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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 11, 2017

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Old Main-Champ Hall

Present: Kimberly Lott (President), Vince Wickwar (Past President), Rebecca Lawver (President-Elect), Amber Summers-Graham for Michele Hillard (Exec. Sec.), Erin Davis for Pamela Martin, Scott Henrie, Lisa Gabbert, Robert Wagner, Zsolt Ugray, Rick Heflebower, Donna Gilbertson, David Brown, Interim Provost Larry Smith (Ex-Officio), Arthur Caplan, Rick Heflebower

Absent: President Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Matt Omasta, Chris Winstead, Juan Villalba, Dennis Garner

Guests: Mica McKinney, Edward Reeve, Sylvia Read, Taya Flores

Call to Order - Kimberly Lott

Approval of November 20, 2017 [Minutes](#)

Minutes approved as distributed.

University Business - Larry Smith, Interim Provost

Provost Smith had no university business. President Cockett reported USU business one week ago.

Information

[Policy 103 Revision for Accreditation - Mica McKinney](#)

This update is a revision to policy, which is the mission statement on the president's website. It has been heavily vetted and has made its way on the website but did not get into Policy 103. Working towards a visit from our accreditors from Northwest. Moving the language from the first paragraph of this mission statement to the policy. This update will be presented to the Board of Trustees on January 12, 2018.

Motion to move to Faculty Senate agenda made by Becki Lawver. Seconded by Vince Wickwar.

[Faculty Forum Recommendations - Rebecca Lawver](#)

Becki took the notes at the forum and afterwards the Faculty Senate presidency met with Provost Larry Smith to share what was gleaned from the notes.

There were 25 faculty members that attended the forum and there was good discussion. The first topic was about faculty empowerment, engagement, and involvement. Took feedback from the faculty forum and will provide faculty with updates. Also will develop an annual executive summary so that faculty know the work that this committee is involved in.

Talked about shared governance. There was a lot of discussion about this. The structure that is set up at USU provides the opportunity to have open discussions with administration.

Department head reviews and selection policies. All of the information about department head search policies are in code 104 and 404.5. In the 104 policy, it talks about how department heads will have annual reviews with the college deans. The provost will be following up with the deans to find out what the reviews entail and will provide clarification.

It would be a good idea to have some social media presence for the Faculty Senate, i.e., Twitter and/or Facebook. This would be another way to share minutes, policy, etc. to help connect with people across campus. Also discussed a way for faculty to contact senators in an anonymous fashion so that people

can share suggestions or ask questions since the faculty forum has not been very well attended in the last few years.

Topic 2 – Funding from outside donors. The majority of gifts we get are for buildings. When gifts involve faculty they are going to meet our policies. Koch gift is an example where funding would be used for faculty. It has always been USU's position that funding related to faculty must follow faculty code in all respects.

What was the general sentiment among faculty about the Koch gift? It was pretty split. Some faculty wanted to review every gift that comes to USU. Others said there is no way we can do this and we need to have faith that the process will work. We talk about shared governance but we never had an opportunity to weigh in as faculty in this particular case because we did not really get a vote. When the big decisions come this could benefit from an actual vote from faculty senate. This is shared governance. Faculty Senate was able to go on record with an official vote. It goes into the decision process.

As the faculty senate, they never make a statement or document that expresses the will of the faculty. They do not vote on information items, but make a movement that the faculty senate supports or does not support the item and then move the item from information to action and hold a vote.

Governance versus operations. Ideally, shared governance gives you a voice on everything. USU has eight academic colleges, a library, and a dozen other large units. How do you go about choosing what issues that they should have a voice in? There are structures in place for faculty voices on pretty much everything.

Administration in the faculty senate meeting might stifle the faculty senator's willingness to vote on items. Perhaps new business should be at the end after administration has left the meeting.

It was noted that some faculty do not think that there is a mechanisms talking for about issues and being able to come to a formal conclusion. Faculty Senate does have a mechanism –the calendar committee presented its report and there were a handful of people that were not thrilled with how it was going to go. The mechanism is in place but it has not been used the way it should be. Anyone on the senate floor can make a motion. Most faculty senators do not realize that they can do this. It was recommended that there be at least two faculty forums. One in the fall and one in the spring.

Reports

EPC December Report - Edward Reeve

152 courses were reviewed.

Five R401s approved.

The new Integrated Studies degree is being managed by the provost's office just like the associate's degree. Every college will be participating in this degree. This kind of degree is offered at many universities and is often housed in a unit called University College – much like the Regional Campus system. A student does not come in as a freshman and declare this program. This degree is available if you have a 2.0, are in good academic standing at USU, but, they cannot get into 90 percent of the majors. We have hundreds of students who are stuck in this academic limbo. They are spending extra years at USU taking courses repeatedly. We are not giving degrees away and we are not harming any of the programs. These students are not in any major and cannot get into any major. This degree will assist students in being able to receive a degree. The degree cannot be housed in one single college because all college programs are involved. The Bachelors of General Studies can be housed in individual colleges if they choose.

The concern is that every degree must be housed in an academic unit. Read policy 103 – it is very vague and general and does not give process and detail.

The USHE system has been working with legislator to create funding systems to for performance-based funding. We are losing students who can get integrated studies degrees at Weber State and Utah Valley University. The positive outcome of the degree will help with completion and retention numbers.

Approval was granted to discontinue the 15-year statute of limitations for general education courses.

Motion to move the report to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Donna Gilbertson. Seconded by Vince Wickwar. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

Council on Teacher Education (CTE) Annual Report - Sylvia Read

Currently there are 600 students in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services that would benefit from this Integrated Studies degree. In order to be accepted into the education program the State Board of Education states that students have to have a 3.0 GPA.

CTE – The Utah State Board of Education now requires a technology course and the ITLS course has been revamped to meet this requirement. Current working on gathering data for accreditation and program improvement purposes. 394 undergraduate students were admitted into the education program. The program is experiencing a downturn as the national climate for teachers and teacher pay is lagging behind.

The college has a 93% placement rate from graduating students. More specific fields, i.e., art education and theatre education have a harder placement.

Francine Johnson will present this report to the Faculty Senate.

Motion to move the report to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Vince Wickwar. Seconded by Donna Gilbertson. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

Scholarship Advisory Board Annual Report - Taya Flores

Last year \$78.3 million was processed through the scholarship office. This year we will include USU Eastern on the report. Admissions scholarships parameters do change and will be included in the report. A two-year comparison for next month's meeting will be submitted.

Motion to move the report to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Vince Wickwar. Seconded by Donna Gilbertson. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

New Business

Policy 405.11.4 External Peer Reviews (first reading) - Kimberly Lott

Half of the four solicited letters have to come from the candidate's list. If the candidate has eight names, two of the eight have to come from the list. "At least one half of the total number of reviews" have to come from the candidate's list. The idea is that half of the names should come from the candidate's list. We have to get at least four letters so let's get a boat-load of names and at least half of the people that we talk to should come from the candidate's list.

Common sense language need to be added regarding the professional distance, in order to provide objectivity. Built-in policy to avoid conflict of interest.

Department head and committee make the final decision on the reviewers and the external reviewer's identity is kept confidential.

"The number of names sentence should be moved to the third paragraph"

Motion to move to the Faculty Senate agenda for "first reading" made by Vince Wickwar. Seconded by David Brown. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

Adjourn 4:40 pm