



FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011 3:00 P.M.
Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Glenn McEvoy (FS President), Alan Blackstock, Richard Clement, Renee Galliher, Lyle Holmgren, Doug Jackson-Smith, Yanghee Kim, Pam Miller, Robert Schmidt (excused sub, Joe Tainter), Flora Shrode, Dave Wallace, Ralph Whitesides, President Stan Albrecht L(Ex-Officio), Ray Coward (excused, Ex-Officio), Vincent Wickwar (Past President), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Atkinson (Assistant) **Guests:** James Nye, Terry Peak, Larry Smith, Amber Summers-Graham, Joe Tainter.

Glenn McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ralph Whitesides made a motion to approve the minutes of August 29, 2011. Motion was seconded by Dave Wallace and the motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- Next Brown Bag Lunch with President Albrecht is October 11th at noon in Champ Hall.
- Faculty Forum planning meeting will commence after the FSEC meeting on October 17th.

University Business - President Albrecht

This week, the Honors Program will be undergoing a thorough review by Martha Bradley of the University of Utah. This is a result of one of the Budget Reduction Committee recommendations to change in the Honors Program. Several celebrations are being planned for next year, including the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Morrill Land-Grant Act by President Lincoln. Noelle Cockette, Ross Peterson, Sydney Petersen, and student and faculty representatives will make up the planning committee and the events will begin in the spring. A celebration of the completion of the first Comprehensive Campaign will take place in late September 2012.

Information Items

Educational Policies Committee Annual Report - Larry Smith. The Educational Policies Committee has three sub-committees; Curriculum Sub-committee, Academic Standards Sub-committee, and the General Education Sub-committee, all of which will be represented in the EPC monthly reports. The EPC committee evaluated numerous programs and degrees during the last year, including the elimination of the Computer Information Literacy Exam (CIL Exam) as a general education graduation requirement.

A motion to place the EPC Annual Report on the consent agenda was made by Vincent Wickwar and seconded by Doug Jackson-Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Honors Program Report - Amber Summers-Graham. During the last academic year the Honors Program at USU had three Goldwater scholars and one honorable mention. Universities may only nominate four students for this award each year. Danielle Babble was selected as a Rhodes Scholar finalist. Seven students participated in Research on Capitol Hill (SLC), seven participated in the Utah Conference for Undergraduate Research, four participated in the National Conference of Undergraduate Research and twenty-eight participated in the USU Showcase. Students created and implemented an Honors Mentoring program to help new honors students succeed in the program. The new Honors Language Program provides honors only sections of beginning language courses and culminates in a study abroad experience over the summer.

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

Library Advisory Council Report - Joe Tainter. The council met three times during the last academic year and much of the discussion focused on the impact of budget reductions. The council was given updates on five items; library collections, the Hathi Trust, CEU merger, sustaining open access models, and the Institutional Repository. Action items included: identifying new representatives from Engineering, Caine College of the Arts, Natural Resources and RCDE; continued discussion on copywrite/scholarly communication issues; work on the Institutional Repository/Digital Commons; and reviewing the transition to more electronic content and patron usage. The council is currently forming their agenda for the upcoming academic year.

A motion to place the report on the consent agenda by Vincent Wickwar and seconded by Ralph Whitesides. The motion passed unanimously.

Parking Committee Report - James Nye. Since Lisa Leishman left the Parking Office the committee has not met. There are items of concern that have arisen. The new RCDE building has displaced some of the available parking. Sixty-five parking stalls are affected and they will only regain 20 of the parking stalls after construction is complete. Parking has been trying to find more spaces elsewhere for the faculty and staff displaced by that new building. During the past year no outside entities have brought forward parking issues for the committee to deal with. A question was asked regarding plans for the committee to meet in the coming year. No decision has been made and there has been some discussion on taking items directly to the Board of Regents. The Parking Office is still working with administration on the committee's purpose and responsibilities. A comment was made that about the recent accident on Highway 89 and whether or not the accident may have been prevented if there were right turn only signs at the exits of the parking lots. A question was asked regarding responsibility: is this a state issue or a university issue? There have been discussions with UDOT on who is responsible for signage on a state highway. No one seems to know quite yet. Another issue of concern was expressed regarding driving up 4th North in the morning with drivers catching the morning sun, and the cars that park on the south side of 4th north, with students dashing out of those cars across the street. This is an accident waiting to happen. If the university has no jurisdiction to solve this issue alone, what has been done to take care of this problem? Discussions have been held with the Logan City Police, USU Police Department, UDOT, and the university's risk manager. They are trying to determine whose responsibility it is for enforcement and any signage, if needed. By state law you can only park on the highway for emergency purposes. Warnings have been issued. There was a question about long range plans for parking as buildings are put up where parking currently exists. That is the Parking Committees purpose. The Parking Office realizes that they need to make better use of the parking terraces and have reviewed usage data for the Big Blue Terrace. The student blue lot is still not available for faculty. There have been discussions about another parking terrace but there are no long range plans at this time, cost is the prohibitive issue. The FSEC would like to have the committee become more active and would like more dialogue about these issues.

