Faculty Senate Minutes  
February 12, 2013  
LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm


Excused or Absent: Steve Allred, Jon Anderson, Deborah Baird, Leo Chan, Karen Cushing, Matthew Draper, Lars Eggertson, Debora Ferreira, Erin Haskell (UVUSA), Joel Herd (PACE), Carolyn Howard, Dianne Knight, Pierre Lamarche, Rick Moody, Jeff Packer, Axel Ramirez, Paul Tayler, Ian Wilson

Call to order - 3:00 PM

Approval of Minutes from January 29, 2013. Minutes Approved.

PRESIDENT HOLLAND

• Mark Bracken noted the USHE Budget Proposal appears to be the same. President Holland indicated it is still too early to determine and will update the Senate if anything changes.

UVUSA – David Connelly

• A survey was sent to the Faculty Senate earlier in the week. Students are pushing forward on the Education First Initiative in support of the USHE 2020 goals and are in the process of accumulating signatures for the petitions that they will present to the legislature on March 1, 2013. Please let your faculty be aware of this and if they choose to, they can let UVUSA representatives in the classroom to obtain signatures. If faculty would like to sign as well, they can. Contact Erin Haskell if you need additional information.
• UVUSA would like to continue conversations in regards to the Testing Center.

BENEFITS COMMITTEE – Mark Bracken

• Mark Bracken presented benefit information in regards to UVU’s medical plan and what the potential cost increases would be to faculty and staff. The intent of the survey distributed to the Faculty Senate was to get faculty’s opinion on which direction they feel the Benefits Committee should pursue in regards to premium increases and personal risk. Submit your survey response to Mark by Wednesday, February 13, 2013.
• Faculty would like more clarification on the actual cost increases to faculty and staff as well as the overall cost increases to the university so they have more information to do an appropriate cost comparison.
• The President referenced the State of the University address and stressed a few keys points:
  o UVU is currently facing a serious challenge on enrollment not only from the mission issue, but Pell grants as well. Last fall we also experienced a dip in enrollments due to economic factors and structured enrollment. He did note that early data on structured enrollment is positive with end of term headcount is higher than the beginning of the semester for the first time. A combination of all these issues leaves UVU with a $5M deficit in effect for the year. Due to the deficit, a hiring chill was instituted and every position is being reviewed more closely. Current projections for fall enrollment continue to show a decrease and projections show that ongoing loss of revenue will be somewhere between $7M to $10M.
  o The President is hopeful that UVU will get some money from the Legislature, but noted that the Federal Government’s budget delay complicates things. He does feel the environment for education is better with Governor’s push for the 66% goal by 2020. Education is pushing for more funding from the legislature to meet this goal. There is also Equity funding in the Governor’s budget, but we need to see what happens in the next few weeks.
  o Another key factor is Tuition. The Regents will set first tier and then we will set the second tier tuition. The President indicated that caution needs to be exercised when discussing raising tuition.
  o There have been some early decisions in PBA to hire more people to focus on student recruiting and programs. We continue to make improvements on fundraising and grant writing, which are bringing some success.

• Q&A
  o What is the Legislature’s take on the enrollment decrease? President Holland indicated they are very concerned and examining options.
  o What about the billboard for block classes? Block classes are part of recruiting campaign to attract more students. He indicated these are things faculty can really get in on by their willingness to teach on the block.
  o The hiring chill is hard for Lecturers right now, as they won’t know until April if they are going to have a contract. What should be our biggest concern? President Holland responded that the situation is difficult and that in a few more weeks, we will know better what the overall picture is going to look like and have a better sense as we move ahead.
  o What about current searches that are underway? The President informed the senate that they should continue on as they currently are, but be prepared to hold on an offer for a time. Some faculty is concerned that we will lose top candidates.
  o If you have any suggestions or input to help close the gap, please contact Kyle Reyes or President Holland. He also reminded the Faculty Senate that there is still much UVU does have to be hopeful about.
  o What about lowering out-of-state tuition to attract more students? Holland has considered this issue, but noted we would have to get a lot of out-of-state students to
make up for what we have now. There is a bill right now that deals with out-of-state tuition that might allow us to target some of these students.

