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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, November 16, 2020

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 16, 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 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, Robert Wagner
Absent:	Jan Thornton, Don Busenbark
Guests:	Paul Barr, EPC Chair Renee Galliher, Calendar/Course Fee Committee Chair Mitchell Colver, Director, Center for Student Analytics Nikki Kendrick, PRPC Chair

Call to Order - Timothy Taylor

[Approval of Minutes](#) – October 19, 2020

Minutes approved as distributed.

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

Provost Gale - When it was discussed that the university would be giving two three-day weekends at the last Faculty Senate meeting the senate voted to approve but felt that it wasn't fair for faculty to lose two Fridays. This was taken into consideration and was presented to the deans and the executive committee. It was approved to move the second Friday to a Thursday. Currently in the last week of face-to-face classes. Provost Gale thanked the faculty for a job well done this semester. The university will be going to remote teaching after Friday. COVID 19 testing is available to all faculty, staff and students. Anyone with an A# can be tested, but individuals will need to sign up for the test. There were almost 400 who were signed up for testing today. Currently working through some code issues and discussions. The Department of Justice (DOJ) is mandating some code changes in 407 regarding sexual misconduct. Will be working with the legal department regarding these changes. Hope to have the redline to Nikki (PRPC) for next week.

President Cockett – On November 8 the Governor put out an emergency order making masks required for an indefinite amount of time. A lot of extracurricular activities and events were therefore canceled. USU still wants to keep curricular things going. The Governor's order goes through November 23 and it will be interesting to see what he will do at that time. The change was based on the idea of not having social gatherings outside of your household. The prediction is that the requirements will ease up after the 23rd. USU could have had spectators at the football game but the university felt that it was important to endorse the idea of keeping crowds to a minimum. Mandatory testing of students on a weekly basis has been discussed and this resulted from a conversation that the governor had with White House representatives. This type of large-scale testing identifies those who are carriers and we are using a lot of the protocols and mechanisms to get our students tested. Testing of students started on Wednesday and it was limited to 500 students in the TSC ballroom. In a three-day time period USU actually tested over 2800 students with the rapid card test. At the east stadium we have had up to 400 tested. Those tested in the ballroom received their results that evening. Morning test results will be reported that evening. Afternoon testing results will be returned the next morning. IHC is only testing about 200 people a day and their test results don't come back as quickly. USU has done more testing

than any other USHE institutions. The east stadium is where those who have been exposed can be tested. The positive numbers there are very high. As high as 26%. It is believed that these numbers came from some things that happened during Halloween. The TSC testing is for non-symptomatic individuals. Among the 2800 tested there were 31 positives which is about 1.3%. All but four reported that they had some symptoms but they were mild. USU has 20 contact tracers who call everyone of those positive individuals. We are strongly encouraging employees to go to the east stadium and be tested if you plan to go somewhere for the holiday. Individuals can schedule a test by going to Aggiesheath@usu.edu. President Cockett is very proud of what USU is doing. Just a reminder that this Friday is the last day of face-to-face instruction. Two thirds of the students indicated that they may come back to campus sometime during the break. Library, computer labs, etc. will still be open but faculty are not expected to teach or meet with students in person. The president thanked the faculty for everything they have done to keep classes going and keeping themselves and the students safe. Advising faculty to remain remote after the Thanksgiving holiday even if students wanted to come back to face-to-face teaching.

Information

[EPC Monthly Report](#) – November 5, 2020 - Paul Barr

General Education – No meeting – nothing to report.

Academic Standards – Working on modifying language to include the Provost Office for approval of transfer credit from institutions that are not regionally accredited. Also modifying language to extend the time limit for a leave of absence from one year to three years.

Curriculum Committee – Approved 134 course requests and eight R401 proposals.

Discussion of the Graduate Student Survey and the GRE requirement. Draft language for the standardization of course justifications. Discussion of EPC/Curriculum handbook. A draft will be completed and circulated for the January meeting. IDEA evaluation update for seven-week courses.

