

USU FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 23, 2006, 3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: President Stan Albrecht, Provost Raymond Coward, John Kras, Doug Ramsey, Brian Atwater, Janet Alm, Daren Cornforth, Steven Burr, Ed Heath, Pat Lambert, Gary Merkley, Byron Burnham (for Brent Miller), Adrie Roberts, Will Pendorf, Andi McCabe.

John Kras called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2006

Doug Ramsey motioned to approve the September 18, 2006 minutes. Pat Lambert seconded the motion. Jennifer MacAdam noted that the PRPC business should have been listed as an Information Item. Motion was carried unanimously.

Announcements

None

New Business

1. Report from Bob Barclay – Opinion on Responsibilities of the Faculty Senate and PRPC

There has been some concern by the Executive Committee and the PRPC that responsibilities for reporting from PRPC and to the Senate were not necessarily happening in an appropriate, timely, and straight forth manner. John Kras asked Bob Barclay, assistant Attorney General assigned to USU and one of the authors of the current code, to review the code and interpret the relationship between PRPC and Faculty Senate. Bob prepared a report (attached to agenda). John referred to the following bullets:

#29: If there is a concern between the PRPC and the FS on how language should appear in the code, the FS has the last say;

#32: “drafting” means “to draw the preliminary sketch, version, or plan”;

#33: However, the Faculty Senate has the sole discretion, the right to make the final decisions;

#42: Senate committees received there authority from the Senate and shall report their work and make their recommendations to the Senate;

#43: The Faculty Senate controls and guides the amendment process – PRPC is a facilitator and has no authority above or apart from the Faculty Senate and may not act independently of the Faculty Senate;

#44: PRPC has the drafting role and cannot ignore, delay, or forestall Faculty Senate involvement and action.

Exhibit A shows the flow of moving items through the committees.

Janet Alm inquired about code **202.2.1(1)** allowing faculty members to go directly to PRPC to ask them to draft code. John will ask Bob Barclay to review this again. Until we hear further, drafting code changes remains to be a charge of the Faculty Senate and that the Senate has final authority on any changes.

2. Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics – Alliance of Faculty Senate at NCAA Schools

John Kras received an e-mail from this organization asking if we would like to join the organization. It links representation of faculty governance on campuses and the faculty voice in athletics at the national level. He asked if there was any interest. After much discussion, it was suggested that the faculty representatives to the Athletic Council would be a good voice to answer the questions that were posed and to determine if we should move forward with this invitation. The information will be posted on the Faculty Senate web site.

3. Committee Assignments

Will Pependorf and the Committee on Committees identified all the senators who are not currently serving on committees, soliciting their interest in serving under any of the committees that hold vacancies. Vacancies are in BFW, Calendar, Honorary Degrees & Awards, Athletic Council (a female representative), and the Honors Program Advisory Board. Will Pependorf will make recommendations and it will submit the list as an Action Item for the next Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting.

Another concern is that the Senate Handbook committee does not seem to have functioned in a while. There is no one serving on that committee right now and discussion ensued on whether or not this committee was necessary, as code states that PRPC and the Executive Committee also hold responsibility in regards to composition, revision, reproduction and distribution. In previous years, the Faculty Senate president and the secretary updated the committee membership lists with the help of the Committee on Committee chair, but some other entity must be responsible for changing the actual code of the handbook. Will Pependorf is charged with writing a proposal for clarifying committee responsibilities to submit to PRPC. This will also be on the agenda as an Action Item for the next FS Executive Committee meeting.

President Albrecht – University Business

1. President Albrecht gave an update on a couple of major capital projects:
 - a. The new Ag Science building is on track, especially on the Washington side – we came out of the Senate in good shape. They have allocated half of the funds needed for that building, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$45 million. On the other hand, there is a lot of work yet to do on the State side.
 - b. We are also working on building new properties on the Vernal campus – an Energy Education and Research Center that would address many needs of the area. President Albrecht met with Senator Hatch last week, who is carrying the Federal side of this. He also made a presentation in Denver to 15 of the CEO's of the major energy-developing companies in the Uintah Basin asking them to help us raise about \$15 million for a faculty endowment to hire the faculty and have the resources needed to perform the things we need to do there. President Albrecht received a positive response from this group.
2. Scott Mietchen, Vice President of University Advancement has stepped down and President Albrecht has created a four-person transition committee chaired by Kent Clark, and includes David Driggs, Patty Halaufia, and Joan Scheffke. That committee will expand into an eight-person committee assuming responsibility for planning our April announcement for a comprehensive campaign, adding Jeannie Simmonds, Wally Odd, Tim Vitale, and Joyce Albrecht.
3. During Roads Tours, Wyoming and Idaho have been visited, with the numbers in Boise not that strong because we haven't been to Boise for six to eight years, although there were some presidential scholarships were handed out to some high-quality students. Wasatch Front and Las Vegas areas will be visited next, and also starting some things in California.
4. Some significant gifts include dollars used for student retention for students who are facing financial challenges. Another gift of scholarship money goes to the Uintah Basin campus.

Provost Coward – Provost Office Business

1. More than 90 Innovation Fund proposals have been submitted. There is a three-person review committee: Ron Simms, Doug Ramsey and Larry Smith. The committee will bring their recommendations to the Deans Council on November 27, with the hope of having departments notified by December 1 as planned.

2. The President and the Provost have had a number of meetings with faculty, as they are meeting individually with all 43 departments over the course of this year. Last week, the Provost also met with all probationary faculty. Tomorrow, he will begin a series of conversations with all full professors with each college.

Planning for November 6, 2006 Faculty Forum

The agenda format for the 2006 Faculty Forum is as follows:

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| 1. Role Statement | Provost Coward | 30 minutes |
| 2. Ten-Year Athletics Review | Randy Spetman | 20 minutes |
| 3. Education in Asia | Brent Miller | 20 minutes |
| 4. Open Discussion | John Kras | 20 minutes |

John asked the Executive Committee to be in attendance, as they will be asked to come up front during open discussion and respond to questions.

Daren Cornforth moved that we set the Faculty Forum agenda as stated; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Doug Ramsey motioned to adjourn the meeting; Pat Lambert seconded the motion and it was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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