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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes - August 21, 2023

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August 21, 2023
3:30 – 5:00 pm
Old Main-Champ Hall

MINUTES

Present: Elizabeth Cantwell, President
Larry Smith, Provost
Maureen Hearn, Caine College of the Arts (President)
John Ferguson, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business (Past-President)
Matt Bunnell, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Carol Kochan, University Libraries
Danielle Ross, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Michele Hillard, Executive Secretary
Yoon Lee, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
Doug Miller, College of Science-USU Eastern
Sarah Null, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
Denise Stewardson, Extension
Robert Wagner, Executive Vice President
Don Busenbark, Statewide Campuses

Absent: Grant Cardon, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (President-Elect)
Yu Huang, College of Engineering

Guests: Paul Barr, EPC Chair
Shelly Arnold, Empowering Teaching Excellence
Neal Legler, CIDI

Call to Order - Maureen Hearn
Approval of Minutes – [April 17, 2023](#)
Minutes approved as distributed.

University Business - Elizabeth Cantwell, President | Larry Smith, Provost | Robert Wagner, Executive VP
The President is beginning her fourth week at USU and is still getting up to speed. Introductions of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) was made. President Cantwell asked what and how the FSEC wanted to discuss during the meeting. She will normally bring interesting and useful information that will benefit the faculty; however, it is too early to figure out what that is right now. President has been meeting with state legislators, board of trustees and board of regents. She is in more of a listening mode right now but has a fair amount of shared governance experience also. She sees that part of her role is to make sure that we are asking questions and framing shared governance so that it has meaning for faculty. Should be addressing lasting issues that will be in place for the next 10-20 years. We all need to pay attention to the role that we play. There are three questions she would like to discuss, and they are: 1) what is our greatest untapped opportunity 2) what are our greatest risks 3) what should the president worry about that no one will have the courage to tell her about. A question was asked about enrollment numbers. The FSEC usually gets an update on the enrollment numbers. Robert Wagner, the Executive Vice President will be providing some of that information. The President reiterated that we do not get to say no, we are not growing. We are always looking and working on growing the enrollment at USU. If the state is asking us to do it, we will. The Board of Trustees

is deeply engaged in the strategic plan. There is a group currently working on the plan. How do we prioritize the action plan and how often do we review and update/change it? These are things the university will be looking at. We also need to understand what our vision is as a land-grant university and are we communicating this to the community both on and off campus. She is also looking at establishing a research goal for the institution.

Robert Wagner – Enrollment has moved into positive territory. Comparing day to day from this year to last year since our enrollments come in at different times. Last week there were over 300 Chinese students that registered and that moved us up. We were at a .7% increase; however, we are flat right now. Last year we had our largest incoming class. Part of the enrollment struggle is due in part to missionaries leaving. The incoming class is down this year, and this is statewide, but it looks like we have a good plan going forward. Later this week there will be a more accurate report from the full-day 15 report. Online programs out of state continue to decrease and that is not where we want to be, but we are putting things in place that will get us there. Hearing similar issues from the other State of Utah institutions. USU needs to look at how we differentiate ourselves. We must get the students and parents to understand their return on investment for college degree.

Larry Smith – Summer was a time to reflect on what was accomplished last year and focus on this coming year. One of the top issues to work on this year is graduate school issues. Primarily funding of graduate students. The health insurance provider for grad students increased rates by approximately 40%. The university was faced with a \$440,000 bill which had to be paid. The decision was made to not burden the departments or grad students. The research office, provost office and central education paid for this shortfall. Looking at new types of graduate mentor training and wanting to be more sensitive to the students and their needs. Tomorrow there are two faculty workshops based on the student lifecycle and how faculty can learn about the resources USU has for students. Connections is starting this week - big thank you to the faculty that is helping with this. There were approximately 530 participants at the Empowering Teaching Excellence conference, and it went very well. Vice Provost Paul Barr will put together a workshop for term faculty promotions. The university is organizing several meet and greet events for different constituencies to meet President Cantwell. Once of these events will be done by the Faculty Senate and all faculty will be invited. This event will take place on September 6 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm at the Alumni House. The Faculty Senate will look into getting a professional email template that can be used for sending our more formal announcements/invites to all faculty.

Faculty Senate Business - Maureen Hearn | John Ferguson | Grant Cardon

The first faculty senate meeting for the 2023-2024 academic year will be Tuesday, September 5.

Information

Encourage senators to understand the importance of committee service and that this is expected. We still have several committee assignments that need to be finalized.

Periodic College Reporting - Maureen Hearn

The question was asked what platform is being used to get information to the faculty and how does this information make it back to the senate? It was recommended that we have a line item on the agenda that would say college reporting or have specific colleges report on specific months. This usually needs to be done on an as needed basis. It might be a good idea to incorporate multiple options like adding a contact us email link on the website. We will make a spot on the agenda and then have it if needed. There will continue to be discussions on how this will be handled.

Reports

[Empowering Teaching Excellence Annual Report \(ETE\)](#) - Travis Thurston | Neal Legler

Motion to move the Empowering Teaching Excellence Annual Report to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Carol Kochan. Moved to agenda.

ETE focuses on teaching and professional development from grad students to all faculty. They provide conferences and workshops to assist faculty with their teaching experiences. There were 958 badges earned in

the past year. Approximately 530 participants attending the recent ETE Conference, where over 80 instructors presented. CIDI is continuing to develop more foundational services and new capabilities. Provide on-demand support for faculty. Also provide consultations and work on course development.

Old Business

Committee on Committees Nomination - Maureen Hearn

Motion to move the Committee on Committees Nomination/Election to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Danielle Ross. Moved to agenda.

Need to elect another member to this committee. We will hold an election at the September 5 Faculty Senate

Task Force Updates (Divestment, IRB, Term Faculty) - Maureen Hearn

Motion to table the Task Force Updates to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Matt Bunnell. Motion tabled.

The Faculty Senate Presidency will work with the task force chairs to schedule updates/reporting to the senate.

New Business

Faculty Code 405 [original](#) | [track changes](#) | [final](#) (1st Reading) - John Ferguson

Motion to move Faculty Code 405 to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by Danielle Ross. Seconded by Yoon Lee. Moved to agenda.

Rewriting all the 400 codes. Faculty code 407 will now be 410 and this will take a little longer. 401-404 were clear cut and had only minor changes. From code 405 on there will be many more changes. Codes 406-407-408 will then address tenure, term, and other faculty. Request is going to be that as a group we put this on the agenda and give PRPC time to make some updates. Question of annual review of faculty and there is a wide disparity of how this is done between departments and colleges.

Adjourn: 4:50 pm