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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 5, 2018

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154

Call to Order - Kimberly Lott

Approval of January 8, 2018 [Minutes](#)

Minutes approved as distributed.

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

Legislature has been in place for two weeks now and we are beginning to see and understand the rhythm of what happens during the session. Last week there were many presentations made by each of the eight institutions and technical colleges on what they had done and how they used their money. Each committee voted on their base budget and in the next week and a half, they will prioritize. USHE has requested \$80M including salary compensation and health benefit fund. The state of Utah has stopped calling it COLA since it does not cover the cost of living. It is called performance-based compensation. Funding requests are due around February 8. President Cockett met with the Budget and Faculty Welfare (BFW) Committee and will be setting up a March meeting to discuss the compensation that comes from the legislature. Now that budgets are finished, the legislators will turn their attention to the various bills. There are at least 1300 bills filed and started. Many of these bills will not be pursued due to time issues. Over the next week or so, we will hear more about bills under consideration. Today the president will provide the USU State of the University talk and Wednesday will present the USU capital presentation. Derrik Tollefson is chairing the mental health task force and has invited faculty and staff to help see where we can focus resources, efforts, and education on the issue of mental health and well-being for USU students. A task force has also been created to look at USU policies. These policies are not just the ones maintained by Human Resources it also includes student policies. It is important to have a single repository with a process and routing. There may be a creation of a code 600 that includes faculty, employees and students. Andi McCabe is chairing this task force.

Friday and Saturday USU will be conducting the first stage interviews for the College of Engineering Dean. Campus interviews will be scheduled some time in March. The promotion and tenure central committee will be reviewing 64 dossiers and these meetings will take place February 22-24.

Information Items

1. Faculty Senate Membership Update - Rebecca Blais

Meetings have been held to determine Faculty Senate needs. There are 19 senators rotating off the membership. The terms for new senators are three years long and individuals can serve a second, three-year consecutive term. Contacted associate deans to let them know how many senators are needed from their colleges. The reapportionment numbers for the colleges come from AAA. A Qualtrics survey will be

sent out requesting volunteers for filling committees. Once those committees are filled, an election will be held for chair of the committee.

2. Accreditation Update - Michael Torrens

Currently working on the year seven comprehensive accreditation review. Received details of the review last week and the NWCCU team will be here March 26-28 for meetings. The last review was conducted in 2007.

Reports

1. EPC January Report - Edward Reeve

77 course requests approved.

Two R401 proposals submitted and approved.

Academic Standards (AS) worked on a revision of English language policy.

Motion to approve the EPC report made by Patrick Belmont. Seconded by Rebecca Blais. Report approved.

2. Budget and Faculty Welfare Annual Report - Lisa Gabbert | Alison Cook

Last spring the committee met with the president and discussed the distribution of merit money. BFW recommended 1.5% for cost of living and .5% percent for merit. The deans and department heads revised the budget so that there was a 1.25% cost of living increase and a .75percentage increase for merit. The final numbers were determined at a department head meeting. BFW will continue to attend these kinds of meetings to insure that the faculty are represented. BFW is bringing the committee back in line with the code and trying to assist the faculty with participation in shared governance. The committee's main issue is that they want to be more involved in the budget process. This is a duty outlined in code. President Cockett and Provost Smith shared their information and knowledge regarding this.

Patrick Belmont is investigating how per diem rates are set up at the university. USU is at the low end of the scale for universities across Utah. Currently working with David Cowley to figure out how to influence or change those numbers.

Motion to approve the Budget and Faculty Welfare report made by Pamela Martin. Seconded by Courtney Flint. Report approved.

3. Athletic Council Annual Report - Ed Heath

Ed Heath asked if there were any questions regarding the report. None was brought forward.

Motion to approve the Athletic Council report made by Ben George. Seconded by Briedi Gillespie. Report approved.

Old Business

405.6.2 (2) Promotion Advisory Committee (third reading) - John Gilbert

This code change has been to PRPC a number of times. At the last meeting of 2017, there were a few requests for changes. Main changes were the statement with suggestions on how the committee would be formed. That statement was removed and clarification on the mutual agreement was made

Motion to move this code change to the President's Executive Council made by Rebecca Blais. Seconded by Juan Villalba.

Motion to propose an amendment on changing timeframe to two years instead of three made by Ronda Callister. Seconded by John Gilbert.

The only issue of moving to second year would cause a problem when returning from a Sabbatical.

The motion to amend does not pass. Code was approved and will be sent to the President's Executive Council.

New Business

401.4.2 Faculty with Term Appointments – Rank of State Cooperator - Kimberly Lott

It was recommended, at the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting, that this code change be brought forward on the agenda. The change is to add state-level cooperator so that code covers both state and federal.

Motion to discuss this code change made by Pamela Martin. Seconded by John Gilbert.

It was brought to the attention of the senate that some faculty members are state-level cooperators and not federal and this change will include them.

Motion to move the code to PRPC made by Becki Lawver. Seconded by Briedi Gillespie. Moved to PRPC.

Koch Task Force Resolution - Kimberly Lott

Task force selected by the Faculty Senate to discuss the Koch Foundation gift.

Motion to discuss this new business made by Arthur Caplan. Seconded by Lisa Gabbert.

Should this be an ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate since this issue keeps coming up and can a resolution be written? A resolution is a statement of facts about a particular issue. Some faculty feel that there are concerns and risk about the universities integrity with receiving this gift. Faculty is looking for leadership from the faculty senate on this issue in order to have a collective voice. Should the task force look at donations more globally and not just look at the Koch donation? It was stated that the concern is specifically with the Koch gift. Some faculty posed the question should we looking back instead of looking forward. Some have felt that it is a waste of time and resources on something that has already happened and since this is a done deal; it will not change the reality. Major concern was the huge investment of time and find a fair and balanced statement. Certain faculty feel as if their voices were not heard and that the faculty senate is ineffective as votes are rarely taken. This task force could set a precedence in being able to have their voices heard; however, there seems to be a lack of clarity of the task force and its purpose. It is felt that there is a lack of transparency with the Huntsman School of Business and this is an issue with some faculty. Discussions turned to the contract stating that there are many issues contained in the contract. The president has made the contract available to all who would like to read and review it. It is publically available. Where is it located? What contingencies are in place that makes sure it is adhered to? Agreements can be reviewed by contacting Tim Vitale. Some agree that making the faculty senate voice more effective is a positive thing; however, this may not be the issue we want to start with. An effort like this should be put into something more effective on the academic process vs. a political issue. The president has received an email from a group of students who are holding a panel discussion on March 22 to debate the Koch gift. They are asking for participation from individuals such as Frank Caliendo, President Cockett and others who may not be in favor of the gift. The president was asked to introduce the topic and

she feels that this is the heart of higher ed when discussions on differing issues and perspectives are civilly discussed and debated. The president complimented the students for this open forum where the Koch gift can be explained and debated. This debate comes from students in Natural Resources. Students are driving this panel and they are just focusing on the Koch gift.

Amendment, by secret ballot, to set up a task force to review the Koch gift made by Becki Lawver. Seconded by Vince Wickwar. Secret ballot administered. Motion passed. Vote = 26-yes; 22-no; 2-abstain. Task force will be established. Motion that a task force selected by the Faculty Senate President be developed to write a resolution regarding the Koch Funding that was given to the Huntsman School of Business a year ago made by Becki Lawver. Seconded by Becki Blais.

4:30 Adjourn