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Faculty Senate Minutes, April 29, 2019

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

April 29, 2019

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154

Call to Order - Becki Lawver

Approval of Minutes – April 1, 2019

Minutes approved as distributed.

University Business - Frank Galey, Provost

President Cockett thanked the Faculty Senate for all they have done this academic year. She and the Provost have been very happy with how the Senate is functioning. Will let Faculty, Colleges and Departments know that the commencement lineup will be in the TSC on the 2nd floor outside of the Marketplace at 8:00 am. The Provost will be cleaning up faculty code this summer and will get it to Patrick Belmont. The intent will not change it will just be language clean up. Also will work with Patrick and Ken White on how we handle the class of faculty dealing with professional and technical education.

Information

EPC Monthly Report – April 4, 2019 – Brian Warnick

General Education – two designations approved: PRP 1500 (BSS) and FCSE 1350 (BSS)

Academic Standards – Temporary grade proposal approved and a temporary grade of “T” was approved to be utilized in place of an “I” for Incompletes. This is particularly applicable to dissertations and graduate students.

Curriculum Subcommittee – 190 Course requests were processed at April meeting. There are five approved new R401s including: BS Human Experience Design Interaction, discontinuation of K-6 designation degree programs, change in specialization in writing to Creative Writing, restructuring of the Climate Adaption Specialization and the approval to change the department name from Geology to GeoSciences.

University Policy on Dissent | Free Speech on Campus - Mica McKinney

The University has very liberal policies in regard to free-speech. The space/environment affect those policies. No policy on dissent but the university does have a policy on open, free-speech. Working on centralizing free speech code/policy. No changes, just centralizing. Will be bringing forward a free-speech policy this summer. All policies are based on the stance of content neutrality. An attendee was removed from a Huntsman School of Business event because the student held up a sign that criticized the employer of the speaker, which was viewed as disruptive by USU policemen in attendance. No disciplinary action was taken against the student who was removed. Executive order from the White House indicates that federal agencies address free speech policies. Wanting to make sure that free speech is being compliant with the federal law. As a university, we are very comfortable with our free-speech policy as it does align with constitutional laws and as such we are not concerned about losing any agency funding. Will be releasing a website in the fall regarding free speech. Want to continue to have an inclusive and supportive atmosphere here at USU.

Koch Resolution - Becki Lawver

Last February the task force was voted on in the senate and since then they have been working on the resolution. It was presented to the senate in March. Recommendation from FSEC was to have them do a little more inquiry about each of the items that were developed. Today we need a motion to take it off the table.

Update on Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Patrick Belmont

Greenhouse gas reduction committee has been doing a lot of work, developing a plan for USU to reduce GHG emissions by 10% each year for the next 20 years, consistent with the faculty senate resolution from Feb 4, 2019. The committee has three working groups: energy portfolio, travel and carbon pricing, and education. Currently working proactively with Logan City and Rocky Mountain Power to find synergies. Prioritized 127 energy efficiency projects in terms of cost savings and CO₂ emissions reductions. Zach Cook, Alexi Lamm and Patrick Belmont developed a proposal to demonstrate a new energy saving mechanism for labs. The notification was received today that the proposal was successful and USU will receive \$220K from a non-profit organization to implement the energy saving technology in the BNR and Ag Science buildings over the next year. Evaluating costs and benefits of large solar array and wind turbine options. Travel group is working on a survey that will be distributed. Expanding planetary teaching in classes.

Reports

Calendar Committee Annual Report - Renee Galliher

See report. Concern with the amount of days off for Christmas break for USU classified employees where December 25, 2019 is on a Wednesday. FS leadership team talk with the Provost and Renee and SEA for input on the calendar regarding Christmas. Conversation regarding USU spring break with the Logan/Cache School districts and the timing of the Mountain West Conference. Rationale for ending Spring semester classes on a Tuesday was to increase faculty and student attendance at commencement on a Thursday/Friday instead of Friday/Saturday; students are also grateful they can use Saturday to move; and the overall reason is to make the number of class days equivalent in both the fall and spring semesters.

Motion to approve the Calendar Committee Annual Report made by Becky Blais. Seconded by Kimberly Lott. Report approved.

