Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes
January 24, 2012
LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm


Absent or Excused: Matthew Holland

1. Call to Order 3:00 pm

2. Minutes Approved.

3. VPAA – Ian Wilson
   
   • Enrollments are up approximately 3.25%. Final numbers will be out next week. The Legislative session began yesterday. The President will be attending regularly. Nothing new to report in addition from last week. If there is anything new to report and needs to get out to the Senate next week, Ian will let John know.
   
   • Senator Urquhart met with Clayton Christensen this week. We need to pay attention for the outcome of that meeting.
   
   • There is a large discussion going on right now with Concurrent Enrollment particularly outside of our service area. UVU informed several school districts outside our service area that we were no longer going to be doing live interactive courses. Ian Wilson stated that even if the legislature funds it, we may not want to handle it.
   
   • We have not heard anything on Tenure in legislature yet, but should know in the next week or so if any bills will be filed.

4. Awards of Excellence Nominations are due tomorrow, January 25, 2012. If you know of anyone that fits the criteria, please submit their names. You are able to nominate yourselves or anyone else for the Presidential or Board of Trustees Awards.


6. There are three staff policies that are ready to be presented to the Faculty Senate. Lyn Bennett will send the information to John Balden by the end of the week for distribution. Policy 523 – Grading is on the agenda for President’s Council on Thursday. Policies 335 and 336 have incorrect policy numbers. The correct number is 371 – Corrective Actions and Termination for Staff Employees. Policy 612 – Course Content Modifications, Policy 601 – Classroom Management,
and Policy 631 – *Instructor and Course Evaluations* will be coming forward in the next few weeks. Once they are released for Stage 2, we will want to bring them into the Senate.

7. Committee Reports
   - Thomas Henry – Nothing.
   - Stan Jenne – Nothing.
   - Kim Strunk – Nothing.
   - Russ Thornley – Committee has a meeting in one week. Distributed a flow chart. Russ will email the chart to John Balden for distribution. Will review next week at Curriculum.
   - Ian Sorensen – Awards of Excellence nominations are going forward. He has been invited as Chair of the Faculty Development Committee to serve on the Scholarly and Creative Council. It is an advisory board for scholarly research, work with NCUR, and institute strategy. This is an additional responsibility to the Faculty Development Chair position. Ian’s recommendation is that this does need to be supported. It is an advisory position but needs to have someone on it. They will meet about once a month. The research is not only undergraduate research, but also creating strategies on who gets money, what research will be supported, and how the money is laid out. One issue is do we give the Dean’s money for research and the travel portion falls under the FDC for conferences. Kim Strunk would be interested in the committee. This is a change in the description if this is a permanent change that would need senate discussion and approval. John will take a look at the bylaws. Kim feels the Arts do not get funding due to the nature of the discipline. Ian Sorensen will recommend that the committee have someone from the Arts.
   - Pierre Lamarche – Committee is closing in on a date and time for a meeting.
   - Elaine Tuft – An election will be held at the next Senate meeting to fill the Rank and Promotion Chair position. Matt Kushin has volunteered to be the Personnel and Elections Coordinator for CHSS. David Connelly will ratify this nomination. Elaine will ask Matt if he would be willing to serve thru 2015.
   - Lyn Bennett – Committee met today. Lyn will send the comments to John Balden for distribution to Senate for review and action.
   - Arlen Card – Nothing.

8. Agenda Items for January 31st Meeting
   - Election for Rank/Promotion Chair – one nominee so far
   - Volunteer for the Emergency Preparedness/Risk Management hiring Committee
   - Review three policies
   - Report from David Connelly on Role Statements. David will send John the information.

9. Miscellaneous
Thomas Henry asked if anyone has concerns re Distance Education? Are you running into not having academic freedom opportunities? John Balden said he has had several comments come through stating they are less flexible. This is what Thomas is concerned about. David Connelly said Distance Education is hiring faculty that departments have never met. Kath Brown noted there was an incident in a department where a faculty member became really incompetent in teaching the course. We needed a replacement quickly and canceling the course was not possible. Dan suggested this guy since he taught previously. David Connelly says he still has no access to the faculty member. This goes back to previous discussion about classes being offered that David has no information on and has to search in three separate places for the information. There are also summer classes being offered this summer that departments have never approved. Distance Education is setting a rigid course and inflexible. Tom is concerned where the academic freedom is allowed if we are being told that we must teach the course a certain way? Ian Wilson said there has been a push for uniformity. Ian Wilson noted that we do have some poor quality Internet courses and need a balance. Russ Thornley would like to collaborate with the designers.

Lyn Bennett’s concern is not being able to access what’s being taught, who’s teaching. She suggested Chairs should receive a one report of exactly what’s being taught. It needs to be all-inclusive.

The concern was how to take the course shell and customize it to make it more interesting and drive up SRIs? Currently, there seems to be no customization allowed.

David Connelly feels there needs to be more conversations on re-enforcing faculty control of curriculum. Can we have one area where we can access all courses/sections being taught within each department? If we are able to get one master list of all courses being taught connected with a department, then he would be better able to deal with issues.

Ian Wilson is trying to deal with the Deans on one angle. Distance Education is not an academic department. Dan Clark has met with the Deans to review the compensation package, the development package, and the caps on courses. The responsibility is for the Deans to go back and talk with Chairs and faculty. Part of the issue is how do you improve the quality of online courses? Dan wants to be involved in the development, setting parameters and developing the framework; but if that’s becoming too rigid, then we need to take another look at the process. There are certain minimum elements that faculty do need to look at when developing an online course.

Russ Thornley shared that the Curriculum Committee handles the traditionally developed courses and does not want to not be just a rubber stamp or hoop you must go through to get a course approved. However, to ensure high quality, they have been inviting individuals to collaborate on these courses. We need to make sure the course has viability and that there are faculty qualified to teach the course. David Connelly noted that before a course ever gets to the Curriculum Committee that it has been vetted within
the department school/college first and that all issues including delivery methods have been addressed.

10. Adjourned at 4:03 pm