

## FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

AUGUST 29, 2011 3:00 P.M.

Champ Hall Conference Room

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**Present:** Glenn McEvoy (Chair), Alan Blackstock, Richard Clement, Renee Galliher, Lyle Holmgren, Doug Jackson-Smith, Yanghee Kim, Pam Miller, Robert Schmidt, Flora Shrode, Dave Wallace, Ralph Whitesides, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio), Vincent Wickwar (Past President), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Bloxham (Assistant) **Guests:** Mark McLellan, Michael Torrens

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Glenn McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Vince Wickwar made a motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2011. Motion was seconded by Robert Schmidt and the motion passed unanimously.

### Announcements

#### **Calendar, Faculty Senate Members Roster, and Brown Bag Lunch with the President & Provost.**

The 2011 Faculty Senate calendar, members roster and brown bag lunch schedule were included in the packet provided to the executive committee members prior to the meeting.

#### **Parliamentarian Needed.**

There is a need for a parliamentarian for the senate. If anyone knows of someone who would like to serve in this capacity please let Glenn know.

**Executive Committee Orientation – Glenn McEvoy.** Glenn reminded the committee members of the purposes and procedures for the Executive Committee, as outlined in the Code.

### University Business -President Albrecht and Provost Coward.

President Albrecht updated the committee on the financial condition of the university, saying that in many ways USU is in the strongest financial position it has been in for a long time. The structural deficit has been repaid and the money is back in department budgets, the scholarship deficit has been retired, and the athletics department is now operating in the black. As the economy improves, investments can now be made in the future of our programs, rather than fixing old problems.

There has been a one year moratorium placed on new course fees. More than 1000 courses, or roughly half of all courses offered at USU, have fees attached resulting in about \$3.2 million collected each year. Students have voiced opposition to fees in the face of tuition increases. As no courses were up for automatic fee renewal this year, the administration felt it was a good time to evaluate which courses should continue to assess fees and which fees should be rolled into tuition costs. A committee will be formed to evaluate the fees and make recommendations to the president as to how to move forward in the future. There is also a political reason to evaluate course fees at this time, as a legislative fiscal audit is being conducted at U of U, and we can expect it to happen here in the near future as well.

Other highlights include 89 new faculty hired for this academic year, of which 72 are tenure or tenure track faculty. Enrollment numbers are strong and several significant gifts will be announced in the next few months. The College of Education reached 165% of its fund raising goal. USU-Eastern is going strong, the merger continues to go well and benefit both institutions. Plans for a new STEM Center are underway with the possibility of a search for a director to be in place as early as January 2012.

Next summer will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln signing the Morrill Act which established land-grant universities. This celebration will be combined with the celebration of the completion of the first comprehensive campaign. Ross Peterson and Noelle Cockette will co-chair a committee to develop the celebration plans.

## Information Items

**Graduate Council Report - Mark McLellan.** The Graduate Council Report largely reflects the program under Byron Burnham's final year as Dean of Graduate Studies. Mark highlighted key issues going forward. First is the new integrated office of VP of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. An integration model was presented to the Board of Trustees and approved. Jeff Broadbent and Shellie Lindauer will now have the joint titles of Associate Vice President and Associate Dean, and together with Mark will create the core leadership team. A focus on research will be emphasized. Student health insurance will be evaluated to make sure the graduate students are being served adequately. The tuition award credit policy will also be reevaluated and revised in the next year, likely moving more power for administration of the credit to the deans of each college.

A motion to place the report on the consent agenda was made by Vince Wickwar and seconded by Renee Galliher. The motion passed unanimously.

**NWCCU Year One Report – Michael Torrens.** Accreditation is no longer on a 10 year cycle but has changed to a 7 year cycle and has become more of a continuous improvement process rather than a single report and follow up every 10 years. The University Assessment Coordinating Council was convened with representation from all the colleges to work on the core mission and themes to meet the new accreditation guidelines. Michael is searching for feedback from the faculty on the work that has been done to date, with the understanding that the Year 1 report is due to the accrediting body this month.

A motion to place this report on the agenda as an information item was made by Vince Wickwar and seconded by Doug Jackson-Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

## New Business

### Code Items for PRPC:

- **External review letters for tenure and promotion considerations [Sections 405.7.2(1), 405.8.3(1), and 405.11.4(1)].** The code as presently written asks for external reviewers to look at your research. There are now several faculty members for whom research is not a major part of their role statements. Tenure review letters for this year would have already been sent so there is really no change that can be implemented immediately. Therefore, Glenn proposed working informally with the Provost and deans to produce a draft to present to PRPC for resolution of this issue over the next few meetings.
- **Editing the Code for the new VP Research/Dean of Graduate School combined role and FS attendance requirements to cover sabbaticals.** A motion was made to send these two items to PRPC immediately for consideration at their first meeting was made by Vince Wickwar and seconded by Ralph Whitesides. The motion passed unanimously.
- **The term faculty issues brought up last year (lecturers, clinical faculty, research faculty, federal cooperator faculty, federal research faculty, and professional practice faculty).** The concerns arise because these faculty ranks are very different from one another, yet the current code treats them in very similar ways (from Vince Wickwar's USU-CEU report). This discussion was delayed until the final report is finished.
- **Section 406 and 407 revision.** The Kras Committee suggestions to Section 406 and 407 were not addressed in last year's major Code revision because they raised questions not directly affecting the USU-CEU merger. A motion was made by Doug Jackson-Smith and seconded by Vince Wickwar to form a code revision committee—similar to last year's—to work between the faculty senate and provosts office to draft revised language for sections 406 and 407 of the faculty code. The motion passed unanimously.

**Size of Faculty Senate committees.** Glenn raised for discussion the difficulties faced by committees trying to schedule meeting times where a majority of members can attend. The size of committees is growing to accommodate representation from all academic units. PRPC, for example, has only been able to confirm about 70% attendance. Larger committees not only face scheduling issues but also effectiveness issues as it is more difficult to work through agendas with a larger number of people involved. Perhaps each committee may not need to include representation from every college and unit or perhaps subcommittees could be formed to dig into small parts of the agendas and bring back recommendations for the larger committee. This issue was left open for further discussion. Glenn will be meeting with each of the six Faculty Senate standing committees and will ask about this difficulty.

**Communicating Faculty Senate issues to the faculty at large.** Glenn raised the question to the committee and asked for thoughts and suggestions on raising awareness and interest. Several ideas and problems were discussed, but it is each senator's duty to communicate with his or her colleagues. Some ideas discussed were how senators might obtain and use a college or department level mailing list to disseminate information. This process seems to vary from college to college. Making the faculty aware of the agenda posted on the Faculty Senate website or distributing a summary of the minutes of the meeting was also discussed. Provost Coward indicated that the cost benefit of these approaches needs to be evaluated. The possibility of sending out an abbreviated agenda with links to the website to all faculty, or some sort of newsletter or including items in the Statesman publication was also discussed.

#### **Adjournment**

Glenn McEvoy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

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Minutes Submitted by: Joan Kleinke, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary, 797-1776