



**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2010
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Ed Heath called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Darwin Sorensen moved to approve the minutes of March 29, 2010. Vince Wickwar seconded and the motion passed.

Announcements

Roll Call. Senators are reminded to sign the roll and alternates to initial by the person they are filling in for.

University Business – President Albrecht.

President Albrecht reviewed the budget presentation that was made to all of the colleges individually, detailing the \$6.5 million budget reduction. Personnel reductions totaled 17 RIFS or non-renewals and a total of 91 positions eliminated or left unfilled. At the end of the legislative session the additional cuts total 14% of the budget and some funds are restored with ongoing dollars. President Albrecht recommends strategic use of available funds. First by eliminating the budget recycling debt by the year 2012 as well as eliminating the need for furloughs in the upcoming academic year. By the year 2012-2013 there will be additional dollars to invest from the elimination of the structural deficit and additional Tier II tuition.

The announcement for the new chancellor of CEU will be posted on the USU website tomorrow. Joe Peterson has been selected to fill this position.

Five hundred two faculty members participated in the evaluation survey of the Provost, which is a 64% response rate and over an 80% response rate from other units across campus. The IDEA center sent the report to the President a few days ago. President Albrecht is collecting data from other constituent groups that deal directly with the Provost, the last of which will be completed in May. A report of the results will be delivered to the faculty senate at the first meeting in the fall.

Consent Agenda Items

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mike Parent with a second received from Tyler Bowles. Motion passed.

Information Items

Welcome Faculty Senate President Elect – Ed Heath. Ed welcomed Glenn McEvoy as the new President Elect.

ASUSU Initiative – Jordan Olsen. Jordan Olsen has served as the Arts and Lectures director. The budget for these convocations comes directly from student fees, yet a large number of

students could not attend because of class conflicts. Historically when USU was on the quarter system there was a common hour when classes were not held that was used for these convocations. ASUSU proposes to bring back convocation hours on Tuesdays and Thursday. Scheduling will need to be done on a department level to make sure there are no conflicts with four-year plans etc. This will also allow colleges and departments time for meetings of faculty as well. Byron Burnham spoke in support of the idea, recognizing there will be conflicts and some issues to resolve but suggested that USU could bring business and world leaders to campus which would be a great experience and opportunity for our students. Several other senators spoke in support of the idea.

BFW Report on Medical Disability & Insurance – Vance Grange. Vance Grange recently spoke with Dave Cowley regarding the changes to the medical disability and insurance policies and had more information to share with the senate. Currently long term disability employees have medical coverage for their lifetime, but costs are skyrocketing. There are currently 35 employees on disability at a cost of 1.8 million annually. This is triple the cost from 5 years ago. The current proposal from Human Resources as presented to the Senate at the previous meeting is to provide coverage for one year, and then the employee may elect to pay the entire premium for two additional years after which there would be no more coverage. BFW committee recognizes that this reduction in benefits might be beneficial in cost reduction and possible premium reductions for current employees, but recommends further study be done before modifications are implemented.

The University Executive Committee did not approve the Human Resources proposal. A committee has been formed to further study the issue as well as any options for coverage in the new national health care legislation.

Key Issues and Action Items

Committee on Committee Election – Betty Rozum. Ed Heath called for nominations for Committee on Committee. Chris Winstead and Eric Worthen were the nominees. Vince Wickwar moved that nominations be closed and Glen McEvoy seconded, motion carried. Voting was done by ballot and Eric Worthen was elected.

The senate also voted approval on two athletic counsel nominees: Brett Shelton and Ginny Dilworth.

CEU Apportionment for Faculty Senate – Ed Heath. Ed Heath proposes a temporary measure to ensure that CEU is represented on the Faculty Senate immediately. The proposal allows for CEU to be represented as a unit with three senate members, one of which will serve as a Faculty Senate Executive Committee member.

Motion to approve by Renee Galliher and seconded by Vince Wickwar. Motion passed.

PRPC Code Changes – John Engler. Section 401.6 - 401.11 (second reading). Motion to accept changes by Mike Parent, seconded by Vince Wickwar, motion passed.

Section 402.1 - 402.3 (second reading). Motion to accept changes by Steve Burr, seconded by Tyler Tolson, motion passed.

Section 405.6.2(1) (Second reading). Motion to accept by Vince Wickwar, seconded by Kelly Kopp, motion passed.

Faculty Evaluation Committee Report on Course Evaluation Pilot Study – Greg Podgorski. FEC recommendations based on the pilot study of the IDEA form during spring semester are to adopt the IDEA Center short form and administer it electronically. FEC wants to encourage, but not require, the use of the diagnostic form for pre-tenure and pre-terminal rank faculty who seek

maximum guidance in teaching. The recommendation included a switch to online, outside of class administration and the use of incentives to encourage a high response rate. The recommended incentive would be early release of grades for students who complete the evaluation. It is also recommended to take the two open-ended questions from the current USU evaluation form and add them to the IDEA form and encourage colleges and departments to include additional open-ended questions specific to their units. The cost of the IDEA Center form is approximately \$27,000 per year and the cost of administering the current form is about \$10,000 per year, not including the indirect cost to the individual departments.

A motion was made by Byron Burnham to approve the recommendations and forward them to the administration. Motion was seconded by Nat Frazer.

Further discussion addressed concerns about student perceptions of the timing of releasing grades as well as the possible merit to implementing the new form first then moving to online administration at a later time.

It was proposed that a grandfather clause be included in the recommendations allowing current tenure-track faculty to continue using the current form for purposes of promotion and tenure decisions. Mike Parent proposed a friendly amendment to the motion to include a grandfather clause, which was accepted by Byron and Nat. Motion passed.

Awards

Awards were presented to the outgoing Past President and President and the gavel was passed to the President Elect.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:10 p.m.