



**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2009
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Mike Parent called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

John Kras moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2009. Byron Burnham seconded, motion carried.

Announcements

1. **Roll Call.** Senators are reminded to sign the roll at each meeting.
2. **Time Table for Electing Senate President.** By code the President-Elect is elected from the floor at the April Senate meeting by ballot and reported to the senate by the May meeting. The May meeting is really held at the end of April. We will entertain nominations from the floor at the next Faculty Senate meeting. There are some restrictions as to who is eligible. A nominee should have completed one year on the senate, those who are in their final term of their commitment are not eligible.
3. **Committee Elections.** The Committee on Committees is responsible for informing college deans and their administrative assistants about the election for various committees and also members to the Faculty Senate. Elections should be held during the month of March and results presented to the Senate in April. Refer to section 402.10.2 of the code if you have any questions.

University Business - President Albrecht

The final 2009 FY budget came in at another \$171 million below appropriations. The legislature decided to cover the shortfall using one time monies. For the university it means a 4% reduction taken last September, plus the January 7.3% reduction with 3.625% backfill. Moving forward there is an 11.3% ongoing reduction for the FY 2010 already in place with a possibility of additional cuts up to 17.5%. There may be money coming to the university from the economic stimulus package and a combination of other sources. Notice has been sent out to the Deans about how the major federal agencies have received additional funding as part of the stimulus package. President Albrecht urges Deans and all departments to utilize these increased opportunities.

There are two other important bills the legislature is considering that will impact Utah State University. First, House Bill 364 includes additional boarder waivers for student recruiting and also a legacy component which would allow children of USU alumni to attend USU at in state tuition rates. This bill passed the House unanimously but still must pass the Senate.

Secondly, House Bill 432 gives temporary authority to College and University Presidents to shift funds between line items in addressing the budget reductions. This would give us a little more flexibility in addressing budget issues.

President Albrecht met with several alumni and donors in Palm Springs recently. The common theme among the donors is that they love Utah State and want to continue funding their scholarships and programs but given the economy it will be more difficult to meet their commitments to us.

Provost Coward updated the Senate on the Vice President of Student Services search. The search committee has made a recommendation to bring in 4 candidates and the president has approved them. They will begin their campus visits after spring break.

Consent Agenda Items

John Kras moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Vince Wickwar second, and the motion carried.

Information Items

ASUSU Tobacco Policy. Jeremy Jennings presented the proposed tobacco policy. Last year the students supported a total ban of tobacco use on campus. The total ban was rejected by the administration and they requested the policy be revised. The current proposal includes an expansion of the clean air act, the 25 foot barrier to include "in courtyards or other areas where air circulation may be impeded by architectural landscaping or barriers, such as but not limited to the TSC patio and bus stop enclosures". Also addressed is the sale of tobacco on campus and also group gatherings and tobacco advertising.

The proposal has been presented to CEA and PEA. The question was raised how selling tobacco on campus harms non-smokers. Jeremy said that the smokers he spoke with were not concerned about this. It is available elsewhere at more reasonable prices and they do not need it sold on campus.

Concerns were raised about international students and cultural differences with smoking. Also discussed were questions if smoking on the patio infringes on nonsmokers rights. Lengthy discussion continued on issues surrounding the proposed tobacco policy.

Mike Parent clarified that the Senate has an opportunity to provide feedback on this issue, but it is not a part of code that the Senate has the authority to change. Provost Coward confirmed that this is an administrative decision. A vote would be welcome to obtain a sense of the faculty but would not be binding in policy.

A motion was made and seconded that a straw poll be taken on the proposed revision to show a sense of the Senate for support of the proposal. Votes were made by show of hands and counted with 21 in favor of supporting the motion and 24 opposing. Motion failed.

ASUSU Excused Absence Policy. Jeremy Jennings presented the proposed changes to the Excused Absence Policy, adding a provision for students who are interviewing for professional school, graduate school or internships and the second modification addresses the University Ambassador program.

John Kras moved to accept the proposal as a package; it was seconded by Nat Frazier. Motion carried.

Key Issues and Action Items

PRPC Grievance Policies and Procedures 407.1.2. Scott Canon presented the second reading of the revision to section 407.1.2. The current revision includes language that the calendar may be suspended by the chair. At the last FSEC meeting Provost Coward pointed out possible inconsistencies with this language and PRPC was asked to review this and make suggestions to clarify the issue. PRPC suggests that the statement "suspension of the calendar by the chair" be stricken and limit this specifically to sections 407.4 and 407.6 and specify that

any suspension of the calendar is by majority vote of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.

A **substitute motion** was made by Pat Lambert to modify the amendment to read the calendar may be suspended by a majority vote of the panel appointed by the AFT Committee. Several seconds were received and the motion carried. This passes as a second reading.

A motion was made and seconded for PRPC to look at the level 2 changes of section 406 of the code. Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.