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Faculty Senate Minutes October 7, 2024

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October 7, 2024
3:00 – 4:30 pm
Merrill Cazier Library – 154

MINUTES

Call to Order - Grant Cardon

Approval of Minutes – [September 9, 2024](#)

Motion to approve the minutes made by Shelly Halling. Seconded by Matt Bunnell. Minutes approved as distributed.

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

President Cantwell – Discuss a few items, first is the transition to a different athletics conference. This move will occur in the 2026-2027 academic year. USU will be joining the PAC 12 conference, and it will have a different make up than what we're accustomed to. There will be additions to this conference as time goes on. There was a lot of support for this movement across Utah, as well as support from student athletes and donors. It will cost more money to enter this conference, however, the university will not be paying for it out of central funds. There will be a big push from the President, Athletics and Advancement for funding. This is important because we need to remember regardless of opinions the fact of how we go in athletics makes a difference in how we move forward as an institution. The second item is that USU and other institutions declined the offer to play San Jose in women's volleyball. The President is willing to speak with anyone, faculty, staff and students regarding any questions or concerns they may have regarding this decision. She will not address this issue publicly but is happy to talk one-on-one. Third, a formal [year in review report](#) has been finalized. We are headed into another legislative session and there are a lot of things moving at once. Moving forward on two major asks of the legislature. Approval at the USHE level to move on the renovation of the Math & Stats and Animal Science building. It has not been renovated since 1918 and will add 25,000 square feet of additional space. The back section of the building will house artificial intelligence and data groups. It will also house the Honors College and a space for students and faculty to work with companies/industry. Another item moving forward to USHE is a joint initiative with Weber State University (WSU) around defense, science, and technology. WSU will focus on bachelor level workforce development. Ultimately, USU will most likely end up sponsoring with others.

Provost Smith – The question was asked if the official enrollment numbers had been released. October 15 is the date when the enrollment data will be released. USU does show increased enrollment. Enrollment numbers should grow until approximately 2030. At that point, the enrollment numbers should flatten and hold for a decade.

Faculty Senate Business - Grant Cardon | Maureen Hearn | Todd Griffith

Todd Griffith – Some faculty have come forward with concerns about usage of the HPER building. The problem is that towels are not being provided and at times, faculty can't utilize the HPER. The towel issue is two-fold first there was a lot of theft, and they no longer have staff in the building. The solution to the towel problem is to obtain towels from the employee wellness center. Second, the space used by faculty is a classroom and is reserved first and foremost for students. Currently developing a training program for tenure and promotion

chairs. This is a massive undertaking and is important to provide proper training and consistency in the process.

Grant Cardon – 400 level policy discussions. Met with individuals to discuss revisions of 400 code. These were halted at the passing of HB438. Lots of need to edit sections due to that bill. 405 dealt with T&P of all faculty broken out for easier review. 405 is a general overview; 406 tenure-track 407 & 408 sections dedicated to term faculty; 409 & 410 came from 406 and 407. Some of these will be ready to move forward soon. Legal has some code that they will be reviewing. The hope is that these will be in place before the accreditation process. Section 200 is also being revived. Section 202 includes the Faculty Senate. President Cantwell now can make decisions regarding code. She wants to work collaboratively and not work unilaterally. She wants to make sure the faculty has a voice in policy and changes moving forward from year to year. Some policies are outdated back into the 1990s. There will be an ongoing review of the policies to ensure that they don't conflict with one another.

Information

EPC Report – [September 5, 2024](#) - Paul Barr

General Education – The What is an Educated Person conference was announced and registration is now open. The General Education Accreditation process was discussed and what needs to be done. The revisions of the CL/CI proposal guidelines were reviewed. The R470 was discussed including updates and related tasks for USU.

Academic Standard Subcommittee – Update the list of countries that Graduate School English Proficiency Exam would be waived and include new language. Remove Academic Residency Requirement language.

Curriculum Subcommittee – approved 121 course proposals and five R401 proposals. The Curriculum/EPC handbook was updated and posted to the website. Discussed new course prefixes. Course prefixes assigned at the bachelor's level or higher. R475 address concerns on the language. This is a joint request with USU and the University of Utah. Talked through what would be a reasonable approach. The Graduate School is working on a handbook.

Human Resources [Policies 330 & 392](#) - Doug Bullock

Update Policy 392 – Romantic Relationships and Employe of Relatives and Household Members. Reformatted and retitled the policy, Clarified limits on supervising romantic partners, relatives, or household members. Updated disclosure of covered relationships. Restated supervisory exceptions permitted. Provided a definition of romantic relationships.

Policy 330 – Telework. Clarified types of telework, telework eligibility and committee makeup. Simplified eligibility. Clarified out of state fee payments and supervisor and Human Resource responsibilities. Telework is a privilege and not a right.

Report

[Educational Policies Committee Annual Report](#) - Paul Barr | Harrison Kleiner

Motion to accept the Educational Policies Committee report made by Sandra Weingart. Seconded by Mair Murray. Report accepted.

Approved 1067 course approvals and 108 R401 approvals. There were 21 gen ed designations awarded. Provided policy updates. Adoption and implementation of changes in the USHE policies 401, 402, 403, 411, 470, 472 475 and 315. Goals for the upcoming year include general education reform, micro credentials, R475 revision and compliance, NWCCU accreditation. Looking to improve/clarify processes for approvals.

[Honors Annual Report](#) - Kristine Miller

Motion to accept the Honors Annual report made by Doug Ramsey. Seconded by Matt Bunnell. Report accepted.

Honors completed a self-study and a National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) external review.

Recommendation was that USU consider establishing a University Honors College. The program served 689 students for all eight colleges and five statewide campuses. Implemented transfer agreements with Salt Lake Community College and Snow College Honors programs. Looking to increase the number of Honors applications to support USU admissions yield.

Old Business

Received a list from the Committee on Committees. President Cardon wants to thank everyone for their willingness to participate and serve on the committees. By accepting the calling you are expected to serve.

New Business

N/A

Adjourn: 4:07 pm