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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, February 20, 2018

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 20, 2018

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Old Main-Champ Hall

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

Absent: David Brown, Timothy Taylor, Nancy Hills for Matt Omasta,

Guests: Edward Reeve, Interim Vice Provost
Loren Bennett – USU Statesman

Call to Order - Kimberly Lott

Approval of January 22, 2018 [Minutes](#)

Minutes approved as distributed.

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

Over the last couple of weeks, a number of initiatives have been moved forward at the state legislature. One of these is the USHE budget. The higher education appropriations committee made a recommendation that three initiatives be funded at half of what was requested. It was also recommended that higher education receive \$30 million for salary compensation. Tax revenues are very robust so the president is hopeful that the legislature will go higher rather than lower for state employee increases. The health care increase is closer to 5.7%. USU has funding in reserve from previous years where premiums did not rise. The hope is that there will be no increase in employee benefits. Another issue that is being closely followed is the BNR remodel. A presentation was made to the IGG committee and they ranked Utah State as #1 on the higher ed requests and this is in contrast to the regents #4 ranking. Receiving a little noise because the IGG did not follow the Regents' recommendation. The president believes that the university is in great shape for the BNR remodel and is also optimistic for the initiative to work on public lands.

Legislative requests that were brought forward by individual legislators are being ranked and sent over to the executive appropriations committee. This coming week, executive appropriations will look at all the individual requests and decide how they will split up the money.

In summary, it was a good legislative session. The president will be meeting with student leadership to talk about tuition and later in the month will talk with them about truth in tuition. Do not know, right now, what is happening with Tier 1 tuition and not able to tell what will happen with Tier 2 tuition but President Cockett will speak with students about Tier 2 tuition that will fund compliance issues (FERPA, HIPPA, etc.). The state feels that compliance is part of our mission. Hopefully the students will be supportive of these increases. Last year the students were very interested in funding mental health.

The president would like to get feedback on Frank Gale, fourth provost candidate, from the University of Wyoming. Update on the other three candidates: Laura Woodworth-Ney has withdrawn from the search as she is currently a finalist for the Idaho State University president position. Paul Layer from Fairbanks, Alaska is now serving as the interim VP at the University of Alaska. The president is hoping to be able to make a decision by the time of the next Faculty Senate meeting. She plans to update the Board of Trustees at the March 2 meeting. Once Board of Trustee approval is given, USU can move forward with an offer. Doug Freeman has not officially withdrawn. Search is still considered open.

Two weeks from now there will be more updates from the legislative session. The session ends March 9. A meeting with the president and BFW will be scheduled to discuss salary distributions to the faculty.

How are we as an institution situated financially? The tuition plateau has eliminated discretionary funds to start new things and the state revenues are very strong. University enrollments remain robust with no cuts anticipated. Will continue with the budget hearings where deans and vice presidents can bring their requests. Decisions will be made and the deans will be notified in June.

The provost provided an update on the central committee tenure and promotion deliberations. The meetings are scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The central committee will gladly sacrifice a Saturday in order to get the reviews completed.

Update on the search for the Dean of the College of Engineering. Eleven business days have passed since the airport interviews and this search has been moved along quickly. Tomorrow Ed Reeve will publicly announce the three candidates for campus interviews. Those interviews will take place in the second half of March. This provides the college a month for planning purposes.

Information

Comprehensive Year-Seven Self-Study for NWCC - Michael Torrens

The accreditation group will be coming to campus and will be potentially talking to faculty. If anyone saw anything in the report that would determine if Michael Torrens needs to be at the larger meeting, please let Kim Lott know. Michael has done an amazing job of bringing together all the different parts of a very complex system. It is an honest but positive report. The provost strongly recommends looking at how metrics were used to specifically address each standard that NWCC is looking for. This shows our areas of strength and weakness. It is a solid report. This will be a big visiting team, larger than normal. Nine members each have assignments depending upon the standard.

FSEC doesn't feel that Michael Torrens needed to attend the forum meeting.

