



**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Vince Wickwar called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Byron Burnham made a motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2010. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Announcements – Vince Wickwar

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

Broadcasting all FS and FSEC meetings to Senators at a distance. We will be broadcasting our meetings this year to the CEU campus, RCDE and Extension sites. Please be aware of open microphones around the room. Whispered comments may be picked up by them as well as shuffling of papers etc.

FS Website. Most information that you need to know for all FS meetings is available on the FS website. This includes the calendar, members roster, committee assignments and the handbook. <http://usu.edu/fsenate/>

Parliamentarian. A parliamentarian is needed to serve with the Faculty Senate. They do not have to be an elected senate member. Let Vince know of anyone who would be willing and qualified to serve.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht.

President Albrecht highlighted several items. The final audit numbers were good news for USU. The existing deficits should be covered by rainy day funds, but we are not ready to declare victory yet.

Enrollment is up in all areas. When comparing Day 9 to day 15 last year, we are up about 800 head count on the Logan campus and about 400 on the RCDE campuses. All indicators are very positive. The freshman class is up about 6% and transfers are up about 7%. Minority students have increased about 17% on the Logan campus and 62% on the RCDE campuses.

A committee has been looking at how to improve the enrollment and programs during summer semester and a report will be presented to the Faculty Senate in a future meeting.

Four ribbon cuttings are taking place on new facilities this month.

The campaign has passed the \$300 million mark over the summer and is on track to meet the \$400 million goal.

The CEU transition is going very well and there has been great cooperation among all parties.

Consent Agenda Items – Vince Wickwar.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Glenn McEvoy and seconded by Doug Jackson-Smith. Motion passed.

Information Items

Ad Hoc Code Compliance Committee – Ed Heath. This committee arose from concerns expressed in last year's faculty forum. Some faculty members were not comfortable bringing issues forward about the code not being followed by administrators. This process was put into place as another option other than going through the grievance process. Faculty present their information and concerns to the Faculty Senate President who then takes it to the committee. The committee evaluates the concerns and if deemed necessary, passes the information along to the lowest level administrator and then works through the appropriate channels. The committee is composed of three members; the immediate Past President of the Faculty Senate, and elected members from BFW and AFT. The committee is still working through one of the issues brought forward last year.

Learning Management System (LMS) – Robert Wagner. USU is part of a multi institutional consortium, UEN, that contracts for our learning management system. Since fall 2007 the consortium has used the LMS entitled Blackboard Vista. The contract for Blackboard Vista will end at the end of June 2012, and the company will no longer support it. Therefore a new LMS needs to be selected. Representatives from each of the institutions have been meeting as a committee to identify new LMS options. In June the committee identified six LMS products to consider and looked at all of them very closely over the summer. USU chose to get faculty involved, and with the help of the FACT center identified the top three options available. Faculty were provided opportunities for training and were able to use these products over the summer. The options USU focused on were Blackboard 9, Desire to Learn, and an open source product called Moodle.

The consortium has given Blackboard an opportunity to present a contract extension proposal, which would also include the bundling of several other products that USU licenses from Blackboard but currently pays for separately. An RFP is being drafted as well in case the contract proposal is not satisfactory. A decision is anticipated on the Blackboard extension in the immediate future; if the RFP process becomes necessary a decision could be reached by the end of the fall. There will then be an 18-month migration, starting January 1, 2012, for training and courses to whatever system is selected.

Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend Code Changes to Integrate USU-CEU – Vince Wickwar.

This committee is required by the MOU, at the direction of the Regents. It was also something that was promised in the Senate Resolution brought forward last year when three additional senators from CEU were added to the Faculty Senate. There are two members from CEU on the ad hoc committee and a number of people with extensive faculty senate experience. This committee will work intensively until at least February, or later if needed.

New Business

Research Council Member Approval – Glenn McEvoy. Bob Pack has agreed to serve on the Research Council. The Senate must give formal approval. Glenn McEvoy moved to accept Bob Pack as a member of the Research Council, a second was received and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:25 p.m.