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Faculty Senate Minutes March 4, 2024

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March 4, 2024
3:45 – 5:00 pm
Merrill Cazier Library – 154

MINUTES

Call to Order - Maureen Hearn

Approval of Minutes – [February 5, 2024](#)

Minutes approved as distributed.

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

President Cantwell – We have come to the end of the legislative session. Yesterday, John O’Neill and Kerri Davidson started at the university. John as the Vice President for Operational Strategy and Special Advisor to the President and Kerri as Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief of Staff. The president has asked that John be invited to spend time with the Faculty Senate. The COLA raise for this year is 3% and there is no flex. This increase will in turn lead us to a 3.4% increase in tuition for students. The governor signed both the DEI and bathroom bills and all state institution general counsels are talking about these and how they will impact their institutions. The president will come back later with more information since the language is not precise. We will have to change the name of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. For the most part, things like diversity statements have not been required here. The work, in the president’s opinion, will continue to be what it has been. The president has encouraged the faculty to read and become familiar with these bills. The work that we do as an institution to educate people and provide impactful research was not part of this legislature. There were several bills associated with water research, policy, etc. We will come up with an analysis regarding the bills that have passed through the legislature. There are bills that came up but didn’t make it through and most likely they will come back next year. One of these bills will be on General Education and this is not a local narrative; but is a national drive. Hetrodox Academy is a powerful group that is looking at General Education. Sustained a 1.5% cut across the board. It was not put in place this year but will be in place for the 2025-2026 year. In between now and then we will have to put in place plans for this cut. President Cantwell does not see a situation where we would have a layoff scenario. We did reach some of our performance goals which haven’t been achieved in a few years. Had a meeting with the Faculty Senate presidency regarding the proliferation of issues with shared governance. It was a good discussion and ended up with the idea that it is time to create a committee that will look at shared governance. We need to find ways to generally keep an eye on shared governance. Discussed who might serve on the committee. The president feels there should be three members appointed by her. It should also include the Faculty Senate presidency and some number of elected faculty, which may be senators or may be elected by academic units. This group will look at the commitment to shared governance and how we can make it better. The plan is to get the committee set up before the end of this academic year. The president wouldn’t be shocked if the policies don’t reflect current law or that USHE policies don’t either. A constant evaluation of what we’re doing is always a good idea. Please contact the Faculty Senate presidency if you would like to participate.

Provost Smith – President and Provost completed the statewide listening tour at the Roosevelt, Vernal and Salt Lake Center. A huge thank you to everyone who attended. On Friday the promotion and tenure central committee began deliberations. They worked from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. There were 79 cases that are being

reviewed. The achievements of our colleagues are inspiring and we're very proud of the faculty and all the work they put into making the university work so well.

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

At the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, a couple of weeks ago, Matt Pinner presented on limited English proficiency. He was unable to attend the Faculty Senate meeting so this will be brought back to the next meeting. Looking for Faculty Senate president-elect nominations. Asked senators to bring forward names for leadership positions. It is an incredible experience to serve in the Faculty Senate presidency. The Committee on Committees is working on Faculty Senate membership as well as filling the committee openings. Serving on these committees is part of your responsibilities as a faculty senator. Had the second monthly meeting with Faculty Senate and SEA and shared the refined charge. Started tackling the first major task, which is looking at details for increasing childcare offerings on campus for faculty and staff. There will be a survey going out to firm up the need for this effort. Thanks to everyone for their service on the senate as well as on the committees.

Information

Education Policies Committee – [December 7, 2023](#) | [January 4, 2024](#) | [February 1, 2024](#) - Paul Barr
Going through accreditation cycle. Meetings are ongoing.

General Education Subcommittee approved 16 designations. USHE updated their General Education policy. We will address the USHE policy and make any changes that need to be made.

Academic Standards Subcommittee proposed language for a second degree and the difference between bachelors and associates. Was asked to review the catalog page Conflicts with Beliefs, Alternative Course Requirements. Discussed Academic Renewal Policy.

The Curriculum Subcommittee approved 582 course approvals and 64 R401 proposals.

Reports

[Faculty Diversity, Development, & Equity](#) Annual Report – Grant Cardon

The primary agenda was to discuss goals and elect new leadership. Elected Ryan Knowles as the interim chair. Looked at previous work on salary equity. Discussed graduate student research. Working on future planning. *Motion to accept the Faculty Diversity, Development and Equity Annual Report made by Kelly Fadel. Seconded by Denise Stewardson. Report accepted.*

[Parking and Transportation Committee](#) Annual Report - Tracy Hulse

Completed a new parking lot for Aggie Village laundromat. Setting up T2 Mobile Pay implementation in the TSC visitor lot. There will be a virtual permit kickoff. During the construction of Mehdi Heravi building near Ray B. West there was a loss of 100 stalls in the purple lot. There are problems with the structural condition of Big Blue Terrace. Construction has begun on the south campus business building, the parking terrace, and the housing structure. Resealing Old Main small parking lot and red performance lot as part of the annual lot maintenance. Raising parking permit prices by 7%. Looking at less of an increase for those who park in a service lot vs. those parking in a terrace structure. The highest increase for this year will be \$25/year. Working on motorcycle parking and making more areas.

Motion to accept the Parking and Transportation Committee Annual Report made by Grant Cardon. Seconded by Yu Huang. Report accepted.

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

An inventory summary, progress comparison, progress on key recommendations as well as looking forward for needs is included in the report. Looking for a 3% emissions reduction over time. Also made a comparison to peer institutions to see how USU is doing.

Motion to accept the Sustainability Council Annual Report made by Shelly Halling. Seconded by Grant Cardon. Report accepted.

Old Business

Update on IRB Ad Hoc Committee - Benjamin George

Several Faculty Senate members came forward with issues they were having with the IRB Office. This survey will be a fact-finding endeavor and will be sent out the survey shortly. Asking senators communicate with their faculty to complete the survey. Information is only accessible by members of the ad hoc committee. No administration or IRB office will have access to the information. Want everyone to complete the survey to get a good solid picture of interactions with the IRB. This information will be presented in the final session of the faculty senate.

Update on Faculty [Code 405](#) - John Ferguson

Already approved 405 but having to go back because of changes in the legislature. Almost a year ago we voted on including part of the evaluation and role statement including diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Have used student success in place of DEI. There are some things we can do and need to do, but right now is not the right time. We can state our belief and support of certain things. Need to include clinical positions for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Motion to accept the Faculty Code 405 updates made by Denise Stewardson. Seconded by Matt Bunnell. Update accepted with 3 votes in opposition.

New Business

Faculty Code 407 [Redline – Clean](#) | 408 [Redline – Clean](#) (first reading) - John Ferguson

Most of the changes are making sure that everything is consistent and aligned. Clarify confusion and make a more uniformed system. There was some language where the way it was phrased some of the promotion committees did not know if they could bring in the candidate at the last meeting. Clarified that point of confusion.

Motion to accept Faculty Code 407 and 408 made by Carol Kochan. Seconded by Nate Trauntvein. Motion accepted.

On April 10, as part of the Presidential Investiture, there will be a faculty forum and the topic will be shared governance. Faculty are encouraged to attend the investiture on April 12.

Adjourn: 4:34 pm