Reports

EPC February Report - Edward Reeve

EPC report from February 1 meeting

NDFS created three new BS degrees to better serve the students.

Huntsman School of Business brought forward a request from to establish a department of Marketing and Strategy. This proposal was approved by the Curriculum committee but was tabled at EPC. EPC wants data about the faculties opinion on the split. Budget and Faculty Welfare (BFW) will also discuss and data will be presented to EPC another motion to approved will be held. There will be an update at the next FSEC meeting.

Ed Reeve will modify report and distribute with the meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the amendment to the minutes made by Pamela Martin. Seconded by Vince Wickwar. Motion passed.

Old Business

Koch Task Force Framework - Kimberly Lott

At the last Faculty Senate meeting a vote was taken and passed to form a task force to write a resolution regarding the Koch Foundation gift. The Faculty Senate President outlined the framework and feels like going into this task force there needs to be clear goals. The resolution will be a public document and so wording need to be carefully chosen.

The task force needs to be very careful that they search for the truth and the answers that are out there. There were some inaccurate facts stated at the last senate meeting, including research on other campuses regarding Koch Foundation donations/gifts. Instead of making a statement that specifically gives an opinion on the Koch gift the task force needs to look at all centers that are being created. The concerns are at Utah State and what happens here. The appropriate parliamentary rule makes sure that is clear. The resolution needs to be focused on the facts and specific to Utah State. Look at the gift/affiliation agreements and how they could impact students, faculty, and the university as a whole.

How does this gift affect the following?

- Faculty impacts (hiring, P&T, academic freedom)
- Student impacts (scholarships, course requirements)
- USU impacts (how does the gift affect the university as a whole)

Questions to be answered:

- What is the function of this center, including short and long-term goals?
- How is the research disseminated?
- How many units on campus could potentially be affected by this center?
- What happens if this agreement is terminated?
- What happens at the end of the five-years?

Some FSEC members think that the task force may be making a huge mistake by confining the research to just USU. They feel that this could have a big impact on the reputation of the institution. The task force should be tasked with writing a full report and not a resolution and they would then report to the Faculty Senate and then the senate would write the resolution. Department heads should not be involved. It is felt that it might be hard to find unbiased faculty to service on the task force. Faculty Senate President Kim Lott reminded FSEC members that the senate voted that the president should put together the task force that would then create a resolution.

Faculty Senate President asked for nominations at the Faculty Senate and at the Deans Council. The task force needs individuals who can be objective. It was not outlined in the motion that it has to be faculty senate members or non-admin faculty. Hoping to keep the task force to a five-member maximum. These people will be reaching out to different entities for the diversity needed. It's going to be a challenge to get people to devote the time needed to this project. Will start reaching out to people by the end of February.

New Business

A concern was voiced regarding the BS in Integrated Studies degree. The concern is that this request could potentially be in violation of faculty code stating that degrees should not be housed in the provost's office and this could be in violation of faculty code. The Integrated Studies degree is 100% dependent upon the teaching in the colleges. To depart from the code because the timing for the proposal's approval is not right and proves that the faculty senate is not being responsible.

The provost shared his views on code 103.4.3 which is one sentence long and is considered as general or guiding principles. He has a different interpretation of this sentence. The proposal went through four levels of review and it was discussed and approved at each level. Despite the discussion about the proposal, there were zero negative votes.

Code 406 – definition of academic programs was discussed. Code in 406 – academic program operates with one or more operating programs and must be designated as such by the decisions of EPC and the Faculty Senate and approved by the Board of Trustees, Board of Regents and the university president. It must fulfill one or more of these criteria to offer or administer a degree.

FSEC would like to make sure that in the future, that code is followed and that faculty input is solicited. The question is how to do this when the senate just has an advisory role. A BFW presence is welcome at the appropriate EPC meetings. There is no reason why BFW leadership cannot sit down with Ed Reeve to talk about how information that can be passed along to EPC.

Adjourn: 4:37 pm