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## Faculty Senate Minutes January 8, 2024

Utah State University

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January 8, 2024  
3:00 – 4:30 pm  
Merrill Cazier Library – 154

## MINUTES

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### **Call to Order** - Maureen Hearn

Approval of Minutes – [November 27, 2023](#)

*Motion to approve the November 27, 2023, minutes made by Doug Ramsey. Seconded by Shelly Halling. Minutes approved as distributed.*

### **University Business** - Elizabeth Cantwell, President | Larry Smith, Provost

President Cantwell – She is looking at the upcoming legislative session. The first meeting will take place on January 30. Preparing for a combination of a budget brief and a research brief. USU and the University of Utah will brief the legislature on the same day. This is kind of an interesting session since there is a lot going on in higher education both on the national and local level. The president doesn't know if the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> will include alternate questions. We will look at the difference in the narrative and what we are asked to do. The presidents from Penn, MIT and Harvard did not do institutions of higher education any favors during their congressional meetings. President Cantwell anticipates that the budget increase for this year will be small, since there is a lot of signaling that there may not be much allocated. We should receive a little raise but no idea of the amount. There may be bills associated with higher education that will show that USU has been working on them for a few years, but not looking for large shifts. Keep an eye on what things we might need to change verses the narrative. It appears that we will be working on these things for the next two to three years. Keep an eye on the gap between narrative and reality. Keep open lines of communication and don't shy away from it. USU is losing a senior administrator, Robert Wagner will be leaving to become the President of Idaho State University. The president is looking forward to working with him and the ISU institution. We need to be mindful of students especially because there appear to be slightly higher levels of seasonal and mental distress. The data shows that this is increasing. Please be mindful of students and their needs.

Provost Smith – The President and Provost plan to continue the listening sessions at the statewide campuses but will watch the weather and decide later this week if they will travel. Tenure and promotion dossiers are due in the Provost's Office on Thursday. There will be a workshop for term faculty interested in promotion and they will talk about policy and process and encourage promotion of term faculty.

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

Board of Education Meeting – John Ferguson

First amendment policy – we've been assured by legal counsel that this will not affect us as we have a policy that covers all of this, and it shouldn't have much of an impact on USU. Working with Governor's Office and legislature to have a good understanding and working relationship. Met with Utah Statewide Staff Employee Association (SEA) and we are working together to create lasting bonds and relationships. Not lobbying but trying to provide a resource.

Grant Cardon – Still getting ready to put together 1<sup>st</sup> task force meeting with the SEA. Would like one more senator that would be willing to serve on the task force. Setting up a meeting early on this month.

Maureen Hearn – Wished President Cantwell well at the legislative session. Also thanked Robert Wagner for his years of service at USU.

## Information

### Educational Policies Committee Report - Paul Barr

EPC does not meet until December 7 and missed the FSEC deadline. Both December and January information will be reported at the January 22 meeting.

## Reports

### [Council on Teacher Education Annual Report | Summary](#) – Sylvia Read

*Motion to accept the Council on Teacher Education Annual Report made by Nate Trauntvein. Seconded by Carol Kochan. Report accepted.*

There are two high stakes licensure exams, and this fall semester was the first time the score was consequential. USU students passed with 93%. Currently waiting on resubmissions and looking forward to an increase in percentage. The foundation of reading is tied to state legislation and is a test of teacher knowledge of teaching, reading and student learning. This is in the pilot stage and our students are currently scoring 65 or 70%. When it becomes consequential the percentages should increase. We are back to pre-pandemic numbers for teachers. USU is the largest producer of teachers in the state of Utah.

### [Faculty Evaluation Committee Annual Report](#) - Todd Griffith

*Motion to accept the Faculty Evaluation Committee Annual Report made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Nate Trauntvein. Report accepted.*

Made some slight changes to the language for the Teacher of the Year award. Ongoing discussion on teacher evaluation outside of student evaluations. These are just discussions right now; no actions have been taken. Also looking at the Promotion and Tenure process. The process can be overwhelming for a non-tenure track faculty, and it is extremely difficult to find letters for Professors of Practice. Many of the packets are extremely long. No one wants to review nor put together packages that large. Thinking about ideas how we can make it fair across the different faculty.

### [Library Advisory Council Annual Report](#) - Heloisa Rutigliano

*Motion to accept the Library Advisory Council Annual Report made by Grant Cardon. Seconded by Matt Bunnell. Report accepted.*

The council meets at least two times a year. The library has decided to change their hours. This was based on automatic gate counts. Subscriptions are the biggest chunk of money for the library. The libraries held the first After-Hours Event after the luminary during Connections. They will continue to do this in the future. Students felt more comfortable visiting the library after that event. The library endowment has enough funds to pay for the proposed book drop.

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

*Motion to accept the Scholarship Annual Report made by Sandra Weingart. Seconded by Denise Stewardson. Report accepted.*

This information does not include federal funds. In the 2022-2023 academic year we disbursed \$90,586,919.30 in scholarships. We offered more scholarships but disbursed less than the previous year. There was a spike in 2020-2021 due to COVID. USU receives very little state aid, and we are the third lowest in the nation. We were the only institution in the state that provided two-year scholarships. We are now awarding four-year scholarships. This change is helping us to catch up to our competition, but we are not moving us ahead of them. There are going to be changes on federal aid. They are completely scrapping FAFSA and starting new. 2024-2025 FAFSA is now available. Encourage students to utilize FAFSA. Last year over \$62M was left on the table. Students and families in Utah are loan adverse. We have a lot of work to do to familiarize students and families regarding this resource. If we don't use this aid, we will not get it back.

[USUSA Annual Report](#) - Abraham Rodriguez

*Motion to accept the USUSA Annual Report made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Carol Kochan. Report accepted.*

Student success – 3.575 GPA average GPA for the 86 students on scholarship. 325 leaders and volunteers. Have provided 15,669 service hours. The Utah College Day of Service diverted 3538.3 pounds of apples. The month of January is open for students to declare their intent to run for a USUSA office.

**Old Business**

N/A

**New Business**

N/A

**Adjourn: 4:00 pm**