

Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee
Minutes for August 28, 2007

Present: Jeanette Norton, Fred Baker, Jim Bame, Daren Cornforth, Steven Harris, Charles Salzberg, James Sanders.

Absent: Loralie Cox, Ted Evans (semester conflict), Jake Gunther, Eugene Schupp (on sabbatical Fred Baker is alternate), Gary Stewardson

1. Introductions were made. Members were instructed to review their terms of office as listed on the agenda to make sure they are correct. A request to change the meeting time was considered. The consensus was to maintain 3:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month. This will fit in best with the calendar for review and approval of programs by BFW, EPC, and other committees.

Meeting dates for 2007-2008, 3:30 p.m., last Tuesday of every month except December. Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Nov. 27, 2007; Jan. 29, Feb. 26, Mar. 25, April 29, 2008 The College of Business will need a new representative as Irv Nelson will be unable serve.

Note added as of 9-20-07

College of Business representative will be Vance Grange

Extension representative will be JoLene Bunnell (Utah County Office 4-H, Provo)

2. Discussion of J. Norton's meeting (5/15/07) with Vice Provost Rhonda Menlove on status of Regional Campuses and Distance Education. Continuing concerns were expressed about budgets for distance programs and the welfare of faculty without a surrounding support system and research environment. Tenure committees will need to pay particular attention to these faculty. Role statements for faculty at regional campuses will need to be crafted with care. These will be issues that faculty will need to continually address. BFW statement on Potential Impacts on BFW of the Increasing role of Off-Campus Academic Programs is posted as part of the BFW Summary Report on the Faculty Senate website:
<http://www.usu.edu/fsenate/Committees/BFW/BFWSummaryReport2007andStatement.pdf>
3. No programs needed review this month. The charge for BFW was discussed. BFW input on budgetary issues is advisory. Curricular, programmatic, and departmental changes are reviewed for budget and faculty welfare implications. Members of the committee should consult with faculty in their colleges to discuss major issues.
4. Report from Employee Benefits Advisory Board (EBAB) from J. Norton

Wellness Program progress report was distributed to members of the committee. BFW representation on EBAB has been J. Norton and I. Nelson. Charles Salzberg agreed to replace Irv. Several concerns about USU health benefits were discussed. Cost was foremost of these. Our benefits were described as "major medical coverage" rather than health insurance. One committee member stressed that BFW represents faculty welfare and not the healthcare industry.

The Wellness Program at USU is growing. An administrator has been hired: Caroline Shugart.

Other concerns raised:

- Could USU join with (or rejoin) other Utah schools to offer coverage?
 - Better food options on campus
 - Offer a stipend to faculty to join *any* fitness facility
 - Faculty locker room
 - More space for faculty fitness center
5. The teaching evaluation process was discussed. Question of redesigning evaluation form was discussed (no decision). Concern was raised that perhaps other means of evaluation should be employed, but have not been: teaching portfolios, peer review, course design evaluation. A more holistic approach would be beneficial. Question of correlation between grades and evaluation was raised. Question of whether greater cooperation and integration with USU Analysis, Assessment and Accreditation would be beneficial. Could staff be hired to conduct classroom assessment?