

Information Item

Broadcasts for FS Meetings - Michele Hillard

Regional campuses will be linked into the monthly meetings utilizing IVC and other satellite offices will use ACANO.

Faculty Senate Calendar - Michele Hillard

Calendar is updated and posted on the website.

Faculty Forum (November 13, 2017) - Kimberly Lott

Discussions will happen at the October FSEC meeting to formulate the agenda for the faculty forum. Senators were asked to bring back suggestions from their units/colleagues. The forum is open to all faculty and no administrators or press are allowed. It was suggested that a list of topics are provided beforehand so e experts can be on hand and available to answer any questions.

FSEC/FS Committee Orientation - Kimberly Lott

Orientations have been held and new senators and executive committee members have been briefed and trained.

Reports

Research & Graduate Studies - Mark McLellan (final report attached)

Motion to approve the Research and Graduate Studies annual report made by Vince Wickwar. Seconded by John Stevens. Report approved

The faculty was reminded about who owns their research. A full year of monthly trainings for research have been scheduled for faculty. Kuali is now up and operating and this is the third year using it for grant submissions. Information is 100% stored in the cloud. The IRB integration with Kuali is currently being worked on and just received five-year human research approval. Research is working on updating and improving the safety culture on campus. All colleges are represented on the university safety committee and all colleges have a separate college safety committee. Mark reminded researchers that they must know of any hazards in their space/activity. If someone comes into that space/activity/program, they must be told about the hazards. A record needs to be kept showing that these requirements have been met. Working on enhancing graduate recruitment. Total graduates are down by 2%; however, new graduates are up by 25%. There has been a major change in the non-matriculated graduate students. These students are those who were not accepted into specific programs.

New Business

Graduate School Feedback - Kimberly Lott

President Cockett has asked that the senate provide her with suggestions for the graduate school. What does the faculty need and want from the graduate school. In an ideal world, what would we like a graduate school to look like? This is not judging our current graduate school but looking at what they would like to have. Senators should think about it in a general way. Faculty Senate President Kimberly Lott is requesting names of key faculty members that will form a new committee to have these discussions.

Faculty Senate handbook is being reworked. Asking the senate and its leadership to provide recommendations on what should be included in the book. Design is almost complete.

Adjourned 4:00 pm