



USU FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 20, 2008

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Stan Albrecht, Byron Burnham, Steve Burr, Renee Galliher, Jerry Goodspeed, Ed Heath, Kelly Kopp, John Kras, Glen McEvoy, Mike Parent, Betty Rozum (for Flora Shrode), guests: Scott Cannon, Larry Smith.

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

Approval of Minutes

John Kras moved to approve the minutes of September 22, 2008, motion received and seconded, minutes were approved.

University Business

President Albrecht informed the Committee of several things, including the recent ground breaking for the first USTAR building in the State of Utah, and the Emma Eccles Jones ground breaking.

Doug Lemon is the new Space Dynamics Lab Director. They have developed a diverse revenue stream and they are moving forward in a very positive way. This is a great partnership for Utah State University.

The Budget committee is continuing to work on the budget issues. The open forum is tomorrow from 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 in Old Main 121. We are getting a significant number of responses to the web page. We will look at ways to extend revenues. For example: USU continues to be an incredible value proposition, the University will look at increasing the investments in enrollment and marketing and helping the public understand what a value USU is for the quality of education that students can get here.

There are two finalists for the Tooele Deans position and the VP for Student Services search is under way. We will probably delay, for some months, our search for the Vice President of IT, and we have suspended, for the time being, our search for an International Dean. We are very committed to moving that program forward but now is probably not the time for us to look at additional expenditures.

Enrollment numbers are up in every measure that really matter to us. For instance, our freshman class, transfers students, multicultural students, and our international student numbers are all up. We are down a bit in headcount for a single reason: because we have not been funded to do it, we have backed away from some of our concurrent enrollment commitments. So our downturn is concurrently enrolled high school students; we are down about 450.

The Legislative session will begin on January 26, 2009 and end March 11, 2009.

Announcements

1. Next Brown Bag Lunch w/President and Provost, Tuesday, November 4th at noon in Champ Hall.

Old Business

PRPC Report. Scott Cannon presented the revisions to Potential Reviewers - Policy 405.7.2 and 405.8.3 (do-not-contact list) added a phrase that indicates the list is not binding on the department head or supervisor. Ed Heath moved to include this as a Key Issues and Action Item on the Faculty Senate Agenda, second received by John Kras. This is for a second reading. Motion approved.

Grievance Policies and Procedures - Policy 407.1.2 (definition of days) has been changed to reflect that all proceedings under section 407 would be under calendar days. John Kras moved to include this as a Key Issues and Action Item on the Faculty Senate Agenda as a first reading. Motion was seconded and approved.

New Business

EPC Report. Larry Smith presented two items. The Academic Standards Subcommittee discussed the issue of students who go to professional school interviews; they would like a policy to excuse these absences. EPC supports this as it is the job of the University to help students prepare for careers and we should celebrate this level of accomplishment. It was suggested that the academic advisor give approval for the absence.

The General Education Subcommittee has had extensive discussion on the CIL requirement. We would like to find ways to encourage our students to complete the CIL before they graduate. The current language in the catalog states that students are strongly encouraged to complete the CIL before they have 60 credits, but statements regarding consequences are vague. Juniors are given until the end of November to complete the CIL. The consequences of not doing that are not clear but there is language saying if the requirements are not met by the time students are seniors they are charged an addition \$30. EPC discussed the idea of making the CIL a pre-requisite for English 2010 or a pre-requisite for all depth courses. Byron Burnham raised the question of the objectives of the course and whether it should be looked at and updated. There was a short discussion of the CIL course objectives.

John Kras moved to include the EPC Report as information item on the Senate Agenda, second received and motion approved.

Information Items

Athletic Council Report. Ken White was not present although he did receive the agenda reminder. This committee is to be an advisory committee to the President and to the faculty. There are concerns that the committee is not meeting their charge. The report contains only statistics about the Athletic department and does not cover any other issues of note, for example ticket prices. The Athletic Council Report has not been to the Executive Committee on time for the last three years. The committee has been provided with a template for the report that is not being followed. Questions were raised about who the NCAA representative is and who is the Chair of the Athletics Council. At this time Ken White is both but has recently also become a department head. The Council reports to the President. Mike gave a brief history of the makeup of the Council, and their charge. There were question as to whether the Council was meeting and who was writing the report. Motion made for a revised report to be submitted to the Executive Secretary for the November 17, 2008 meeting; motion seconded by Ed Heath. Further discussion concerning making the President aware of these issues at the Brown Bag Luncheon on November 4, 2008 followed. Motion carried. Mike Parent will contact Ken White regarding the changes.

The Faculty Diversity Development and Equity Committee formulated a policy called the Caregiving and Modified Duties Policy. Kelly is worried it may have fallen through the cracks.

Mike met with BrandE Faupell and Ronda today about this policy. The amendment process is different because it is in the 300 section of the code. Shared costs of the proposal are an issue. The language was going to be modified and taken back to the FDDE committee. It will come to the Faculty Senate as an Information Item, but is not a part of the code that the Faculty Senate acts on. They can endorse it however. It has moved forward to HR and is being worked on. See section 200 of the code for the process of code revision of sections that are not under Faculty Senate purview.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 3:53, approved.