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Faculty Senate Minutes, January 9, 2023

Utah State University

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January 9, 2023
3:00 – 4:30 pm
Merrill Cazier Library – 154

MINUTES

Call to Order - John Ferguson

Approval of Minutes – [November 28, 2022](#)

Minutes approved as distributed.

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

President Cockett – Currently focusing on the upcoming legislative session. The session starts in a week and runs for approximately 45 days. One concern for the university is that the governor mandated that institutions of higher education in the state cannot increase course or student fees. The one reason we raise tuition is to get the 25% for the promotion of faculty. Degree awarding institutions only get 75% and they have to come up with the additional amount. This year there is a moratorium of tuition increases and it is not known if the state will cover the 25%. This is a really big concern for the university. USU is hoping that they will agree to include the 25%. Technical education gets 100% of the money. Since we do both at USU all Tech Ed will get funded at 100% and everyone else gets 75%. Performance funding is what is used for new initiatives. Last year we did not ask for a tuition increase to cover tenure and promotion we utilized the performance funding. The presidential search committee has been set up. The first meeting will be January 19. They are going to use a national search firm but are looking for nominations/recommendations. The Board of Higher Ed just changed the May meeting. USU will still be hosting, however the meeting does not take place in the Uintah Basin like it was planned, it will now be held on the Logan campus. That is due to the on-campus interviews that will be taking place for the presidential candidates. A new president may be announced in May. Legislative monies do not help fund graduate students, however Governor Cox is proposing a 8.3% cost of living. This amount still needs to be voted on by the legislature.

Provost Smith – The next phase of tenure and promotion review starts this Wednesday. The Central Committee will begin reviewing dossiers. There are approximately 75-78 faculty coming up for promotion and tenure. Thanks to the faculty who serve on the committees.

Information

Educational Policies Committee – [December 1, 2022](#) - Paul Barr

General Education Subcommittee – Approved four general education designations. One large issue with General Education Designations is that there is no follow up once the request is approved.

Academic Standards Subcommittee – No meeting (nothing to report). Registrar's Office will be bringing some items/policies forward for the subcommittee to work on.

Curriculum Subcommittee – Approved 131 course approvals and 14 R401s. Working on the School of Graduate Studies residency requirement, not statewide but academic residency. Thinking about the Honors program stackable certificates. This is the first time we would stray from course-based certificates. Getting more and more notation requests.

Reports

[Council on Teacher Education Annual Report | One Pager](#) – Marla Robertson

Teacher Education, Instructional Leadership, and School Counseling programs continue to be fully accredited by the Association for the Advancement of Quality Educator Preparation. A total of 1,672 undergraduate students were enrolled in teacher education programs during the period of September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022. During the same period, 539 students graduated, and 632 license recommendations were made. The job placement rate of program graduates continues to be of interest to the Council. The placement rate for teachers is 97%.

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

The board is becoming smarter in how to package the aid and distribute it to the students. Still working on bringing things back into alignment after COVID. FAFSA is administered through the Department of Education and receives hundreds of millions of dollars. We can add that as a financial aid package for students. Utah is currently the 3rd lowest state for utilizing FAFSA funding. For the 2024-2025 academic year, FAFSA will change. Rather than 140-150 questions the form is being simplified to about 35 questions. This process will be easier for students, and we are looking forward to more students becoming eligible and applying. Faculty can encourage students to fill out the forms and request the money. Met with Connections regarding student financial literacy. This is part of our orientation and our high school partners are beginning to push FAFSA.

[USUSA Annual Report](#) - Clara Alder

There are currently 52 officers across the state and here in Logan. Working with President Cockett regarding the strategic plan. The average GPA for the 85 student leaders on scholarship is 3.47. There was \$349,378 given out in scholarships. There were 198 student activities and there are currently 87 student clubs. Utilizing social media to get information to the student body. There are 24,079 Facebook, 39,081 Instagram and 23,744 Twitter followers.

Old Business

Athletic Spending - John Ferguson

Several months ago, the Athletic Committee presented their budget. The Faculty Senate President met with Dave Cowley and went through the budget (2 ½ hr. meeting). The increase in salaries had to do with negotiating football coach salaries. There was concern regarding a large monetary line item. The reason for the increase was COVID funds and there was nowhere else to put the money. COVID was hard on athletics and that is where a lot of money was lost.

New Business

[Divestment Proposal](#) - Cristina Chirvasa | John Jensen

Looking for faculty discussion to promote positive change. Engage in divestment as a moral responsibility. Need to address the problem and create positive change. Make a change through the financial environment. Divestment from the coal and oil and gas. What investments are we talking about? This proposal is for institutional investing and not retirement or employee funds. We would need to have some action in kind. The reality is that some agricultural implements don't have a climate friendly alternative. People in the Carbon Underground may be providing help to our students. What will be invested in instead and what are the performance metrics? The senate would like to look at what other land grant universities have done. There are too many questions regarding what is being proposed. It is a very broad idea without a whole lot of facts or information. We do not want to harm students along the way with this.

Resolve to request a list of investments of university endowments and how they are distributed made by Boyd Edward. Seconded by Danielle Ross.

Amendment to look at partners in the USU and the Uintah Basins and see what would happen to the area and its students if we divest made by Matt Bunnell.

A vote to look at who is part of the Carbon Underground 200, including investments in endowment funds.

A vote was taken: 30 yay 3 nay

Move to suspend the rules Benjamin George David Feldon

The faculty senate presidency would like to report each month on information that comes from the various committees

Recently been approached by general counsel and HR regarding faculty/staff abuse. Don't think that it is a huge number but one is too many. This is a culture issue. Go back to colleges and departments and share this information. Let them know that we don't want this type of behavior. If there are individuals who are struggling there are resources available. The resources are not just for students.

The strategic plan response – we now have grass roots faculty on the committee. Looking for thoughts, concerns and ideas for the hiring of the president.

Appreciate all the hard work that the senators are doing in getting the information out. This is providing the opportunity to break out of the silos.

Adjourn: 4:25 pm