

## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes

September 10, 2013  
LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm



**Present:** Mark Bracken, Kat Brown, David Connelly, Karen Cushing, Matt Draper, Lars Eggertsen, Brian Jensen, Dan McDonald, Gary Measom, Dennis Potter, Russ Thornley, Marcus Vincent, Ian Wilson

**Excused or Absent:** *Tyler Brklacich, Matthew Holland, Rick Moody*

- Call to order – 3:00 PM
- Approval of Minutes from August 27, 2013 Exec meeting. Minutes approved.
- VPAA – Ian Wilson/Kat Brown
  - Ian met with Department Chairs to discuss their involvement in the upcoming PBA/Strategic Planning process.
  - Enrollments are down around 5% from last fall. The new Late Registration process is working well.
  - Strategic Planning – Department Chairs and faculty should be involved in the discussions driving strategic planning. There are concerns regarding overall resources/funds to be sure all the needs are being addressed such as custodial. There needs to be unity not adversity in the process. Faculty would like context/parameters so they have a better idea of how to develop an effective strategic plan. Ian provided a synopsis of President Holland's Faculty Convocation presentation to give an overview of his direction. Some discussion revolved around UVU's role within Utah and innovative opportunities to move UVU forward. The Strategic Plan is a rolling four-year plan.
  - David Connelly recommended reviewing the PBA process in the spring with the Senate to obtain feedback on the overall process.
  - Ian proposed having Deans present their PBA presentations in Faculty Senate.
- 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary – There is a series of events being planned for the year-long celebration. A stained glass window titled "History of Knowledge" will be created outside the library. The Senate needs to think on the academic side what to do to acknowledge the anniversary.
- UVUSA – Excuse Tyler as he is attending to UVUSA events.
- Fall Faculty Forum will be held September 17 in SB246. David will send out an email reminder. The first hour will be David Knowlton speaking on "Free Search for Truth: The Contemporary University and Conflict" and the second hour will be the Full Senate for open discussion. Be thinking of speakers for the future.
- Marcus Vincent brought Brian Jensen in to discuss salary inequity. He was concerned over newer faculty being hired at higher salaries than existing faculty. Ian reported that the university is making every effort to bring full-time faculty with terminal degrees up to 90% of the CUPA median. The committee was in agreement on the issue of retaining current faculty versus hiring new faculty and what can be done to value current faculty. The Executive Committee would like

to review the numbers and address any in equity. David will work with Kat on obtaining salary information. This issue led to a discussion on merit pay and the question when does merit come in the process because if we wait to institute merit until everyone is at 90% of the CUPA median, it is delayed merit. This will be addressed once the salary disparity information is available.

- Faculty Civility was brought up at the previous senate meeting and whether or not any senate action needs to be taken. The Executive Committee feels part of the solution is to keep dialogue open and address the scenarios on a case-by-case basis. Dennis shared that if you lay the academic/scholarly aspect of what will be covered in the course at the forefront and that the classroom is the forum to challenge the student's learning, it should extinguish any potential complaints. The committee discussed the idea of developing a resolution for faculty and address what it means to be a faculty member to your students and the university in general. The committee would like to know the reality of the scope of the problem? Kat will follow up with chairs to solicit input into the scope of the problem, if there is one, and see if additional awareness needs to be made.
- Standing Committees
  - Benefits- Mark reported the RFP is going out. David is working with Mark Wiesenberg on the survey that will be sent to all faculty and staff.
  - Policy – Dennis reported that Policy 425 – Scheduling Campus Facilities and Policy 501 – Undergraduate Admissions will be addressed on October 1.
  - Faculty Development – Lars reported their first meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16. They will be discussing three additional questions on the SRI that will be separated out and hope to present information on September 24. Russ proposed circulating a document that would highlight the proper use of SRIs.
  - Karen will send the Standing Committee's list to the Executive Committee.
- Meeting Adjourned at 4:55 pm