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Faculty Senate Minutes, April 3, 2023

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

MINUTES

Call to Order - John Ferguson

Approval of Minutes – [March 13, 2023](#)

Minutes approved as distributed.

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

President Cockett met with the Staff Employee Association and the Budget and Faculty Welfare committees to discuss the salary distribution of the legislative funding. Both of those groups recommended 6% across the board. Having problems with transparency on how the flex pool would be used. There will be 1.65% put in the flex pool. Staff employee flex pool stays with the staff and the faculty flex stays with the faculty. It is up to the units/departments on how to provide for non-state appropriated employees. Deans are still in discussions on the amount for graduate assistants and they will work that out. The question was asked as to how USU could show their appreciation to the state legislature. It was recommended that a resolution be written and signed by the Faculty Senate presidency. This resolution will be sent to the state legislature, Utah Board of Higher Education and President Cockett.

Provost Smith – Friday morning the President and Provost will meet with the USU Board of Trustees regarding the promotion and tenure approvals and that information will go out immediately following the meeting.

Faculty Senate Presidency Business - John Ferguson | Maureen Hearn | Boyd Edwards

Thanks to everyone for sharing Faculty Senate information with the departments and colleges. President Ferguson encouraged everyone to share this information. Gave an update on the bullying situation between faculty and the staff. People have taken a stand to help in certain situations. There are still some complaints coming in. If you see it, please step up and say something. Several conversations in the past week where there is frustration that faculty are being treated differently. President Ferguson believes that faculty are different and have a greater duty to be more responsible. Encouraged that there will be conversations and policy upcoming. Faculty are encouraged to have these conversations and be completely open about them.

Information

Educational Policies Committee – [March 2, 2023](#) - Paul Barr

There were 892 course approvals and 67 R401s that were reviewed. That is a massive amount of work and the committees have done an amazing job.

General Education – approved five General Education designations. Continuing area expertise discussions. Everyone agrees that there needs to be a mechanism to be able to turn down those requests for departments who want to petition Gen Ed designations outside their area of expertise.

Academic Standards Subcommittee – Currently working on the academic grievance policy/process. They want to clearly delineate academic vs. non-academic grievances and would prefer a more abbreviated pathway.

Curriculum Subcommittee – Approved 24 course requests and five R401 proposals. Congratulations to Abe Rodriguez. He is the new 2023-2024 USUSA President. The committee looks forward to working with him.

Reports

[Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee Annual Report](#) - Don Busenbark

In January, the committee met to discuss the budget and the legislative session. There was concern about the state wanting to freeze tuition at all the state universities. Met again in February to discuss making recommendations to the administration depending on the final legislative outcomes. The committee does have concerns about the lack of transparency around the allocation of legislated salary increase and “flex” allocations. Still have concerns and are working on equity and compression.

[Sustainability Council Annual Report](#) - Zachary Cook | Caitlin McLennan

The FY 2021 greenhouse gas inventory showed a 4% increase in emissions compared to a 15% decrease from last year. USU has successfully completed the Decarbonization Master Plan for the central utility plant. Actively working to limit emissions from on and off-campus transportation, related to student, staff, and faculty commuting.

Old Business

[Changes to SNAC](#) - Casey Coombs | Heidi Wengreen

The Student Nutrition Access Center (SNAC) will now be housed under the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. SNAC needs \$150K annually to operate. The college and department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences will provide \$75K of that money. They will be looking at ways to secure the other half of the needed funding.

Code 404 [current](#) | [track changes](#) | [final](#) - Scott Hunsaker

Added the verbiage “subsequent to meaningful consultation”. The deans really like that verbiage, and it is being included in other sections. Everything in yellow was approved in the first reading.

Scott Hunsaker moved approval of the code changes. This request will now be moved to the President for approval at the President’s Executive Committee.

New Business

Resolution: [Amendments to the USU Student Code of Conduct](#) - Abe Rodriguez

Present legislation to amend the student code of conduct to include USUSA bodies to include equal representation. This code is outdated and needs the appropriate boards updated.

Faculty Senate President Elect - John Ferguson

Nominations are open for the Faculty Senate President Elect. Danielle Ross and Grant Cardon’s names were brought forward, and each accepted the nomination. John Ferguson provided a brief explanation on the responsibilities of the Faculty Senate Presidency. Needs to be a person that will make sure that the faculty voices are being heard. The administration does support the shared governance. Each candidate will be given two-minutes to share their information with the senate. The short bios of each nominee will be provided to the senators.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Membership - John Ferguson

- College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- Engineering
- S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources

Boyd Edwards wrote an appreciation resolution for the state legislature and board of higher education for the significant salary increase. USU is grateful for the support.

Motion to move the resolution forward made by Boyd Edwards. Seconded by Denise Stewardson.

Motion to amend the wording to include in fulfilling our land and space missions. With your support we look forward to continuing to fulfill USUs mission and to serving our students by Danielle Ross.

Motion to approve all changes made by Michael Pate. Seconded by Danielle Ross.

Adjourn: 4:30 pm