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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes January 22, 2024

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January 22, 2024
3:30 – 5:00 pm
Old Main-Champ Hall

MINUTES

Present: John Ferguson, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business (Past-President)
Matt Bunnell, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Carol Kochan, University Libraries
Danielle Ross, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Michele Hillard, Executive Secretary
Yu Huang, College of Engineering
Don Busenbark, Statewide Campuses
Denise Stewardson, Extension
Elizabeth Cantwell, President
Maureen Hearn, Caine College of the Arts (President)
Yoon Lee, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

Absent: Grant Cardon, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (President-Elect)
Robert Wagner, Executive Vice President
Sarah Null, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
Paul Barr, EPC Chair
Larry Smith, Provost

Guests: Russ Price, Compliance Officer
Richard Cutler, Vice Provost, School of Graduate Studies
Lisa Berreau, Vice President, Research
Doug Bullock, Associate Vice President, Human Resources
Crystal Giordano, Assistant Vice President

Call to Order - Maureen Hearn
Approval of Minutes – [December 11, 2023](#)
Minutes approved as distributed.

University Business - Elizabeth Cantwell, President | Larry Smith, Provost
President Cantwell will provide a legislative update at the Faculty Senate meeting. Cuts are being proposed by the legislative finance office. More information is forthcoming. The legislature wants us to think that this will be a tough year for higher education. We should not rise to the bait. It appears that USU is in pretty good shape. The Faculty Senators need to help their faculty understand that we are in a highly politicized moment. We should have discussions without falling victim to a legislative narrative. USU can lead out with some of these issues. The best guess of a salary increase is 2 to 2.5%. We need to control the narrative to the extent we keep the focus on the future of USU and less attention on emotionality of the moment. The President's budget brief will be on January 30.

Faculty Senate Business - Maureen Hearn | John Ferguson | Grant Cardon
Remind senators at the next meeting that they are free to make their voices heard to the state legislature, however, they should not identify themselves as a USU faculty member, nor should they use their USU email,

or anything affiliated with USU when speaking with state legislatures. Please exercise your rights, but do it as a citizen of the state and not an employee of USU.

Information

Educational Policies Committee – [December 7, 2023](#) | [January 4, 2024](#) - Paul Barr

Motion to move the Educational Policies Committee reports to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by Matt Bunnell. Seconded by John Ferguson. Moved to agenda.

Paul Barr was not available to provide his report, however, there was a motion to move the reports forward to the Faculty Senate agenda.

[Policy 200: Executive Summary](#) | [201](#) | [202](#) | [203](#) - Crystal Giordano

Motion to table Policy 200 by John Ferguson. Seconded by Matt Bunnell. This policy is tabled until an overall USU policy process can be brought forward.

How do we as a university establish processes and transparency regarding policies? Establish how policies are amended, reviewed, and moved forward. President Cantwell recommends another full policy review before we revise the policy on policies. She recommended putting together a policy review committee. President Cantwell stated that she would like to sit on the committee if need be. Need evaluation of software programs/packages that would help with the process.

[Policy 382: Time and Attendance](#) - Doug Bullock

Motion to move Policy 382 to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Yoon Lee. Moved to agenda.

This policy update has been through the SEA and the President's committee. Most things were out of date. Reformatted and retitled the policy. Clarified standard work week. Updated the time reporting sections. Broadened break and meal period language. Also revamped travel time section. Clarified employee and Human Resources responsibilities. Need to specify how this policy affects the faculty. Define that faculty are not held to the 8 to 5 work schedules.

Policy 326: [Policy](#) | [Draft](#) | [Final](#) - Russ Price

Motion to move Policy 326 to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Matt Bunnell. Moved to agenda.

This is a new policy that is required by Statute UCA 67-21, Utah Protection of Public Employees Act. Drafted to closely follow mandated language from the State of Utah.

Reports

Honorary Degrees and Awards - President Cantwell

Motion to move the Honorary Degrees and Awards announcement to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Matt Bunnell. Moved to agenda.

This information is embargoed until the Faculty Senate meeting. The President will present the information at that meeting.

[Office of Research Annual Report](#) - Lisa Berreau

Motion to move the Office of Research Annual Report to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Carol Kochan. Moved to agenda.

Reported record annual funding for this year. The average funding is going up over time. Combined USU's campus researchers and the USU Space Dynamics Laboratory produced \$405.7 million in total awards in FY23, surpassing previous combined record amount of \$390.7 in FY22. Continually revising and updating research training for faculty. Working with the USU Libraries and purchased an ORCID membership for USU. On April 25, 2023, the USU President's Executive Committee unanimously supported designating 2025 as the Year of Undergraduate Research at Utah State.

[PRPC Annual Report](#) - John Ferguson

Motion to move the PRPC Annual Report to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by Matt Bunnell. Seconded by Yoon Lee. Moved to agenda.

Into the second year of revamping the entire 400 code to make sure that we are aligned. Code 401 – 404 has been through the Board of Trustees. Code 405-410 will be embargoed until all of them are ready to go through at the same time. There was a change in PRPC leadership, and we are attempting to get this done by the end of this AY. However, it may go into the beginning of the next AY.

[School of Graduate Studies Annual Report](#) - Richard Cutler

Motion to move the School of Graduate Studies Annual Report to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Matt Bunnell. Moved to agenda.

In fall semester there were over 3,000 registered graduate students. The School of Graduate Studies awarded 1,067 graduate degrees. Face to face orientation has been taking place for the last two years. Hosting social events each semester with attendance typically at 300 or higher per event. New programs coming through, these include a lot of certificates. Most pressing issues are to increase graduate assistantship amounts, particularly teaching assistantships. Increase the number of E&G funded teaching assistantships. Graduate student health insurance is still a concern. Increase in-state tuition waiver pool. Partnered with the University of Utah on a legislative ask to support graduate education.

Old Business

Response to the Andrew Sorensen claims. The provost has provided responses, and this information will be shared with the Faculty Senate at the next meeting. This item of old business will be added to the agenda.

New Business

N/A

Adjourn: 4:50 pm