Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes
February 7, 2012
LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm


Absent or Excused: Lyn Bennett, Thomas Henry, Matthew Holland

- Call to Order 3:01 pm
- Minutes Approved.
- VPAA – Ian Wilson
  - Academic Affairs is continues to work on several policies.
  - Legislatively, things are moving along. Financial reports and tax revenues are due out next week, which will solidify the availability of funds.
  - The tenure issue in the legislature is moving along with good input. Liz Hitch is putting together various materials in support of tenure. Academic Affairs is tracking faculty hired on tenure track and percentages of those achieving tenure. Linda Makin is looking at universities around the country that don’t have tenure, which are currently eight. DeVry is one and the others are mostly private institutions. Faculty at DeVry are on three-year renewable contracts. These institutions said they would not recommend against tenure for larger institutions. The Tenure Bill will be presented tomorrow at 2 pm. Val Hale has asked other institutions to support tenure at all Utah institutions.
  - Ian indicated the Regents are still working on equity and building issues.
  - John Balden asked if anything has been examined regarding standardized benefits. Ian Wilson reported he was not aware of anything.
  - Reminder: February 21 is the Monday/Tuesday switch. Ian noted this is a problem for high school students enrolled in interactive classes, as their schedules cannot change. Academic Scheduling is examining this issue for next year. John Balden and Pierre Lamarche have a conflict for the Executive meeting scheduled on February 21 as they will have classes. Ian Sorensen has class at 4 pm. David Connelly will run the meeting.
  - Commencement will be Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. Faculty will meet at the south end of the UCCU Center. Convocations will be held all on Friday. Erin Gruwell, author of Freedom Writers, will be the keynote speaker.
  - Honorary degrees will be given to Erin Gruwell, Bill Childs, founder of RC Willey and Linda __________.
  - All Schools and Colleges are working on their programs and need to submit to Academic Affairs by middle of March.
  - House Bill 69 suggests mandating universities go out to bid for insurance every 1, 3, 5 years. Stan Jenne feels this is not a good idea as it will discourage bids or cause problems for the businesses. Is there a possibility for
administration to put out an email with all the bills for faculty information? Ian Wilson said yes. He will have Karen check on this.

- **Committee Requests**
  - Ray Walker is seeking a member to serve on the Voicemail and Integrated Messaging Committee. John Balden will put this on the agenda next week.
  - Ron Price is seeking a member for the Employee Health and Financial Wellness Committee. John Balden will put this on the agenda next week. This committee will meet one time per month once the committee is up and going.

- **Policies**
  - There are three policies coming up as action items at the next full Senate meeting. Senators need to bring back comments from their constituents. It was suggested that faculty be reminded to treat visitors with respect.

- **Information Items to PC on Thur**
  - Policy 523 – *Grading* is on hold for the “T grade.” They are waiting on the Graduate Support Committee. David Connelly noted it was still listed on the website as Stage 2. Kat Brown will check on this.
  - Ian Wilson mentioned the Course Modification policy is now contained in Policy 601 – *Classroom Management as Assignment Modifications*.

- **SRI Approval Process**
  - Ian Sorensen noted this process has been delayed. A meeting has been scheduled with the Vice President of Academic Affairs office. He has talked with Anton Tolman and they are pushing it into next year. Ian still recommends having two colleges test.
  - Pierre Lamarche asked if any provisions have been made for separate sections for individual schools and colleges to customize? Ian noted not yet, but they are still reviewing the issue.
  - Russ Thornley asked who is doing the statistical analysis? Ian indicated Anton.

- **Ad hoc Proposal**
  - David Connelly presented a draft Ad hoc Committee proposal to examine the “mass” sections. This proposal is to explore if a policy needs to be created that would deal with the management of “mass” sections both in the new 400-seat auditorium and online. There seems to be differing views on how these large sections will be handled in regards to faculty compensation or their contracts in terms of what they are being asked to do.
  - Kat Brown noted that nothing has been decided regarding this issue within Academic Affairs.
  - David Connelly said given the rumors, there is concern across campus. What does this mean?
  - Ian Sorensen asked why are we doing it (assigning mass sections) without faculty input?
  - Pierre Lamarche noted that UVU has been doing it for years with 150 student sections and does not see a problem.
  - Russ Thornley seems to thing it does have some implication for curriculum. How courses are being offered and being portrayed in the catalog? Comment
was that when a student registers, they see how many seats are available and will be able to view that there are 399 seats.

- Discussion arose on the terms of how these mass sections were decided. Ian Wilson noted that the Deans were consulted and asked to work with their departments to determine what course makes sense for a 400-seater. They were also provided a list from Academic Scheduling of courses that had large enrollments and might benefit from the large classroom. He was under the assumption that it meant faculty. They were to determine if they had a faculty member that would do good job in this setting. The Deans came back and offered proposal.

- The classroom has been set aside for specific dates/times for special lectures and performances.

- David Connelly suggested developing an ad hoc committee to examine the issue, give the committee two weeks and report back to Faculty Senate. If the committee moves forward they would need to look at the issues, parameters, etc. and focus primarily on employment issue. John Balden will put it on the agenda.

- Committee Reports

  - Thomas Henry – Processed 16 student petitions. Examined offerings for at-risk students. They increased the number of applications for re-enrollment status. He noted that things are going well for Distance Education after our last meeting and that they are singing a different tune.

  - Stan Jenne – The consultant and Educators Mutual (EM) came back to UVU with some cost estimates. EM’s estimate was up 14% to maintain the current level of benefits. The consultant’s estimate was 18%. What does this mean for UVU? If UVU maintains their current level of benefits, their would be an increase of approximately $180 month more for family coverage assuming no change in plan and no funding from university. The consultant will come back in a few weeks and present a 2-tier plan for discussion. This does not mean it will happen. It is possible that deductibles will increase and be required up front. There is some wellness coverage that cannot change. The plans current stop loss is $2500 for individuals and there is talk of boosting that up. The bad news of a 2-tier plan is benefits across board go down, but costs go up. Linda Makin indicated administration might be able to put some dollars in, but nothing definite. Russ Thornley asked if consultants gave what the key drivers are for the cost increase? Stan indicated no that they did not give detail other than recent performance, trends, and factor in several other things.

  - Kim Strunk – Heard from CHSS, but not from SOA, in regards to filling her committee. She hopes to have a full committee if any grievance cases are presented. Kim will contact Reba Keele to confirm if she is serving another term.

  - Russ Thornley – The Curriculum Committee met last week and had a good discussion. Action items include the policy rewrite of 605 for Stage 1.

  - Ian Sorensen – Faculty Academic Excellence Awards are being requested and most schools/colleges have responded. One college has not made any
recommendations. Ian has contacted the Dean to confirm there are no submissions. The committee will move forward regardless. Ian is working on draft guidelines for Faculty Senate nominees that will look at previous years faculty numbers for senators.

- Pierre Lamarche – His committee is scheduled to meet on March 5 to review the policy.
- Elaine Tuft – Numsiri Kunakemakorn is resigning from the committee. Elaine has talked with Cenk for suggestions. Eugene Seeley is following up with business school faculty. Elaine is still working on obtaining faculty from SOA.
- Lyn Bennett – Home sick. Her committee has not reviewed any new policies. She did mention the ad hoc proposal. Policy Stewards will be coming back to the Senate for action items on February 14.

- Arlen Card – Nothing.
- Gary Measom – He needs to know who is on his committee. He has read the policy. Rank appeals are a possibility within next month.

**Agenda**

- Role statements – David Connelly will send documents to John for the agenda.
- President Holland will attend Senate on February 28, 2012.

**Adjournment**