

## USU FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

December 5, 2011

Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154

Glenn McEvoy called the meeting to order.

### Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2011 was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Vince Wickwar. The motion passed unanimously.

### Announcements

- Don't forget to sign the roll.
- The overhead microphones in the room are on and side conversations and shuffling of papers can be heard.
- This is the last meeting of the year, Happy Holidays!
- In January we will start the process for the election of new senators to the Faculty Senate for next year.
- Faculty Forum minutes are posted on the Faculty Senate webpage.
- Key items that came up in the Faculty Forum and how they will be handled are as follows:
  1. There was a discussion of the post tenure review process and there is a task force being formed to work on this issue.
  2. Faculty involvement in campus design and planning which specifically focused on the new Aggie Recreation Center. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will follow up on this.
  3. There was quite a bit of discussion on overload compensation. Provost Coward has been invited to come to the next Faculty Senate meeting January 9, 2012 to clarify the policy. HR Policy 376 deals with overload compensation.
  4. A Code change dealing with External Review letters is being studied by the PRPC.
  5. There was also discussion of effective integration of faculty at USU Eastern. The Faculty Senate Presidency will travel to Price and discuss these issues to see how they can assist.

### University Business - President Stan Albrecht, Provost Raymond Coward

President Albrecht gave an update on the state budget. State revenues are up about \$400 million which is good news. What this means to USU is that we should not have to address any kind of mid-year budget cuts. This seems like a big number but the State has a structural imbalance of under \$100 million that has to be addressed. There are also entitlement fund obligations dealing with Medicare and the constitutionally required weighted pupil increases in education. Senator Hillyard has said that revenues need to be up about \$540 million just to cover needs before there is any new money to start doing other things. Thus, we will still face a rather challenging legislative session. What that means to compensation is yet to be determined but compensation is this administration's highest priority. The other issue that is critical to USU is Operating and Maintenance Funding since we have not been getting O & M funding for buildings. The Governor's budget is suppose to be out on December 12th.

The USU football team will play in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl on December 17th in Boise. Provost Coward reported on the academic accomplishments of the football team. A couple of colleagues have wondered if our improvement in the area of football has come at the expense of academic standards. The faculty senate committee that oversees the athletic program met earlier today, and reported that the cumulative GPA of the football team is 2.92. Forty-five percent of the players have GPAs above 3. Only 2% of the team had GPAs below 2.0, and these individuals are not eligible to play this semester and are not part of the active team that has won seven games. USU is one of 44 institutions in the country that was honored by the American Football Coaches Association for achieving a graduation rate of 75% or higher over a four year period. These are institutions like Duke, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Stanford, Baylor, North

Carolina, Vanderbilt, and Wake Forest. Only two of the ten top teams in the final BCS rankings achieved a graduation rate of 75% or better.

This is the first semester using the new IDEA course evaluation system. The good news is that with five days left to evaluate classes, we have had 36,000 individual course evaluations done. On a typical year we get about 40,000. Call Michael Torrens if you have any questions about class or department totals. Please encourage students to fill out their course evaluations.

### **Consent Agenda Items -- Glenn McEvoy**

- Faculty Evaluation Committee Annual Report - Pamela Martin
- Athletic Council Report - Ken White
- Retention and Student Success Report - John Mortensen
- EPC Items (October and November) - Larry Smith

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Erik Mikkelsen and seconded by Doug Jackson-Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Items - Terry Peak**

PRPC - Section 405.7.2, 405.8.3, and 403.3.2 (Second Reading) Title changes for the new Vice President for Research and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. A motion to approve the changes was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Ralph Whitesides. The motion was passed unanimously.

PRPC - Section 402.3.2 and 402.3.4 (First Reading) Vacancies in the Faculty Senate. This language has been brought into line with actual practice when senators make documented efforts to send alternates to meetings if absence is needed. There was a question about the statement "The Faculty Senate Presidency will address other vacancies on a case-by-case basis"; the thought was that it might be too ambiguous. Terry stated that PRPC considered that but was not concerned because unanticipated situations have come up in the past. A point was made that the statement "the affected academic dean or vice president" should also include the regional campus dean and/or vice chancellor." This was included as a friendly amendment. A motion was made to approve the section as amended by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Scott Bates. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Information Item**

The Presidential Task Force on Curriculum - Norm Jones. Students must have 30-34 credits of general education. There are six hours of English composition and these courses are backlogged in terms of students needing these courses. Every student must take quantitative literacy composed of Stat 1040 or Math 1050. Again supply does not meet demand and there is another wait list. Then there are breadth requirements (18-20 credits). The course American Institutions is required by the State of Utah and it is also backlogged. Retention is another concern. USU's six year graduation rate is 57%. We want to retain and graduate more of our students. With that said, our graduation rate is in line with our peer institutions.

Utah has been recognized by the Association of American Colleges and Universities as a LEAP (Liberal Education America's Promise) State. This designation represents a commitment to having well rounded degrees and making sure that majors and general education courses relate well to each other. The Board of Regents has put a policy into place (Regents Policy R470) entitled "Essential Learning Outcomes," and these outcomes are to be achieved in any degree awarded in the state of Utah. The idea is to make sure that degrees mean something and that we can explain what they mean.

There is a good deal of discussion about what the curriculum for the 21st century should look like and how we explain to the public what a degree is and what competencies students must have upon completion of a degree. Norm gave the senators a booklet entitled The Degree Qualifications Profile. This document chronicles a tool that can help transform U.S. higher education, and the USU task force has recommended the adoption of this planning framework. The "DQP" explains the pathway that students take each year to degree completion.

The remainder of this presentation followed the recommendations presented in the document found in the Faculty Senate agenda packet Recommendations of the Presidential Task Force on Curriculum. The task force is looking for

feedback on its recommendations. A senator made the comment that it is hard to give feedback on these broad ideas rather than on specifics, and asked how faculty could help that process. Norm said they have been seeking feedback on the board ideas, and then the next step is to start building some models. There is a process called "tuning" that the Lumina Foundation has been funding. It requires specification of degree outcomes and focuses on what students should know, understand, and be able to do at each level of their education and at graduation. Our physics and history departments have been working on this model for a couple of years. The task force wants feedback to see if they can go on to the next phase of the process. Faculty members should contact Norm at [norm.jones@usu.edu](mailto:norm.jones@usu.edu) with any comments and feedback they want to share.

Glenn McEvoy mentioned that the Faculty Senate Presidency has been invited to participate in a meeting January 13, 2012, with other faculty senate presidents in the state to draft a joint response to proposals that have been prepared by Senator Stephen Urquhart of St. George, Utah. He has a white paper that proposes some interesting, and in some cases fairly dramatic, changes in higher education. Senator Urquhart chairs the Utah Senate Higher Education Committee. If you have a chance to review the white paper and have comments you want to share contact Glenn, Renee or Vince.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.