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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, December 14, 2020

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 14, 2020

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present: Timothy Taylor (President), Patrick Belmont (Past-President), Boyd Edwards (President-Elect), President Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Provost Frank Galey (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, Robert Wagner, Jan Thornton, Don Busenbark

Absent: Nikki Kendrick, PRPC Chair
Sami Ahmed, USUSA President

Guests: Paul Barr, EPC Chair
Doug Bullock, Associate Vice President, HR
Sylvia Read, Associate Dean and Professor
Craig Whyte, Director, Scholarship Office
Kimberly Lott, Associate Professor

Call to Order - Timothy Taylor

[Approval of Minutes](#) – November 16, 2020

Minutes approved as distributed.

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

Provost Galey thanked and congratulated the faculty for making it through this semester and for all their hard work. President Cockett was particularly appreciative of all employees. Administrative leave has been approved for everyone from December 23, 2020 – January 1, 2021. USU is being very careful to make sure that all essential employees are still on campus. A system has been put in place that will provide some flexibility to take off time before or after the holiday for those essential employees. The extra five days for rolling over annual leave will still remain in effect. In the process of setting up faculty forums (rename the meetings to town halls) for the week of January 11. Those forums will be held in colleges and will be hosted by Provost Galey and John Louviere. It will be an opportunity for faculty to provide thoughts about teaching, research and extension and moving forward for the spring semester. Will be providing a few of the colleges that provide service courses some additional funding and Undergraduate Teaching Fellows (UTF) for those large enrollment service courses. Convened a group to review and discuss the vaccine and distribution of it. Working through the questions and best communications and practices as USU prepares to roll out a vaccination process. The university will probably not see any vaccines for a couple of months. Testing will continue to operate up through noon on December 22 and will resume on testing on January 4.

President Cockett was asked about the situation brought about by the football team. The president stated that the best thing to do is let the investigation run its course. The president's care for students is utmost and she wants to continue having confidence in them. Investigation could start in the next couple of days. The university wants to show neutrality so that the investigation does not appear biased. With the holidays coming up it make take more time to contact all who were on the Zoom call. The institution will have return to campus testing of as many students that are willing to be tested and then help will be provided to those who may be positive. A report today is showing a decline in the more urban areas including Cache Valley. Provost Galey is working on the rollout if USU is available to be a vaccination center.

Information

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

General Education Subcommittee approved one DHA designation. Discussed being able to receive designations for short-term study abroad courses. If the rubrics are being met then it could be approved.

Academic Standards Subcommittee discussed the discontinuation of the GRE exam. It was felt that this was an impediment to underrepresented groups but does not preclude programs or departments from using the exam.

Curriculum Subcommittee approved 76 course requests and 15 R401 program proposals. Provided justification language on the Curriculog forms. Also including library resource information for R401 full templates.

HR 385 Code Change ([redline](#) – [summary](#) – [final](#)) - Doug Bullock/Mica McKinney/Alison Adams
Looking at updating 385. Clarifying language and expectations. Clarifying DCA priority interviews as well as DCA placement limit. Deleting affirmative action appointment type. Delete nonexempt limitation on temporary positions. The deletions were initiated by the Office of Equity. Looking at training search committees on the topic of diversity and inclusivity.

Motion to move to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Patrick Belmont. Seconded by Benjamin George. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

Reports

[Council on Teacher Education Annual Report \(one-pager\)](#) - Sylvia Read

Kimberly Lott will be presenting this report to the Faculty Senate. Some data has been included that is new and have removed some information that was not relevant. Effective July 1, 2020, Praxis content tests for content tests for secondary teaching majors are no longer required by the Utah State Board of Education. All student teachers must take the Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) starting spring 2020 semester. Out of state teaching is no longer available through the School of Teacher Education and Leadership (TEAL) due to funding and resource support issues. Students may student teach out of state as long as the placement is within a 100 miles radius of the Utah border. Effective July 1, 2020 the grades 1-6 licensure has been eliminated. 88% of teaching students are currently working.

Motion to move the Council on Teacher Education Annual Report to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Denise Stewardson. Seconded by Maureen Hearn. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

[Scholarship Advisory Board Annual Report](#) - Craig Whyte

This report has changed from previous years. The office felt uncomfortable showing all the dollars and finance within the scholarships so they provided a five-year overview. USU awarded approximately \$2M in scholarships this year. Up 3.4% in total undergraduate recipients and an increase in graduate students as well. USU invests millions of dollars into students and with test limitations students haven't been able to take the SAT or ACT. Should be looking at standardized testing or holistic views and how does that come together to allow scholarship submissions. In 2021 USU will continue the ACT/SAT. For those who have not been able to take the test, they may still apply for the Presidential scholarship but will not receive an award until after those who have taken the tests have been assessed and awarded. Moving forward for 2022 looking at how to provide access equitably and consistently.

Motion to move the Scholarship Advisory Board Annual Report to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Benjamin George. Seconded by Yoon Lee. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

[USUSA Annual Report](#) - Sami Ahmed

Hold for January FSEC meeting. Not available to present report.

Old Business

404.3.6 Code ([track changes](#) – [version 1](#)) (second reading) - Nikki Kendrick

Hold for the January FSEC meeting. Not available to present report.

New Business

Ombudsperson Report - Boyd Edwards

In a meeting a couple of months ago the Ombudsperson issue came up. Department heads stated that there was a problem getting individuals involved in the process. The program started in 2005 as an

outcome of an NSF advance grant act. The grant was designed to promote diversity and equity within the university system. The program works well and the individuals do a good job. They don't serve as a member of the committee, they don't vote on retention or review the file. They solely ensure that the rights of the candidates and the university are fully protected. Janis Boettinger suggested that a working group be pulled together. Most of the attendees are administrators and they felt strongly that an ombudsperson should be at the meetings. Did make some suggestions on how to improve the process. The remaining recommendations are to help streamline the process. USU is the only institution in Utah that utilizes Ombudspersons.

Motion to move the Ombudsperson information to the Faculty Senate agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Britt Fagerheim. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

USU Promotion and Tenure Process Survey - Boyd Edwards
(https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3qulyYYopWvNg9v)

This survey is being sent to gather information on how faculty feel about the promotion and tenure process. Would like to send the survey to all faculty. The provost and president don't want to bombard the faculty with additional information. Encourage the faculty senators to discuss this with their colleagues. Colleges can discuss how to distribute the survey to their faculty.

Motion to move the USU Promotion and Tenure Process Survey to the Faculty Senate agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Britt Fagerheim. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

Dixie State Resolution - Timothy Taylor

Dixie State University (DSU) is looking for USU to submit a resolution agreeing with DSU's desire to change their name. It is believed that the change will be of a great benefit to the students, faculty, staff, athletic programs and community. Utah Valley University, Weber State University and the U of U as well as most Utah institutions already have submitted resolutions.

Motion to move USU's submission regarding the Dixie State Resolution to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Patrick Belmont. Seconded by Yoon Lee. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

Adjourn: 4:58 pm