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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 30, 2020

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Call to Order - Timothy Taylor

[Approval of Minutes](#) – November 2, 2020

Minutes approved as distributed.

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

President Cockett – Moved into post remote learning and things have gone quite smoothly with it. The biggest thank you is for the faculty who have adapted to this form of teach. Currently 30% of students have kept their apartment contracts and 70% have returned to their homes. This gives the university six weeks before January 1 and then two weeks after that before the start of the spring semester. Enrollment numbers are down approximately 4% and it is lower than what USU thought fall semester would be. The thought is that students might be taking a gap semester until things return to normal, post COVID. USU will still plan for Covid student testing under the Governor's emergency order. The timing has moved from weekly to bi-weekly and USU will move to random sampling rather than testing all students. Continue to get a good supply of tests and test students when they come to campus. The news for the vaccine looks very promising. Over the next 6-8 weeks the institution will be working on a proposal to become a vaccination hub on the USU campuses. The President thanked everyone for all they have done to keep the semester going. It is very much appreciated.

Provost Galey – Added to the President's thanks for the faculty. Starting to think about spring semester. The Faculty Senate will hear about the spring days off from Renee Galliher. There will be a friendly amendment changing one Friday to a Thursday so that both days off do not hit two Fridays. Department of Justice is finally wrapping up comments on protocols for Title IX investigations. This is going to require work to adjust the 407 code regarding sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. Currently working with Nikki Kendrick and the PRPC on these changes. The legal department will also help align the code. Met with the deans and they are hearing about some concerns with the freshman cohorts. Need to encourage them to persevere.

Information

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

General Education Subcommittee – No meeting. Nothing to report

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

Curriculum Subcommittee – 134 Semester Course Approval forms approved. Approved eight R401 proposal requests.

Discussion of the Graduate Student Survey and the GRE requirement.

Draft language for the standardization of course justification.

Discussion of EPC/Curriculum handbook. A draft will be completed and circulated for the January meeting. IDEA evaluations update for 7-week courses.

[Spring Calendar Update](#) - Renee Galliher

Adding two additional days. Adding a no class day on Friday, March 12 and adding a no class day on Friday, April 9. Classes on Thursday, April will follow a Friday schedule.

Motion to support the Spring Calendar Update made by Candi -Carter Olsen. Seconded by Maureen Hearn. Update approved.

Course Fee Policy - Renee Galliher

A few years ago, there was a state-wide audit of USHE institutions regarding course fees. USHE felt that USU was doing pretty well. One thing the auditor identified is that USU does not have a course fee policy in place. They found that there are procedures but no policy. The Course Fee Committee has worked a formal policy through the system and have received feedback from a number of stakeholders. This is not a policy that will go into the 400 section of the code. Course fee committee is not looking for approval but just feedback.

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

Dixie State Faculty Senate has created a resolution which was approved by 2/3 of the Dixie Faculty Senate. They are looking at agreement from other USHE institutions. No vote is needed but this will be brought back to the Faculty Senate in another month or so. DSU is not proposing a name yet, just looking at changing the name. U of U has already completed and submitted their resolution.

Faculty Senate Meeting dates for Spring 2021 - Timothy Taylor

Looking at moving the January 4 Faculty Senate meeting to January 11 due to Spring semester starting later.

Motion to move the January 4 Faculty Senate Meeting to January 11 made by Doug Ramsey. Seconded by Keith Grant-Davie. Faculty Senate meeting moved to January 11.

Reports

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

The goal of this is to alert members of the community to the analytic work that is being done and provide the results. There are insights for students, faculty, staff, etc. The grading rubrics has saved the faculty time in grading. Anyone who would like a copy of the report can contact Mitchell Colver and he will send one. Prepared by a well-trained data science team. No motion required for this update/report.

[Library Advisory Council](#) Annual Report – Britt Fagerheim

The group met twice in the 2019-2020 academic year. The library was mostly remote in the spring semester and opened up a little more for fall. Looking at electronic journals which have been becoming unsustainable. (See report)

Motion to approve the Library Advisory Council Annual Report made by Joel Ellsworth. Seconded by Phillip Waite. Report approved.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Faculty Forum Task Force - Timothy Taylor

Looking at better ways to conduct Faculty Forums and ensure they are relevant for all faculty. It was decided that there is not a good reason to wait until November each year but have suggestions/recommendations that can be brought forward throughout the year. Patrick Belmont will chair the task force overseeing faculty forums. Faculty can contact Patrick Belmont and/or Tim Taylor if they would like to participate on the task force.

Motion to create a task for to oversee Faculty Forums made by Boyd Edwards. Seconded by John Ferguson. Task Force approved.

[Term Appointment Faculty Task Force](#) - Timothy Taylor

A joint task force between the Provost's Office and the Faculty Senate has been created to prepare a report on Term Faculty Appointments. It was found that there are no clear differences between titles and outside letters are not likely appropriate. Currently USU has 1/3 of the faculty that are term appointments. Need to ensure that faculty code is current and correct. Need to get clarification from the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee on the code changes that may be needed. It was recommended that

USU look at best practices at other universities. Suggested members for the task force are: Paul Barr (Provost's Office), a dean from one of the eight colleges, a department head (with term appointment), Tim Taylor, Nick Roberts and term faculty from Extension, Statewide Campus and John Ferguson (Business). A report would be presented to the Faculty Senate on April 26, 2021.

Motion to create a task force made by Boyd Edwards. Seconded by KimberLeigh Hadfield. Task force approved.

Adjourn: 4:00 pm