Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes
November 6, 2012
LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm

Present: John Balden, Lyn Bennett, Mark Bracken, Kat Brown, David Connelly, Karen Cushing, Pierre Lamarche, Dan McDonald, Gary Measom, Russ Thornley, Elaine Tuft, Marcus Vincent, Ian Wilson

Excused or Absent: Arlen Card, Lars Eggertsen, Matthew Holland

• Call to order - 3:00 PM
• Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2012 Exec meeting. Minutes approved.
• VPAA – Ian Wilson
  o PBA started November 5, 2012. Academic Affairs (AA) presentation will begin November 26th at 1:30 pm in SC206abc with the Administration group followed by the Deans. On Wednesday, AA will present their “Asks.” Ian encouraged everyone to attend.
  o Revenues are down about $1.5M from summer, but the fall figures are holding stable. Spring semester is up in the air. Have submitted requests to the legislature. Optimism is that we will hold our own.
  o Anticipating Fall 2013 enrollment estimates will decrease about 1500-1900 students due to the LDS missionary age change. Some speculation that we might see a decline in Spring 2013 as well.
  o AA working with Deans regarding summer school and how many sections of upper and lower division classes will be offered. Michelle Taylor has developed an expanded marketing plan that is already in place.
  o Other issues being reviewed are: parents registering their son/daughter as long as have authorization from student, ACT scores, math requirements, etc.
  o Any plans to look at enrollments of upper division classes and have them carry the course with low enrollments? Ian indicated they are reviewing this issue and some classes will carry.
• Faculty Omnibus Survey – Kat Brown
  o In planning for the new classroom building, we wanted to get input from faculty as to what they are using and want to use in the new classrooms. Larger omnibus survey would focus on technical and pedagogical issues, etc. Would like Faculty Senate to submit questions/suggestions for inclusion in the survey. Kat’s perspective is that the omnibus survey would be a tool to indicate this is the temperature of the faculty, what people are doing, what is/is not useful, etc. and how this knowledge informs future decisions.
  o Suggestions/Thoughts: resources for adjuncts; Faculty Senate relevancy; role statements for full-time/part-time faculty; smart classrooms – understand/usage; insight into
faculty’s understanding of ELOs; SRI responses – what’s working/not working and perspective of evaluation process overall; Dean term limits/evaluations

• Discussion Items
  o UVUSA – Erin Haskell
    ▪ Testing Center – Range of answers from students. In science and health areas they felt faculty is using the center and class time well. Other students felt professors are taking advantage of center. Many students do not want to take center to 2nd tier and feel they would be paying for something they do not use, while other students do not care. Collectively, UVUSA would like to see good research in order to decide if UVU should continue to use it. Need to review what types of activities are being conducted in the center (e.g. tests, quizzes, etc.) Ian/Kat will follow up to obtain data on various breakdowns and how other universities handle testing. Suggestion was made to survey each department and query how they are using the center. VPAA will form a committee with students/faculty and FCTE to review functionality and overall needs of the center.
    ▪ Grade Inflation – Students were more worried about grade curves because the tests are so difficult in the first place. Some students felt the need to take responsibility for grades and want a standard scale for grading overall. Departments need to be reminded that classes need to know the expectations and what it takes to achieve a grade for transferability and employment opportunities. Executive Committee wants to know how does faculty know their grading fits in to the overall department’s vision. Suggestion was made to discuss best practices for grading and their relation to outcomes assessment in the Department Chair forum and coupling testing/assessment/grading into a coherent meaningful approach. Russ Thornley asked if it is possible for the Curriculum Committee to investigate if there is an inflation problem? David Connelly asked Russ to write out the process to present to Faculty Senate.

• Standing Committee Reports
  o Personnel & Elections – Need senators for Tech & Computing/CHSS/UC

• Faculty Senate Agenda Items
  o Reminder - Need president-elect in Spring

• Adjourn 4:22 pm