Faculty Senate Minutes
January 17, 2012
LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm


Excused or Absent: Kathy Black, Matt Draper, DeWayne Erdman, Leslie Farnsworth, Vivienne Faurot, Phil Gordon, Carolyn Howard, Mark Jeffreys, Brian Jensen, Amir Kia, Lisa Lambert, Phil Matheson, Kristin Mecham, David Millet, Margaret Mittelman, Jeff Packer, Harry Taute, Paul Tayler

• Call to order – 3:02 pm
• Approval of December 6 Minutes. Approved.
• VPAA – Ian Wilson
  o Welcome back
  o Enrollment numbers up about 3%
  o Legislative Session
    ▪ The session starts next week. Two studies have been completed and were at the Board of Regents last week. One was an equity study looking at the funding of institutions throughout the state and noted that UVU is the most underfunded higher education institution. The Regents are looking at what it would take to bring the institutions more in line.
    ▪ The other study dealt with Space per student and showed that UVU has the fewest sq ft per student. President Holland is working hard to make progress. The classroom building is number three on the DFCM building board list. UVU will push hard to get funding approved.
    ▪ New degrees approved were music performance and a German minor.
• Rank & Prom Chair Nomination
  o John Balden reviewed duties as outlined in Bylaws. Elaine Tuft noted that this position is also a part of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Nominations were requested. Gary Measom volunteered. Elections will be held at the next meeting. If anyone has other nominations, please send them to John Balden or Elaine Tuft.
• There is still a need for individuals to fill in on several policy drafting ad hoc committees.
  o Policy 633 – Annual Faculty Reviews – We need two additional members. This will be drafting the initial changes to the policy. Nominations were Charles Vogel and Michael Minch.
  o Policy 648 – Policy Personnel Reduction – Nomination was Laura Hamblin.
• Proposed Election Change
  o It has been proposed that elections for officers that will be vacated be held in early
April or before the last Senate meeting instead of August. This would also be true for Department Senators. This would allow for all outgoing and incoming senators to attend the dinner. It was suggested that election numbers be based on previous year faculty count. Ian Sorensen proposed the senate vote. John Balden said he needed to check the bylaws to see if there is a specific requirement as to when the elections needed to be held. Bylaws are being worked on, but are still not ready to come to the senate. Ian Sorensen made a motion to have the elections in the Spring based on the count determined at the previous August 1 measurement date.. Dennis Potter seconded. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

- SRIs
  - Laura Busby provided an overview of the changes over the last year. There are basically two primary changes. The first being that surveys needed to be delivered in a timely manner as some students were receiving the survey after they received their grades such as those students taking block classes. Therefore, they deprogrammed the system so students could respond before the class ends and for one week after it ended. Along with that, if the grade has been submitted through the Banner System, the student will not be able to see his/her grade until the student responds to the survey or opts out. If you put your grades other places, IT does not have control. Students will continue to receive reminder emails regarding the survey until they respond. Faculty will not be able to see the results until after grades are due on UVLink. The overall SRI response rate for fall 2011 semester was 55%. There is currently not a way to reprint the receipt unless the student has the URL when they took the survey.
  - Student Evaluation of Learning and Teaching (SELT) - Ian Sorensen reported that the proposed new survey is still under review by the VPAA’s office. The current plan is to do a test in a few colleges. He is thinking University College and one other such as Woodbury or Education. The test would be for several semesters. Unless your school is a test bed, you will not see these questions for another year.

- Insurance
  - Stan Jenne provided two handouts, a narrative and a summary. He reviewed each one in detail. UVU’s health insurance plan is self-funded. EMI (formerly Educator’s Mutual) is the administrator of the plan. The cash reserve will cover about five months of projected expenses at this time. Stan serves on the Benefits Committee; so if faculty has any needs or suggestions, please let him know. A more detailed report cannot be disclosed for confidentiality reasons. We still need to be wise with regards to our health and our medical plan. There is no more information to report on the possibility of a two-tier plan at this time.
  - Marcus Vincent asked about the premiums on a two-tier plan specifically if the higher coverage plan would have a higher premium and the other one a lower premium. Specifics are not known at this time. The consultant will be running some estimate numbers. From previous meetings, it has been discussed that the lower coverage would be similar to our current plan. Both plans would have the same coverage; the differences would be different levels in co-payments, office visit costs, coverage limits, and deductibles for examples.
  - Will the legislature ask us to pay more medical? Stan does not know this, but knows they will continue to monitor UVU because our benefits are perceived to be rich.
President Holland
- The Regents have named the Presidential finalists for the University of Utah. They are David Pershing, the Sr. VP for Academic Affairs, and Kumble Subbaswamy, Provost at the University Kentucky.
- He was so disappointed in Governor Herbert’s budget enough that he personally delivered a letter to the governor’s office regarding problems he had with his budget. The problem Pres. Holland has is that Herbert’s budget came out in the description as being a pro-education budget. This is true for public education. Herbert’s budget is built on four corner stones, the first being education. His top stated goal is to have 66% of adults have post-secondary training. Problem is between this goal and what the budget laid out in appropriations. Bulk of the money went to public education. The budget allocates $6M to the University of Utah Medical school to fund 20 new medical students, and then gave $3M to be divided among the eight remaining institutions. That is no way to build up 66% of the adult population with some sort of education. Holland and Herbert have since talked and he said he’s got to do better to fund education.
- We are starting to see some traction on the legislation that commissioned an independent study on equity. The study has shown that UVU is underfunded compared to peers nationally and within the state. Only 38% of our budget comes from the state. Regents are now on board to say something has to be done. Another study was the space study. It confirmed we are in the basement on that measure, too.

Shared Governance
- Dave Connelly met last Friday with SUU faculty leaders regarding role statements. It was a positive meeting. He will give a report at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- There is a statement coming out on tenure discussing what tenure actually means?
- Several comments suggested recently that faculty senate had no purpose. David felt it might be beneficial to revisit the Statement of Shared Governance dated January 27, 2009, which stated the position of the senate at that time. We can review it, modify it, reaffirm it as is or we can say nothing. It is a good statement, but carries no weight other than a representation of the Senate’s position.
- Lyn Bennett asked if all the faculty senates in the state higher education similar in the way they operate? – David’s response was no. John Balden remarked the U sits between the President and Trustees. It has about 100 members. They have decision authority between the President and Trustees. The Senate at UVU is an advisory body, same as Dean’s Council, Student Council and PACE.
- Russ Thornley asked what does admin. think about shared governance? President commented he is not prepared to respond at this time.
- Lyn Bennett is concerned that we get some agreement between the senate and President regarding shared governance. We should have something a little more formal and set in place.
- John Balden noted that many of the policy changes over the last few years have reflected this idea.
- Stan Jenne commented that he sees more top down direction in terms of academic programs and curriculum, the way we teach and content of courses, and feels more control is being imposed. He has seen some improvement. We need to define duties and educate faculty on what it means to be a responsible faculty senate and
do our part.
  o President Holland said even though he has read and seen the details of the statement, he agreed to have a conversation once he has reviewed it. (Note this discussion is scheduled for the February 21st Senate Meeting.)

- Dennis Potter - Motion to adjourn
- Motion passed – Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.