There was a motion made by Vince Wickwar and seconded by Dave Wallace to put this item on the consent agenda. The motion passed.

Ad Hoc Committee on Post-Tenure Review - Glenn McEvoy. As a result of discussions with the Provost, and based on comments from faculty during the 2007 NWCCU Accreditation visit, it is felt that the post-tenure review process needs to be looked at for consistency of application around campus. Glenn asked the Provost for a copy of the accreditation report with faculty comments which he will review before asking the FSEC to place the issue on the senate agenda. Ralph Whitesides commented that there needs to be some financial incentive at the five year review. Mike Parent explained this has been discussed before the recent budget cuts.

New Business

EPC Items - Larry Smith. There is no report from the Academic Standards Sub-committee or the General Education Sub-committee as they have not yet met. The Curriculum Sub-committee did meet and considered several course actions. The Department of Art requested a name change to the Department of Art and Design, this change was approved. They also approved the request to move the Department of Computer Science to the College of Engineering and the Student Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence in the Huntsman School of Business, which will benefit students campus wide. They approved the creation of the School of Veterinary Medicine which will be based in the ADVS Department. EPC is creating a new web site to help the campus community better understand the functions of EPC. Larry was asked to give a brief explanation of EPC, its sub-committees and the process of the proposals it considers to the full senate.

A motion was made to place these items on the agenda as an action item. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

PRPC Vacancies and New VP - Terry Peak. PRPC was charged with finding instances in the code that mention the Dean of Graduate Studies along with the Vice President for Research. The official title is now Vice President for Research and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. A comment was made about possibly inserting a slash in the title in the code and listing it as Vice President of Research/Dean of Graduate Studies. Other felt it should stand with the "and" between the two titles.

Doug Jackson-Smith made the motion to place this as an action item on the senate agenda for its first reading. It was seconded by Ralph Whitesides and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Communication between Faculty Senate and the Faculty - Glenn McEvoy. At the last Faculty Senate meeting Glenn asked the senators if they believed that we have a problem communicating what is going on with Faculty Senate to the faculty at large. The consensus was that there was such a problem. The statement was made that in certain colleges, each department is represented by senators, but in others this is not the case. The Faculty code states that "faculty senators shall have at least one meeting a year with their constituents." Statements from FSEC members included:

- a) We should not have to rely on deans and department heads to disseminate information on our behalf and the suggestion was made to provide an email list of constituents by electoral unit.
- b) The idea of a Faculty Forum is to have a regular meeting of the Senate where no business can be transacted and this meeting includes only the faculty (not administrators) for the purpose of facilitating communication between faculty senators and their constituents. Thus, Faculty Forum involvement is a mechanism to improve the communication process.
- c) Perhaps dissemination of the agenda to faculty could be done centrally by using Utah State Today. It comes out very often and is sent to everyone.
- d) Whatever measure is taken, it is not possible to reach every individual. Some emails could be construed as spam etc. If faculty knew the email was from their senator they might be more inclined to read it. If they see the agenda and see things they are interested in they might be more inclined to give their feedback.
- e) There is something more distinctive about having our own communication channel. One of the big issues is that faculty don't track who their senators are or what's going on in the senate. If there is regular communication they may then respond with issues that are important to them.
- f) The idea of communication between the Faculty Senate and the faculty is really a means to an end: we want faculty to be more engaged in governance. In the Code there is a statement about university values, and one of those values is the commitment by faculty and the administration to share governance. It is essential to have civil discourse and a functioning governance system. We have awards for researcher, professor,

advisor, and administrator of the year, but don't have any recognition for someone who commits a considerable amount of their time to make the shared governance process work. If we could provide that kind of recognition for a faculty member's contributions to that governance it would raise the visibility of everyone who participates in the process. Thus, maybe create a Robins Award for faculty contribution to shared university governance?

g) It was suggested that each Faculty Senate Executive Committee member be the default person to lead out in the use of the email list for communication with faculty. To start, each Executive Committee member should have a meeting with all of the senators in his/her college (by email or in person) to discuss communication issue and get suggestions for appropriate communication processes. It was also suggested that alternate senators be included.

h) If deans and department heads would reward exemplary "service" that would make such commitments more important.

Joan will contact Human Resources and see if the email list is available and will discuss the possibility of posting Faculty Senate information on Utah State Today.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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