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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, September 21, 2020

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 21, 2020

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Old Main-Champ Hall

Present: Timothy Taylor (President), Patrick Belmont (Past-President), Boyd Edwards (President-Elect), President Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Provost Frank Gale (Ex-Officio), Michele Hillard (Exec. Sec.), Benjamin George, Maureen Hearn, John Ferguson, Yoon Lee, Nicholas Roberts, Jessica Lucero, Soren Brothers, Vicki Allan, Britt Fagerheim, Denise Stewardson, Don Busenbark, Jan Thornton, Robert Wagner

Absent: N/A

Guests: Paul Barr, EPC Chair
Nikki Kendrick, PRPC Chair
Kristine Miller, Director-Honors Program

Call to Order - Timothy Taylor

Approval of Minutes – [August 24, 2020](#)

Minutes approved as distributed.

University Business - Noelle Cockett, President | Frank Gale, Provost

There has been an update posted on the COVID-19 website. The university has been conducting wastewater (sewage) testing. Some were confused that the contaminated water was from their drinking water and not the sewage. Mid-week USU began to see that the Life Learning Center (LLC) numbers in the wastewater was increasing. The university is currently taking action. There have been 19 cases in the LLC – many have been removed and have been isolated. To continue see the numbers going up there are still people that are positive. They are probably asymptomatic. Last night reached out to a couple of the floors and have been doing rapid testing. 75-80 students tested today. Tomorrow will finish the targeted students. On Wednesday the Utah Department of Health will send their mobile testing unit and all LLC students will be tested. In the meantime some students have been placed on "restricted activity". Those are students that can't be pinpointed if they have been exposed. Symptomatic students go into self isolation. Meals are being provided to the students and their tests should come back in approximately 24 hours. Faculty members have been notified regarding the students who are being looked at. Waste water monitoring has become a useful/helpful way of seeing groups of outbreaks. USU has a really effective case containment process. Some students may still be slipping by but it is still important to wear masks and maintain social distancing. USU can watch and control the numbers. We will see higher numbers tomorrow and the next day because 8 individuals have been detected. Recently we were feeding 280 students and these aren't going to be gourmet meals. President Cockett will check into the food. This time we will be feeding 115 students. Discussed taking in a bag of groceries but that may not work for all students. President Cockett is doing a weekly broadcast with UPR. Students have to stay in self isolation or quarantining. Logan School district has gone back to full-time and we will be watching it closely. The testing is going very well and running efficiently. Some faculty are not hearing about students being in quarantine until 3 days or more later. Does the COVID care team take care of these notifications. IHC testing gets reports to BR health. Once BR health finds out then to report to USU and case containment. If USU does testing we get results at the same time that the student gets them. This will cut down the timeframe. The Abbott test is done within about 3 minutes but is very expensive and are hard to come by. We are using the PCR and that turnaround time is 24 hours. If you get a message from the COVID care team it will let you know that a student has been asked to not come on campus. The faculty member won't know if it is positive or just exposed.

Provost Galey – Putting together some communications for faculty in dealing with tactics with students saying that they need accommodations. Sometimes students are not speaking the truth about these things. Suggesting that faculty members work with accommodations for a couple of days. If they want long accommodations they need to fill out their CARE act form. Most students are not getting that sick. We do have testing. We are now providing the quick Abbott tests at the stadium parking lot. There is both drive through and walk up. You need to have an appointment in order to be tested. Students sign up through the student health center. This is free now. If faculty and staff are not feeling well we are recommending that they meet with their personal physician. Thanks to all the FS who voted on the calendar change. It has been approved through the Executive Committee. At the end of next week we will have the initial requests for classrooms and types to John Mortensen so we can building the calendar for next springs. Due to the calendar change students will begin registering November 16. They can register before we go remote on the 20th. A press release has already gone out regarding the calendar change. This can be viewed on the university's home page.

Information

[EPC Monthly Report](#) – September 3, 2020 - Paul Barr

HIST 3060 received a DHA designation. One request was returned to the originator.

Academic Standards Subcommittee did not meeting – nothing to report.

Curriculum Subcommittee approved 26 course requests approved along with two TEAL and one LPCS R401 requests. Looking at learning objectives being reported since syllabi are no longer required.

Reports

[Educational Policies Committee Annual Report](#) - Paul Barr

Three committees that support EPC are:

General Education with Lee Rickords as Chair

Curriculum Subcommittee with Nick Morrison as Chair

Academic Standards Subcommittee with Renee Galliher as Chair – revision to the language of excused absence policy in the general catalog was revised.

The Curriculum Subcommittee approved 989 requests for individual course actions. Thirty nine R401s were approved.

General Education approve 21 designations. A QI rubric was developed and provided to help guide submissions for QI designations.

Ben George – Denise Stewardson

[Honors Program Annual Report](#) - Kristine Miller

6th year to university wide honors program. Honors is looking to expand to the Statewide campuses this year. 679 undergrads. 557 applied for honors. Up 34%. 5% more faculty working with Honors. 250 faculty working with honors. Engaged a cohort of over 1,000 alumni. Making the Honors program more nationally recognized.

Britt Fagerheim – Don Busenbark

Old Business

[Code 403](#) - Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility (second reading) - Nikki Kendrick

Language adjusted based on feedback received. Sharing sexual images in a course. Need to protect faculty if this is used in a course.

John Ferguson – Don Busenbark

New Business

Adjourn: 4:25 pm