ADJUNCT AD HOC COMMITTEE – Dennis Potter

- The committee considered five things that UVU could do to improve the adjuncts outlook. The top three were: 1) representation on the Senate, 2) raises until the adjuncts pay is commensurate with peer institutions, and 3) office/work space for adjuncts. Items 2 and 3 require us to do some background such as researching what our peer institutions pay for adjuncts and how much space we currently have allocated for adjuncts. The committees is doing some fact-finding and then develop a proposal for a Faculty Senate resolution. The other two were healthcare and benefits.
- The President asked that the committee also examine the practices for utilizing the space such as how it’s getting used and how often is it getting used. Dennis indicated they are also trying to obtain as much information as possible on adjuncts including are they using any space, whether the adjunct’s work here is sole source of income or secondary, and whether they are only teaching here or at other institutions. Lyn Bennett said that some adjuncts might not be using designated space due to its location and maybe inquiring as to why they are not using it would be informative.

GUEST SPEAKER

- Benjamin Ginsberg is scheduled to visit UVU campus on April 5, 2013. He is a political scientist and wrote a book called The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why It Matters. David Connelly will distribute an email with more confirmed details.
- If faculty has other suggestions for guest speakers, please email David Connelly.

ELECTIONS

- Elections are approaching. David informed the senate that the last few elections have not been the most competitive. Feedback he has heard as to why people don’t run is time commitment and a sense of why. What is the senate’s opinion?
  - Some faculty feel there is no shared governance so why bother.
  - No recognition of what the senate accomplishes or what the senate really does. Suggestion was to hold a State of the Faculty address. Kat indicated that the Senate President could use more time at convocation to address senate issues/accomplishments/feedback.
  - Faculty are hired to teach in the classroom and find that it is different from their previous careers. How do we tap into these faculty? Also, we are a teaching institution and that maybe more incentive could be put on institutional value on service and scholarship. The other problem is that for some department criteria, service might only be counted as 10% of their application for tenure, but take up 90% of their time. A cultural shift needs to occur to encourage faculty to participate in governance as part of
their institutional service and connect them with the university and what it can accomplish in addition to making UVU a great place to work.

- A suggestion was made to reduce the term of the President and possibly elect the President from within the Senate body itself. This way the orientation has already occurred.

VICE PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY RELATIONS – Cameron Martin

- Two added elements to the position are Federal Legislative Affairs and Economic Development. Other elements include Community Public Relations and Fundraising.
- Legislative Update
  - Week 2 – David Connelly sent out the update to all Senators via email. For APP you can type – WatchUtahLegislatureBills to monitor the bills.
  - The Legislature has indicated that there will be a budget regardless of what the Federal Government does.
  - What are USHE institutions advocating for campuses in regards to the Campus Safety Amendment? Language has been revised to state that an individual following the current law cannot be dismissed from a campus for merely carrying a gun according to current law. In regards to concealed carry, there is not much that can be done unless they are participating in other behaviors at the same time. However, for open carry, this bill will allow for a campus to have leeway. President Holland suggested that if there is any question to allow the police to address the issue. Faculty are concerned about what do they really do when presented with a potential shooter situation. David Connelly suggested additional training to address some of these issues.
  - If you want a general overview update on the Legislature, go to UVU.edu/community/legislature. Cameron does tweet information/happenings in the legislature as well.
- UVU main priorities:
  - Classroom Building – Governor put in his budget for $45M, but it is actually for $55M. Planning money is used and we are shovel ready as of April 15th. Regents prioritized two number one items: our classroom building and the Weber building.
  - Equity Funding – UVU has decreased the cost per student by $60, but the student has not realized this savings because the state has appropriated less money. The cost per student has actually risen $847 over the last five years. Last year the legislature did fund some Mission-based funding for which we can use the template to build upon. The gap has occurred due to growth, but decreased funding from the state.
  - Compensation – In conjunction with seeking increased compensation, we are asking that the legislature not tax students so that we receive and increase. We are asking that we be grouped with all public employees.
  - Board of Regents Priorities – Compensation, Mission-based Performance Funding, and 66% Goal.
  - Contact Cameron if you have any additional questions, suggestions or concerns.
ISSUES OF CONCERN AND WHAT CAN SENATE DO?

- Suggestion was made to repeat the December Exercise one to two meetings before the end of the semester so a follow-up conversation can occur.
- Salaries appear to be going down due to lack of increases and rising cost of insurance. David noted that there is not much we can do other than examine the internal efficiency of expenses and contacting our legislature.
- It is preferred that resolutions be presented to the Executive Committee first, but can be presented to the Senate directly.
- Rescheduled the Senate meetings for the semester: March 12 – Canceled; Full Senate meetings will be March 19 & 26 and April 9 & 16.
- **MOTION** - A motion to reschedule the Senate meetings as proposed was made and seconded. ? All in favor? Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn at 4:45 pm.