

Mike Parent called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

John Kras motioned that the minutes of February 4, 2008 be approved as submitted. Sylvia Read seconded the motion, but requested that the spelling of her last name be corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements – Mike Parent

1. Mike Parent reminded everyone to sign the roster.
2. The Graduate Student Senate is hosting the Intermountain Graduate Student Research Symposium on April 2. Geri Brunson gave a presentation on it at the Executive Committee Meeting. If anyone has graduate students that would like to participate, please let them know that abstracts are due on March 7. They are also requesting at least twenty-five volunteer judges for the oral and poster sessions. Please contact them if you can assist.

University Business – President Stan Albrecht

The Legislative session concludes this week. Our two main areas of focus are compensation and a new Agriculture building. The 155 million dollars the Legislature allotted for capital projects was quickly exhausted, but we were able to get the Capital Facilities Appropriation Subcommittee to pass a bonding bill to cover the state side of the funding for our new building. It is written as a challenge bond because now we can go back to the federal side and have them move forward with their side. So it is turning out as well as we could have hoped. As far as compensation goes, there is work yet to be done, but we anticipate a 9.9% increase in health benefits. It will require approximately a 2% salary increase. So we are likely to see something in the 3% range plus some funds to help us with the health benefits side. Things are all very uncertain and anything could change in the next few days, so do not quote him on anything. More information will be forthcoming once things are finalized.

About 30 minutes ago the ODA bill passed which allows those with a concealed weapons permit to carry their weapons openly. However, an amendment was passed which exempts higher education and public education from this bill. The bill from a senator in Utah County that would have totally reorganized the system of higher education did not pass. It was sent to a study committee.

John Smith asked if USU was developing any guidelines for faculty on gun safety. President Albrecht stated that the Executive Committee and several subcommittees were developing guidelines and they will be posted on the web as soon as they are available. Gary Chambers added that they are developing guidelines on how to deal with disruptive students. This information should be available within the next few months. The public safety office has also developed emergency guidelines that are being printed right now and should be available to staff later this week. Mike Parent suggested that these issues be discussed at the fall department head retreat. Provost Raymond Coward agreed that would be appropriate and that he would add it to the agenda. Pat Lambert asked where the guideline information had come from and whether

it had been tested. Gary Chambers stated that it was gathered from police departments across the country and that it had been tested. President Albrecht pointed out that no matter what we do there will be gaps and that to some extent we will be vulnerable no matter what we do. He reiterated that concealed weapons are still allowed on campus, but they cannot be openly carried.

Please remember that Saturday is our 120th Founders Day celebration. He will give an update on his fundraising campaign at the celebration and at our next Faculty Senate meeting.

There are also a number of searches taking place. Provost Raymond Coward stated he was very pleased to announce that Dr. Wes Holley from New Mexico State University has accepted the position of Dean and Executive Director of the Utah State University Uintah Basin Regional Campus. He will begin in September. The search for a new HASS Dean has been narrowed down to four candidates. They will be visiting the campus after spring break.

Information Items

VPR Seed Funding Programs – Jeff Broadbent

Jeff Broadbent stated that he and Brent Miller would like to share significant developments in the way that the research office has restricted the seed grant program. Last year the Research Council and Vice President for Research formed a committee to identify best practices for research at USU to foster growth. They recommended a revision in the administering of seed funding programs. A memo has been distributed to the deans and center directors, so hopefully faculty members have already seen this information, but the research office wants to publicize it even further. The new faculty research grants will be offered in fiscal year 2009. The deadline was last Friday. That program will move forward for one more year. Three new seed grant programs will begin on July 1: Grant Writing Experience through Mentorship (GEM), Research Catalyst (RC), and Seed Program for Advanced Research Collaborations (SPARC). The structure of RC is similar to before with a \$20,000 maximum, but GEM eligibility has been broadened and is targeted for new faculty, and SPARC is designed for large multi-disciplinary research projects and has a higher award level. Faculty must submit an external grant proposal within three months after completion of the seed funding. Additional information is available on their website at http://research.usu.edu/htm/grants_funding/all-programs. The deadlines are posted on the website, but please be aware that individual colleges may have earlier deadlines to allow time for an internal college review. Please share this information with your colleagues. Jeff will be holding a workshop on the new seed program during research week. Please watch for that.

Consent Agenda – Mike Parent

1. Research Council Annual Report
2. Committee on Committees Report
3. BFW Annual Report
4. EPC Business

Steve Burr motioned approval of the reports as submitted in the agenda. John Kras seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Key Issues and Action Items

1. PRPC Items – Britt Fagerheim
 - a. Representation of Extension and RCDE on Faculty Senate 402.10.1 (2nd reading)
Minor changes were proposed from the first reading. Will Poppendorf motioned to approve the changes as submitted. Doug Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Reasons for Non-Renewal 407.7.2 (2nd reading)

Dallas Holmes motioned approval of the second reading as written. James Sanders seconded the motion. Pat Lambert questioned whether the language was at odds with Section 401.9 – Authority of the Faculty. Nat Frazer felt the term faculty was used so the decision is not made by someone outside of the university. Furthermore, the term faculty is defined in Section 401.1 to include the president, provost, and deans. Pat disagreed and stated that her understanding of the policy is that administration should not be involved in these decisions. Renee Galliher added that faculty is responsible for developing policies and procedures, but they do not have to implement all of them. Pat stated she was just pointing out that the wording implies that it is outside of faculty jurisdiction which is at odds with the tenure decision which invokes the Tenure and Promotion process. She was just questioning whether the Faculty Senate felt the language was strong enough to provide protection for nonrenewal decisions and if they are comfortable with that level of invoking the Tenure and Promotion process. Pat also pointed out that it may not be in a faculty member's best interest to have reasons for nonrenewal conveyed to them in writing because it can be used against them. Once it is in writing it can be legally requested if someone is applying for a job somewhere else. She suggested that the reasons be conveyed in a dialogue and that faculty can request that it be put in writing. She asked that committee members think about these issues before they are put into code. Mike Parent stated there was a motion to approve 407.7.2 as written. Will Poppendorf suggested changing "making this decision" to "making a decision". Mike Parent called for a vote. No one opposed the motion. One person chose to abstain. The motion passed.

New Business – Mike Parent

1. Nomination of Senate President Elect

Mike Parent pointed out that Section 402.10.3 was written when they were on a quarter system and it states that elections to the Senate be made prior to the May meeting. It is on the agenda for today and it is consistent with code and what has been done in years past, so they will proceed with elections. A secret ballot election will be held between now and the April meeting. He opened the floor for nominations for President Elect. It was motioned by John Kras that Ed Heath serve as President Elect. Pat Lambert seconded the motion. Ed accepted the nomination. Doran Baker moved that nominations cease. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Nominations for Two Seats on Committee on Committees

Will Poppendorf asked for volunteers, but no one offered. He stated that there were not a lot of meetings because most of the work is done via the internet or phone. Please contact him if you have any questions. This item will be placed on the April agenda.

Adjournment

John Kras motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.