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Faculty Senate Minutes, March 13, 2023

Utah State University

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MINUTES

Call to Order - John Ferguson
Approval of Minutes – February 6, 2023
Amend the February 6, 2023, minutes and remove the word oversite in the IRB Ad Hoc Committee statement. Minutes approved as distributed once the update has been made.

University Business - Noelle Cockett, President | Larry Smith, Provost
Abe Rodriguez is the new student body president. Congratulations and we look forward to working with him. The Utah State Legislature has awarded a 7.65% pay increase. This is the highest rate since we have been tracking it. Part will go across as performance base. This amount will only be given if the individual has a good performance rating. The other portion will be for merit, salary compensation, inequities, etc. Looked at a lot of equity analysis for staff last year and we found issues in ethnicity and gender categories. We have started making changes to those issues. Encouraging units to address this issued with their flex pool. The president has asked Matt Pinner to start the same analysis for faculty now. On Wednesday, the Executive Committee will meet and start making suggestions for how the money should be divided for the across the board and flex distribution. Performance funding is new money for the year when tuition is held back. We did not receive all that we have gotten in the past. USU only got 60% of what we were eligible for, and we are finding that this is a COVID affect since students did not take as many credit hours, which delayed seniors from graduating in Spring 2022. One of the categories we are measured on is graduation. If we, as an institution, do not increase by 1% or more there is nothing awarded. It has also affected the numbers for high-yield jobs. We will get the money as one time and then next year we can make up those measurements. This is controversial among the institutions, particularly those who received 100% this year. Regarding other monies, we had a good year. We asked for approval on two buildings. Received $10M for the Huntsman School and received money for remodeling the SER building. This allows us to move computer science into the SER building. Looking at getting units more aligned and located together. Got some other funding ASPIRE received 2.1% ongoing monies. One-time earthquake engineering center received $2.5M. We also received funding to start a medical and community interpreters’ program. USU is looking at added interpreters to refugee locations. This will be a free program that the university is funding and providing. A consortium of USU, U of U and UVU are getting funding for Social Work and Psychology. There is a moratorium on tuition increases. The state funded 12.5% of the 25% that we normally receive. You may hear others got 8.75%, that gap was not funded for higher education. The president is getting additional recommendations for the funding distribution and then President Cockett will meet with the Budget and Faculty Welfare (BFW) and the Staff Employee Association (SEA). Graduate teaching assistants’ monies will go directly to the departments and cannot be moved into anything else.

Provost Smith – A week before spring break the central committee completed the deliberations of 75 promotion cases. Everyone on the committee left feeling inspired by the work of the faculty. One of the most important documents is the letter of recommendation. Proud of how seriously everyone has been taking that responsibility. The Friday before spring break we held a trustees meeting. On the agenda were 27 R401 proposals. The subcommittee of the trustees TAAC reviewed these, and it reinforced how much the faculty and
departments keep a pulse on the changes in their fields. The president receives the results of the deliberations, and she will make the final promotion and tenure decisions.

**Faculty Senate Presidency Business** - John Ferguson | Maureen Hearns | Boyd Edwards

The divestment committee has come together, and a letter will be sent to the administration. At this stage they are gathering information. The committee for IRB has almost been set up and they will begin their work shortly. Any interest in serving on the IRB ad hoc committee can be forwarded to John Ferguson. Appreciate how much work is being done by the Faculty Senate and how many things are being brought forward.

**Information**

**Educational Policies Committee – February 2, 2023** - Paul Barr

Academic Standards Subcommittee – School of Graduate studies asked for consideration for English proficiency testing. Asked specifically that we accept two additional exams, Michigan and ?? test. We have adopted those and expanded the list of countries in which students are exempt. Working on academic appeal and student grievances to come up with a policy that brings these together.

General Education Subcommittee – 10 course designations brought forward and approved. USHE R470 is the policy that talks about general education. Would like to quantify the number of credits in higher education and make it more consistent. USHE is looking at reducing the General Education credits from 32 from 27. These discussions will continue. USU feels good about where we are in relation to these changes. We do still have work to do.

Curriculum Subcommittee – 220 course approvals approved and 10 R401 proposals. The Office of Research is looking at getting course credentials like Community Engagement.

**Reports**

**Parking Committee Annual Report** - Tracy Hulse

Accomplishments – Aggie Terrace is 18 years old, and it needed an upgrade to the fire suppression system. Spent $140K to get the system up and running. The old trailer park east of Aggie Village was just gravel and potholes were developing the university we had Edge lay down crushed asphalt to take care of this problem. The number one concern right now is the construction of the Haravi building which will be constructed right in the middle of the purple parking lot. Needed to disperse those individuals but kept 95 spots open. Only had to move 95-100 individuals to the Aggie Terrace. Plans are moving forward for the south campus area with the business building and parking garage. The cost of the new terrace will be $20M. Costs have more than doubled since the Gateway Terrace was built. Structural condition of Big Blue Terrace – it is 43 years old and showing signs of wear and decay. The suggestion was to replace this in the next 10 years or so since it is not seismically sound. A parking permit increase has been approved.

Honorary Degrees and Awards Annual Report - Noelle Cockett

The selection committee for the Honorary Degrees and Awards includes three members from the FS. They along with 10 other people reviewed nominations and made the selection. The 2023 commencement speaker will be Paul Jones, President of Fort Valley State University. This is the historic black college that USU has a partnership with. Paul and his wife Sylvia are USU alum and Paul has been in higher education for 37 years. Paul’s son Isaiah Jones is working with Jane Irungu in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity organization. Honorary degrees will be given to Gary Stevenson, who is a graduate of USU Huntsman School. He and a friend started the exercise equipment company known as ICON, where he served as chief operating officer. He is now a full-time general authority and a member of the quorum of the twelve apostles. He has been extremely supportive of USU. Recently he helped USU obtain funding from the LDS church for the construction of the Mehdi Haravi bldg. Jonathan Bullen will also receive an honorary degree as a graduate of the Huntsman School. He is active in the university and has remained active through the foundation board. He is a Cache Valley native, and his business success is in business real estate development. His business was the major developer for Sugarhouse and he and his company were selected for the 800 development at point of the mountain. The final honorary degree goes to Mia Love, who was a two-term house of representative member. She is the daughter of Haitian immigrants, who graduated from college and became a flight attendant. She was
considered a conservative leader in pro-life issues. She has written a book "Qualified". She focuses on women and minority women.
Unanimous approval was given for all individuals.

Old Business
N/A

New Business

Adjourn: 4:06 pm