Faculty Diversity, Development & Equity Committee Annual Report - Pamela Martin

After an inactive year in 2017-2018 the FDDE met five times in 2018-2019. Do not currently have federal numbers from the AAEO office. Discussed progress being made throughout USU including:

- Establishment of LatinX Center
- Creation of Diversity and Equity Taskforces
 - Women and Gender Research and Studies
 - Diversity and Inclusion
 - Gender Discrimination Committee
- Affirmative action and Equal Opportunity Office
 - Increased staffing; new hires
 - Toolkit for search committee chairs and education on implicit bias in preparation

Word is that diversity hiring is happening. The numbers of the report are from 2017-2018. Might be better to report in the Fall of each academic year.

Motion to approve the Faculty Diversity, Development & Equity Committee made by Timothy Taylor. Seconded by Becky Blais. Report approved.

Committee on Committees Annual Report - Victor Lee

Responsible for making sure committee membership is populated. Apportionment is the same from last year. FS membership is now complete.

Motion to approve the Committee on Committees Annual Report made by Molly Conrad. Seconded by Becky Blais. Report approved.

Honorary Degrees and Awards Annual Report - Sydney Peterson

Motion to approve the Honorary Degrees and Awards Annual Report made Becky Blais. Seconded by Kimberly Lott. Report approved.

Old Business - Becki Lawver

Motion to take the Koch resolution from the table was made by Patrick Belmont. Seconded by Timothy Taylor.

Discussion followed including inquiries about the recommendations and identify if they have already been addressed. Some of the specific recommendations have been considered by the appropriate groups and are currently being addressed. #1 after discussions with Frank Caliendo it was identified a problem due to of academic freedom by limiting the CGOs publications and holding them to a different standard of accountability. The CGO conducts outside peer reviews that are extremely rigorous. Lag time for publishing is a couple of years. CGO is not rushing the process by just publishing any working paper that comes through their door, they use a national, diverse, and double-blind peer review process. #2 CGO is already doing this. The CGO is supporting funding in CAAS and NR and continuing to look at ways to work with other departments and colleges. #3 as we further reviewed the affiliation agreement it is designed with the appropriate checks and balances. There is an established a board of directors approved by the President and board of trustees. #4 Added benefit to support students if it goes away they are working to have strong donor relations and providing annual reports and keeping the donors engaged. #5 as of a couple of weeks ago a policy is at the Board of Trustees right now. Recommendation to have Faculty Senate member on the gift acceptance committee. #6 determined by voting today if we need to review/revisit next year. CGO recently hosted an undergraduate research symposium. Patrick Belmont noted that the diversity in the projects presented was impressive and very beneficial for the students. Projects included analyses of mechanisms to reduce energy demand, develop electric vehicle infrastructure, and putting a price on carbon emissions. Projects appeared devoid of any political bias. Most students have expressed gratitude for the assistance and involvement with the center. Positive that has come out of this is that the President is establishing a policy regarding gifts.

*Motion to postpone resolution indefinitely made by Kimberly Lott. Seconded by Patrick Belmont.
3 opposed – motion passes. Resolution postponed indefinitely.*

New Business

Close nominations for President-Elect - Becki Lawver

Timothy Taylor next President Elect.

*Motion to accept Timothy Taylor as the next Faculty Senate President-Elect made by Patrick Belmont.
Seconded by Becky Blais.*

Faculty Senate President & President-Elect Coverage for 2019-2020

Becki presented Past-President, Kim Lott with a plaque and certificate.

Kim presented Becki with a gift and plaque.

Becki passed gavel to Patrick Belmont

Concluding Remarks, Passing of the Gavel - Becki Lawver

Number one goal next year is to engage faculty more. Looking at holding college faculty forums leading up to the annual faculty forum. Another change will be streamlining and updating all policies. More policy recommendations will be coming to the Faculty Senate.

College Caucus to Elect FSEC members – Two-year terms are standard. Senators must have served one year in the Senate to be eligible. Colleges needing an FSEC member are:

Caine College of the Arts - Nancy Hills

Jon M. Huntsman School of Business - Dan Holland

College of Engineering - Spencer Wendel

S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources – Christopher Monz

College of Science – Thomas Lachmar

Extension – Rick Heflebower

Presidential Appointment – Robert Wagner

Adjourn 4:11 pm