[Spring Calendar Update](#) - Renee Galliher

The calendar committee recommends a revised academic calendar for 2020-2021 to reflect changes made as a result of the deliberations of the President's COVID-19 Stabilization Task Force. Moved the spring semester start date to after the Martin Luther King holiday. Looking at what to do for students and faculty when the spring break has been taken away. It is proposed that USU will add two additional three-day weekends. Adding a no class day on Friday, March 12 and also a no class day on Friday, April 9. Classes on Thursday, April 8 will follow a Friday schedule.

Motion to move the spring calendar update to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Benjamin George.

Seconded by Vicki Allen. Moved to agenda.

Course Fee Policy - Renee Galliher

About two years ago there was a state-wide Board of Regents course fee audit with the goal of examining the policies and procedures around the development and approval of course fees. The USU audit went very well but one thing that was a problem is that USU did not have a formal Course Fee policy. The committee has spent the last year developing a specific policy that allows the university to codify all the procedures in place. Procedures and guidelines have been added on the last two pages of the document. One concern expressed by faculty is that it isn't always predictable when equipment needs to be repaired and replaced. The committee is currently working with the college financial officers as they have repair/replacement accounts set up and they are on schedule. There is some flexibility in the system for replacement and repair. Could submit an outside the three-year review if there is an emergency repair/replacement. This policy will be housed in either the 3XX or 5XX section. The committee would like to have the Faculty Senate help shape this policy and have senators volunteer to help shape this policy.

Motion to move the course fee policy to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Jess Lucero. Seconded by John Ferguson. Moved to agenda.

Dixie State Faculty Senate resolution to change university name - Timothy Taylor

Dixie State Faculty Senate has brought forward a resolution that requires changing the name of their university and they are looking for support from other USHE Faculty Senates to see if they will support them. Should USU put together a resolution support the Dixie State Faculty Senate. Their FS has submitted a resolution and USU would write a resolution supporting their resolution.

Motion to move this request to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Benjamin George. Seconded by Soren Brothers. Moved to agenda.

Faculty Senate Meeting dates for Spring 2021 - Timothy Taylor

The January Faculty Senate meeting is currently scheduled for January 4 and that is two weeks before the semester starts. The senate would like to push the date back to January 11.

Motion to move to the Faculty Senate agenda made by Benjamin George. Seconded by Boyd Edwards. Moved to agenda.

Reports

Center for Student Analytics [Student Insights Report](#) - Mitchell Colver

Motion to move the Student Insights Report to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by Boyd Edwards.

Seconded by Denis Stewardson. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

This report is written for multiple audiences, not just students or faculty. It would be a good idea to send this report to all faculty as they prepare to teach in the spring semester.

[USUSA Annual Report](#) - Sami Ahmed

No representative was available to deliver the report. This report will be moved to next month's FSEC agenda.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Faculty Forum Task Force - Timothy Taylor

Motion to move the Faculty Forum Task Force to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by Benjamin George. Seconded by Boyd Edwards. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

Time to change the way that Faculty Forums are held and what feedback we get from them. Look at putting together a task force to work with Patrick Belmont and Timothy Taylor. It is important to have an effective forum. Last year's college level faculty forums went very well and Patrick Belmont is a great choice to chair this task force.

Term Appointment Faculty Task Force - Timothy Taylor

Motion to move the Term Appointment Faculty Task Force to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Vicki Allen. Moved to Faculty Senate agenda.

This task force will assist with the clarification of titles in code 401.4. There are not clear differences between titles. Promotion procedures in code 405.11 needs to be updated because Outside letters are not likely appropriate. Not sure code has been updated. Also need to look at 407.5 code. The task force members would include: Paul Barr as a Provost's Office representative, a dean from one of the eight academic colleges, a department head (possibly Becki Lawver) Faculty Senate reps (Tim Taylor and Nick Roberts) as well as three to be determined term faculty. It was also recommended that Rich Etchberger would be a good candidate for this task force.

Code 404.3.6 [Changes/Final](#) (First reading) - Nikki Kendrick

Nikki Kendrick will work with Patrick Belmont on wording for this proposal and it will be brought back to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for review and placement on the Faculty Senate agenda.

Purpose behind this is that students need to have more of a voice in hiring process. Should be left up to individuals/departments. Did not put in specific language as to how this would happen. Could have a separate document that would be procedural.

Adjourn: 5:20 pm