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## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, October 16, 2017

Utah State University

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## FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 16, 2017 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

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

**Absent:** Matt Omasta

**Guests:** Nathan Washburn, Edward Reeve

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### Call to Order - Kimberly Lott

*Minutes of the September 18, 2017 Faculty Senate Executive Committee approved.*

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

The search for a Vice President of Advancement, to replace Rob Behunin, is moving forward. Neil Abercrombie and David Cowley are cosharing the position and taking an active role in the Advancement Office. The search started in the spring with Mark McLellan as the Search Committee Chair. There will be two candidates coming for on-campus interviews. Sydney Peterson is serving as the Interim Director of Alumni Relations and she will remain in that role until the Vice President of Advancement is named.

The campus climate on sexual assault summary as well as the full survey has been posted on the website. The survey was sent out to 23,000 USU students and we received 10,500 responses back. This is a remarkable response. By contrast, Utah Valley University randomly selected 6,000 and only received 600 responses. The University of Utah sent the survey out to all students and they only received 10% back. On the USU, campus 93% said that they feel very safe on campus and 1% said that they did not feel safe. One of the things that everybody wants to know is what the incidence of sexual assault. What we keep telling everyone is that is not the question we asked. We asked have you experienced nonconsensual sexual contact. That is not the same thing as sexual assault. When you ask it that way, it averages about 7% of undergraduates. The breakdown is 10% female and 2% of males who have experienced nonconsensual sexual contact. What is disturbing is when you read the headlines in the Salt Lake Tribune, which stated that 1 in 10 undergraduate females at USU would experience sexual assault. That has many connotations that are very disturbing. It was 1 in 10 undergraduate females but it was 1 in 5 on campuses. In addition, we did not ask about sexual assault. The University of Utah is closer to the national average which is 18% and USU is about half of that number. Only about 5% of the students reported this to the Title IX office. About 45% seek some help, which means they sought out counseling in almost all cases. What is concerning is that about 50% say they do not tell anyone. They keep it to themselves because they want to forget what happened and they do not think anyone will believe them. They do not want people to think that they got themselves into that situation. All of those reasons are very disturbing. The important thing about recording/reporting these incidents is that there is no way we can identify repeat offenders if this information is not turned in. Another interesting result from the survey is that 90% of the people knew their assailant. Of the 10,500 students who responded, 15% reported that they had nonconsensual sexual contact before they arrived at USU.

Provost's Search – Dr. Douglas Freeman is the third and final candidate and will be on campus October 17. The open forum will be held on Wednesday at the Perry Pavilion. The provost reminded everyone they needed to complete the evaluation/surveys of the candidates by October 25.

### Information Items

#### Faculty Forum – November 13, 2017 - Kimberly Lott

The Faculty Senate President asked, how do we make the faculty forum more effective and useful? Some faculty feel like they attend and are only talking to themselves and with the absence of administrators it just becomes an echo chamber. It was noted that even department heads are reluctant to speak up in meetings. They did not want to say anything and be labeled a whiner. The university needs to foster an environment of

inclusivity with open and civil discourse. Faculty Senators might attend and participate more in meetings if we start looking at reality vs. perception. The USU administrators want the faculty to speak up and let their voices be heard. The faculty also needs to see follow up on issues that they bring forward. This allows them to see that their concerns are valid and are being taken serious.

## Reports

### **EPC October Report - Ed Reeve**

*Motion to move the EPC October Report to Faculty Senate made by Vince Wickwar. Seconded by Lisa Gabbert. Report moved to Faculty Senate agenda.*

Reviewed 74 courses. 66 were approved and eight were rejected.  
Four R401 program proposals were approved.  
No report from Academic Standards or Gen Ed.

### **Faculty Evaluation Committee Annual Report - Nathan Washburn**

*Motion to move the FEC Annual Report to Faculty Senate made by Vince Wickwar. Seconded by Lisa Gabbert. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.*

The committee focused on two primary issues: 1) follow up on recommendations related to the future use of the IDEA evaluation instrument and 2) selection of the recipients for Teach of the Year, Advisor of the Year, and Faculty University Service awards.

Review and recommendations for the IDEA teaching evaluation. The IDEA evaluations appear to be most effectively implemented at the department level. Consequently, the committee recommends that department heads be more intimately involved in implementing them. It was felt that the evaluations should continue to be conducted using the current on-line method and that departments should consider customizing response time, switching off the email reminders, and/or creating class assignments in Canvas for students to complete the evaluations. Individual departments that offer technical courses should consider developing and adopting a customized evaluation instrument that is more appropriate for evaluating their faculty. The IDEA evaluations should not be conducted for courses with too few students enrolled in them (the recommended threshold number of students in a class is five). Department heads should be reminded to weigh the IDEA student evaluations between 30% and 50% when evaluating the quality of teaching by individual faculty members. Untenured faculty should be encouraged to use the long form if they wish to receive information that may be useful in improving their teaching. Members of the FEC are of the opinion that the IDEA evaluations are more valuable in assessing departments and/or programs as a whole rather than of individual faculty members.

The FEC reviewed nomination materials and selected recipients for the Eldon H. Gardner Teacher of the Year, the Advisor of the Year, and the Faculty University Service awards. The FEC found that the current nomination guidelines worked well; no further revisions are recommended at this time.

## **New Business**

N/A

**Adjourn 3:50 pm**