

**USU FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 17, 2007, 3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room**

Present: President Stan Albrecht, Provost Raymond Coward, Doug Ramsey, Byron Burnham, Steve Burr, Daren Cornforth, Jake Gunther, Ed Heath, John Kras, Pat Lambert, Mike Parent, Flora Shrode, Adrie Roberts, Vincent Wickwar, and Andi McCabe

Excused: Brian Atwater

Invited Guest: Lisa Leishman, Jenny Norton

Doug Ramsey called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2007

John Kras motioned to approve the August 27, 2007 minutes. The motion was seconded. Doug Ramsey suggested a few minor changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Information Items

1. **Parking Committee Report** – Lisa Leishman presented a brief overview of the 2007 Parking and Transportation Annual Report. Significant accomplishments include: a new parking structure; relocated their visitor's information center to the west side of this new parking terrace; accepted delivery of 5 new buses. The new terrace parking is called Aggie Terrace; the existing terrace parking is called Big Blue Terrace. Parking has a new software system, T2, that is working extremely well for them. They donated over \$9,000 to Sub for Santa this year. Goals for the upcoming year are stated in the report and include shuttle service to the Brigham City Campus, which has already been initiated. The committee had a few questions and offered some concerns for Lisa to take back for consideration. John Kras suggested that Lisa provide a shorter summary of this annual report for the Faculty Senate meeting would be appropriate.

John Kras motioned to place the Parking Committee Report as a Consent Agenda item of the October 1 Faculty Senate meeting. Mike Parent seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

2. **Graduate Council Report** – Dean Burnham presented the Graduate Council Report. In the past, degrees were posted at the end of the semester no matter when the student completed his/her requirements during the semester. Arrangements have now been made to post the degree within one to two days of that student completing their degree. Graduate Studies is moving ahead with health insurance for their graduate assistants. They have supported a number of recruiting activities by various departments and in a new program, they will send faculty members to graduate recruiting fairs to represent the School of Graduate Studies as well as their own department. The Graduate School anticipates that their final student numbers will increase 1% to 2% above last year. Doug asked about the pressure of out-of-state tuition waivers and admission. Byron answered that the pressure is increasing and that they try to extend their awards budget to cover as many students as they can and that they are working on increasing their tuition awards and presidential fellowship.

John Kras motioned to place the Graduate Council Report as a Consent Agenda item of the October 1 Faculty Senate meeting. Pat Lambert seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

3. **Honors Program Report** – Doug Ramsey stated that the Honors Program requested that their committee report be permanently moved to the October FSEC meeting. This has become more common and the committee discussed whether these requests for reporting changes should be allowed. One issue to look at is whether or not the reports are complete by their due date in regards to having the actual information available to them. It can also depend on when the committee can be ready to present that report, which can change over a period of years and should be revisited. Doug will contact the Honors Program to find out why their report is not ready and the committee will consider the permanent move at a later date.

Key Issues and Action Items

1. **PRPC Items** – PRPC is meeting today and could not be here today. Their agenda was included in today's packet for the committee's review.

John Kras motioned to place Items #II and #III of PRPC's Old Business Items on the Consent Agenda and place PRPC's New Business items on the Consent Agenda and Items #2-4 on the Action Items agenda of the September 10, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

New Business

1. **Support of the President's Signing of the Climate Commitment** – Jenny Norton asked for support to a resolution stating that President Albrecht has joined presidents and chancellors throughout the United States in a stand to address global warming by becoming a charter signatory to the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.

Mike Parent motioned to place this on the Key Issues and Actions Items agenda of the October 1 Faculty Senate meeting; Flora Shrode seconded the motion. Jenny will write this in the form of a resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **LEEDS Certification for all New Buildings** – In connection with the resolution discussed above, Jenny Norton led asked about the plausibility of USU adhering to the guidelines of LEEDS certification for new buildings and major renovations. It was noted that UPRPC is a campus committee who is currently involved in the status of new buildings, state priorities, budget, LEEDS vs non-LEEDS certification, and it was suggested bringing this issue to that committee. Steve Burr stated that Dean Frazer is chairing a university-wide sustainability committee, which would also seem natural to be involved in this issue. Jenny's intention is to bring it forward to show faculty support for future building projects. This will go back to Jenny Norton for more research and a draft resolution. John Kras motioned to carry it over as Old Business for next month's FSEC meeting with Jenny drafting a resolution backed up with websites and facts. Daren Cornforth seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
3. Flora Shrode brought forward several issues for consideration regarding the Promotion and Tenure process and the Central Committee. After discussion of each issue, it was determined that there needed to be some clarification on what issues still needed language review. Mike Parent motioned that Flora clarify this proposal and bring it forward to the Faculty Senate as an Information Item. John Kras seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.
4. Jake Gunther wanted to suggest that a change be made in the information sent out from the controller's office each month. He would like the report to be clearer or that they send information that is more useful. What he would like to see is something like the budget template that the Sponsored Programs Office requires the PIs to fill out. Although this does not relate to code and should not be brought to the full Senate, the Faculty Senate President can be a liaison in streamlining these sorts of issues on campus. Doug Ramsey agreed to talk to the office of the VP of Research.

Adjournment

John Kras motioned to adjourn the meeting. Flora Shrode seconded the motion; meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Andi McCabe, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary, 797-1166