



**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 4, 2010
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Vince Wickwar called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2010 was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements – Vince Wickwar

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

Parliamentarian. A parliamentarian is needed to serve with the Faculty Senate. They do not have to be an elected senate member.

Faculty Forum. The Faculty Forum will be November 1, 2010 in the Taggart Student Center auditorium. The agenda will be set following the next FSEC meeting, October 18, 2010. Please forward agenda items to your FSEC representative.

University Business – Raymond Coward, Provost.

President Albrecht is traveling on University business.

The dedication of the new USTAR building will be Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 1:30 pm.

William E. Kirwan, chancellor of the University System of Maryland will be the next speaker in the Presidential Lecture series on campus. He will speak on the current and changing landscape of the public research university in America, as well as the need to restore economic and academic balance to intercollegiate athletics. Dr. Kirwan is one of the leading voices in American public higher education and a nationally recognized authority on critical issues shaping the higher education landscape. The lectures will be Wednesday, October 13, at 2:30 p.m. in the Eccles Conference Center Auditorium and Thursday, October 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Spetman Auditorium of the Laub Athletics Academics Complex.

Fall 2010 enrollment is the largest enrollment in the history of USU. The enrollment figures do not include enrollment on the Price and Blanding campuses. Main campus and RCDE headcount enrollment is 25,766 which is an increase of just under 3% and FTE's are up 4.6%. Enrollment is up in every category and the student body continues to grow more diverse and continues to be well prepared. The incoming class has an average ACT score of 24. Out of state students are up 12.7%. A question was raised about the growing enrollments in RCDE courses and the quality of courses. Provost Coward noted that since the alignment of the academic structure between main campus colleges and departments, and RCDE instruction, there is less of a concern.

Consent Agenda Items – Vince Wickwar.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Ed Heath and seconded by Glenn McEvoy. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

Summer School Calendar – James Morales & Raymond Coward. In the fall of 2009 President Albrecht asked VP Morales to convene a committee to look at the decline in summer undergraduate enrollment on the Logan campus and how to optimize use of university facilities during the summer months. Several upper level administrators served on the committee as well soliciting input from various student leadership groups. The committee identified a number of factors contributing to the decline in enrollments, including a summer schedule that no longer meets the needs of students.

The other four factors identified were increased pressure on students to work during the summer months, proliferation of online courses, lack of clarity on which courses are being offered, and teaching incentives for faculty.

The report has previously been presented to the Deans Council, BFW committee, Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the ASUSU Executive Council, with a very positive response. Due to the timely nature of the summer schedule it was suggested that this piece of the report with recommendations be presented to the other committees separately (the remainder of the report has not yet been adequately vetted for presentation purposes).

The current summer schedule consists of three four-week sessions overlaid by an eight-week session. The course offerings were split up over these sessions and lacked common bell times making it difficult for students to put together a full schedule.

The committee recommends a change in the summer schedule to a four-week session beginning immediately after commencement, May 9 – June 3, 2011, for workshops and other flexible offerings. That session is followed by a seven week session of 90 minute classes meeting Monday – Thursday, beginning the first week of June and ending before the Pioneer Day holiday. Other recommendations are to standardize the bell times with a full 15 minutes between classes, and to not allow ad hoc courses to over-lap during the summer.

VP Morales and Provost Coward clarified several issues. Initially RCDE will not follow the same schedule but the hope is to align them eventually. RCDE is looking at running two seven-week sessions during the summer. Also this schedule would apply to undergraduate students only and there will be allowances made for certain unique or special courses, such as study abroad courses, etc. Of course, all courses would be approved at the department and college level.

Action Items

PRPC Section 402.3 – 402.9 – Bob Parson. These sections were presented as a first reading to the senate. There was no discussion on the changes made.

Ed Heath made a motion to approve the changes and Renee Galliher seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 3:49 pm by Blake Tullis and seconded by Glenn McEvoy. Motion passed.