Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes
October 23, 2012
LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm

Present: John Balden, Lyn Bennett, Mark Bracken, Kat Brown, Arlen Card, David Connelly, Karen Cushing, Lars Eggertsen, Dan McDonald, Gary Measom, Russ Thornley, Elaine Tuft, Marcus Vincent, Ian Wilson, Gary Mercado, Brian Birch, Kathy Andrist, Craig Thulin, Eva Bernfeld

Excused or Absent: Matthew Holland, Pierre Lamarche

- Call to order - 3:00 PM
- Approval of Minutes from October 9, 2012 Executive Committee meeting. Minutes approved.
- Adjunct Resolution Issue
  - Resolution needs to move forward in principle to form an ad hoc committee. Committee formation should consist of a full-time faculty members (prefer senators) and adjunct faculty members (with differing views) from each school/college. Would like a member of the Executive Committee to chair.
  - David Connelly will develop some parameters for the ad hoc committee with key discussion points and a clear definition of full-time employee. Intent of the ad hoc committee is to try and find ways that adjuncts can work to improve relationships with students (e.g. office space in new classroom building).
  - VPAA will attend meetings as directed to address questions.
- VPAA – Ian Wilson
  - Testing Center
    - Short Term - How do we fund what we currently have? Current funding model is split – part university money and part third/last day testing fee. Problem is faculty are telling students they will not accept an exam on the last day because of the fee required. This causes the center a deficit. VPAA is requesting PBA funds to assist in the shortfall.
    - Long Term – What do we do in the future? One possibility is to make it a part of 2nd Tier Tuition so it is funded permanently.
    - Need perspectives on where is UVU headed with the testing center? Can it grow? Do we cut down the hours? Ian would like to form a task force to explore ideas and develop a resolution.
    - Agenda item on November 13.
  - Trimester Issue
    - Tiffany Evans is talking with departments to build a stronger summer semester.
    - Discussions are under way to explore a trimester system. Several questions: How do we fund it? How do students fund it? Currently, it is Regents policy to charge the same tuition for summer and regular semesters. UVU is asking Regents if we can have some differential flexibility in charging different rates during summer.
- Ian noted that summer semester is a profit and part of these monies goes into PBA to fund other requests.
- Concern over what can we do to compensate faculty to teach in the summer? Administration is trying to get 6 ICHE for summer for all faculty, but we are currently short of that number.
- Need to examine pros/cons, pitfalls, etc.?
- Several executive committee members feel the senate needs to be aware of what is being proposed and develop questions/issues to present to administration for consideration.
- Ian will identify what universities are currently on trimesters, their experience, and will present data.

- Engaged Learning – Brian Birch
  - Purpose of Engaged Learning – develop institution-wide concept and best practices and work closely with colleges and schools in developing implementation and operationalization in specific areas. (See handouts.)
  - Strategy
    - To get some common understanding of what we mean by engaged learning, but keep it flexible & broad so each college/school could implement in own way.
    - Oversee grants, undergraduate research programs, and university projects
    - Faculty development and faculty scholarship
      - Scholarly & Creative Activities Committee – wants to make it a more robust committee that would be a more advisory institution-wide strategically focused committee rather than reviewing individual proposals.
  - Decentralization - This has occurred and money has been given to the schools/colleges for allocation; however, some programs are still being handled by OEL.
  - Collaborative funding model – requested substantial funds through PBA for last few years for undergraduate research and engaged scholarship. The proposal was to have PBA money come in to OEL and redistribute in form of block grants proportionately and then have accountability reporting.
  - Educational Opportunities Abroad - Concern over funding not available for students who want to participate in programs outside the classroom. OEL working with the Center for Global & Intercultural Engagement to review what can be done to provide more opportunities to all students.
  - What about a campus-wide Undergraduate Research day? The Scholarship of Teaching & Engagement (SoTE) Conference is organizing an entire week next spring.
  - OEL is creating the forum for students and faculty to share their projects, concepts and ideas so that engaged learning is organic.
  - The Regents have approved the new Center for Global & Intercultural Engagement. There is no more International Center or Multi-cultural Center. Announcement on new leadership will be made within the next week.
Concern that the “engaged learning” definition is broadly defined and would like to see a more substantive definition. Some activities (e.g. study abroad) receive funding for engaged learning activities, but not sure achieving meaningful curricular objective only the engaged experience. Is engaged learning moving toward an assessment culture that will provide a rubric on how we assess engaged learning? How will the curriculum committee be able to differentiate between an engaged learning course and one that’s not?

- Developed core practices so there was a framework around which faculty could explore the idea. Challenge is every program is different and they need to identify what works within the structure of their departments and the academic outcome for the students.

- GE Committee – Kathy Andrist
  - Raised concern over the current six Expected Learning Outcomes (ELOs) being condensed into three ELOs in the spring by the Academic Affairs Council. Would like the Faculty Senate to join in discussions on this issue. The new ELOs approved are: Critical Thinking, Communication, and Community. GE Committee’s discussions were opposed to this revision. Kathy met with Ian and the new ELOs were then pulled back.
  - Motivation or desires to simplify from six to three are assessment and campus does not know the six ELOs.
  - Suggestion was made to invite the GE Committee to the senate for discussion regarding the ELOs and present their intent.
  - Ian expressed the process was more complicated. His understanding is the GE Committee determined that the six ELOs were difficult to measure and they came up with the idea to simplify in order to measure, faculty understanding and move them forward. Ian was under impression the GE Committee had consensus and AAC received a proposal to move in the new direction. AAC voted to agree only to learn later that the GE Committee was against it. Ian has asked Deans and Department Chairs to ask faculty what they are thinking about – do the six ELOs make sense or do they want something different. Intent is for the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) being developed by departments to mesh with current ELOs.

- Curriculum issues
  - The six ELOs have been guiding framework used in revamping curriculum process to include COMET.
  - Structure is not facilitating these ELOs getting into the classroom curriculum.
  - Objective is control of the curriculum. What role can Faculty Senate play to get outcomes and permeate the ELOs throughout the institution? Personal buy-in necessary and speaks to the professional nature of what faculty does.

- Linda Makin discussion focus on planning responsibilities
Proposed Agenda Items for Faculty Senate

- Policy 202 – Payroll - Stage 2
- Policy 351 – Annual Compensation and Benefits Plan - Limited scope
- Motion to reorder agenda at senate
- Policy 601 – Classroom Management - break into 3 sections for discussion in senate
  - Definition/purpose
  - Policy section
  - Procedure section

UVUSA – Erin Haskell

- Topics for Erin to discuss with students and bring back to Faculty Senate.
  - Student Fees
  - Attitude of new building
  - Student perception on Testing Center
  - Students concerns in general

Grade Inflation – Craig Thulin

- Concern expressed over the grade inflation issue based on experience and President Holland’s comments at Faculty Convocation.
- Faculty can access information on Tableau to grade distribution stats and identify if problematic. Departments need to provide the oversight and discussion. Questions to consider: 1) are grade inflations truly hurting students in the market place and in terms of getting the job? and 2) what outcome are we looking to achieve? Need to get past anecdotal and look at hard data.
- Suggest UVUSA discuss this issue with students and hear their perspective.
- Bring issue back to Executive Committee for more discussion.

Motion to Adjourn at 4:48 pm