



**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2011
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Vince Wickwar called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Glenn McEvoy made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2011. Motion was seconded by Eric Worthen and the motion passed unanimously.

Announcements – Vince Wickwar

Roll Call. Members are reminded to sign the role sheet at each meeting.

Formation of the Benefits Advisory Committee (BAC). A new University Benefits Advisory Committee has been established. All employee groups have representation on the committee so that employees will have more information and input on future benefits decisions.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht.

President Albrecht updated the Faculty Senate on several issues. The Vet Science Program received a 58 to 23 vote in the Utah House of Representatives and a unanimous vote from the Senate committee. It is now waiting to be brought to the floor of the Senate after the February revenue numbers are released. The Appropriations Committee has required a 7% base cut on all the budgets. Next week committees will begin to backfill on those cuts, positive progress is being made. President Albrecht is announcing a reorganization at the senior level of USU's administration team. Effective April 1, Ross Peterson will step down as Vice President of University Advancement but will continue to serve in a part-time assignment as Special Assistant to the President until the campaign is finished. The University will move forward with a different structure, there will be less focus on position title and more emphasis on function. Annette Harder will be the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for Advancement. Effective June 30th M. Kay Jeppesen will step down as Vice President of Information Technology, after 49 years at USU. Eric Hawley will become the Associate Vice President of Information Technology and will report directly to the Vice President of Finance, Dave Cowley. Eric will also have the title of Chief Information Officer (CIO). These changes will affect the structure and make-up of the Senior Cabinet (Vice Presidents Group) and it will now be called the Presidents Council. Membership will be comprised of the remaining Vice President's as well as COO for University Advancement, University CIO, and Executive Director for State and Federal Relations.

Information Items

Instructure's Canvas the new Learning Management System (LMS) Program – Robert Wagner. Robert reviewed the decision process for choosing the new LMS Program that will replace Blackboard Vista when the contract expires July 2012. At that time Blackboard Vista will no longer be serviced or supported by the developers. USU had more faculty and student involvement in the decision making process than any other institution in the State. In June, July and August a series of online surveys and focus groups were held. Three programs were evaluated: Blackboard Learn, Desire to Learn, and Instructure Canvas. Instructure Canvas was

the unanimous selection among all the institutions. The migration tool for Instructure Canvas is actually easier for faculty to use than the migration to the new Blackboard product would be. Over the next 18 months, 2,430 course sections will be migrated from Blackboard to Instructure Canvas. The time required by faculty to accomplish this migration is approximately one hour for each faculty member. The faculty members who have looked at this product were using it in about 10 minutes as opposed to the hours and hours of training it took to learn Blackboard. Training events and Instructure Canvas receptions will be held through March. A pilot group of about 50 – 60 courses will be migrated and use Instructure Canvas during Summer Semester. By Fall Semester 2011, one third to half of all courses will be taught on Instructure Canvas. By July 1, 2012 Blackboard will be turned off completely and will no longer be accessible. There are several committees in place to monitor the migration. The FACT Center will be available to help faculty with problems or questions that arise during the process. It is largely felt that this will be a great opportunity to improve courses with the new integrated technology available in this product. Publishers are beginning to develop test banks and materials specifically for Instructure Canvas. The version of Instructure Canvas that USU will be using will be integrated into Banner and other campus systems; therefore, instructors are discouraged from creating free instructor accounts with the Instructure Canvas open source product as those accounts cannot be integrated into USU specific programs. If faculty would like to start using Instructure Canvas, send an email to fact@usu.edu and they will create an account for you. You may preview the site from the link on the FACT Center homepage or at www.fact.usu.edu/htm/canvas. Departments and faculty may contact Robert Wagner or the FACT Center with any questions or concerns.

Consent Agenda Items – Vince Wickwar.

A brief summary of the reports was presented by the following people:

Research Council Annual Report – Brent Miller
Bookstore Report – Eric Worthen
EPC Items – Larry Smith

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Shane Graham and seconded by Darwin Sorensen. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

PRPC Item, 402.10 - 402.12 The Faculty Senate and Its Committees (First Reading) – Bob Parson. There was no discussion. This item will be presented at the next Senate meeting for a second reading.

Motion to approve was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 4:30 p.m.