**Faculty Senate Executive Council Minutes**

March 21, 2023

Via Microsoft Teams, 3:00-5:00 pm

***Present:*** Hilary Hungerford, Ben Moulton, David Frame, Dianne McAdams-Jones, Ericka Johnson, Evelyn Porter, Jaden Muir, John Hunt, Jon Anderson, Jonathan Allred, Kathren Brown, Laura Ricaldi, Nizhone Meza, Sandie Waters, Skyler Simmons, Wayne Vaught, Wioleta Fedeczko

***Excused or Absent:***

***Guests:***

Call to order: Hilary Hungerford called at 3:02 pm

**PROVOST**

* Updates: We have bunch of moving parts around general education. We are getting closer to coming up with some proposals and now we have the State General Education taskforce. President Tuminez and I met with Julie Hartley today out of the USHE office. Everyone is uncomfortable that our gen eds range from 27 to 39 hours. The U has 27 gen eds, but they also have the highest number of required courses for students to graduate. We pushed Julie on this because it doesn’t solve the transferability issue. President Tuminez pushed back that it should be 30 and the system should say that is it and no more. My estimation is it’s going to be 30 hours in the gen eds. I think they have to be done hand-in-hand or you are going to create a lot of confusion. I think faculty need to know what is going on and what we are trying to resolve.
  + Hilary Hungerford: Do you know when we might hear?
    - Wayne Vaught: I don’t know but the legislature won’t meet again before next January, so they won’t do anything before that. Julie said the board is pushing it and wants it done before this current board leaves and would like to get it finished before June. Maybe we just get our own feedback and see what faculty are thinking about. It will probably be either 27 or 30.
  + Sandie Waters: When USHE talks about this, do they have plans to be more prescriptive or are they trying to figure out a magical number?
    - Wayne: Less prescriptive and a magical number that everyone can agree to.
  + Ben Moulton: In relations to a third science and ethics, is there any word on what others do?
    - Wayne: We are unique; everyone does it a little bit different. We are in the middle of it. SUU is the lowest.
  + Hilary: I asked the U if I could meet with them because I’m curious about the meaning of their position. They moved everything to these other categories, such as graduation requirements and not general eds.
  + Wayne: I’ll bring this to the Senate next week and talk about it on Tuesday. Maybe they’ll give enough discussion that we will get a sense of where people are leaning on it. I thought having 30 will give us some greater flexibility
  + Sandie: Just because you call something different doesn’t make it different. How can the U of U get away with these requirements? What’s to stop other universities from doing the same thing?
    - Hilary: We have graduation requirements too, but not on the same scale.
    - Wayne: A lot of these are upper division courses which we don’t have. The issue is this doesn’t solve the problem of people transferring that can impact a student’s graduation.
* Sandie: I would like to bring a question that was brought to me by a faculty member. There is a small group of faculty that are beginning to express dissatisfaction with the transparency of the President’s Office, namely the selection of replacements. They asked me why I enjoyed being on Faculty Senate and ExCo. I told them that the transparency is so much better. If the faculty isn’t seeing how far we have come, we have a potential issue. What faculty see is important. If they aren’t seeing it, we need to do something different.
  + Wayne: At least with the transparency side on the Provost’s Office, I’m trying to be very transparent. I know the President is aware of this. I don’t want to talk for her, but maybe this is something you can talk to her about in Senate. She feels like these are important hires and getting the right person is what her primary response will be; if she has the right person with her, she will think why not give them the job?

**FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT**

* For those rotating off, start thinking about what you wished you had been told and what you could do to make the transition easier. We should start working with who is replacing us. When do we start announcing this and nominations?
  + Jon Anderson: It’s the meeting before the last meeting that it has to be done and a lot of nominations come in the last meeting because no one has stepped up. There is nothing wrong with reaching out and making sure people will accept the nominations. Just keep in mind that it is the Senate that gets to vote. Historically speaking, most of the nominations have come during the meeting itself.
  + Hilary: If you would like to stay on, it’s fine to nominate yourself or continue in the position.
  + Wioleta Fedeczko: Do we have a cheat sheet of all the positions with descriptions? It’s hard to nominate people without all the information.
    - Sandie: I created my own and have it. I don’t have the descriptions of those who didn’t reply back to me. I have a meeting this week to get all my service and elections chairs going. I would like to stress to everyone to look at the bylaws and make the service and election position a two year instead of one.
    - Jon Anderson: That is a bylaw change that should be proposed, but there is nothing from stopping someone from serving two years.
    - Sandie: Do we still feel that it has to be a faculty member to fill that position?
    - Jon: I don’t know that it’s necessary but having the majority of the committee who can vote makes it better.
  + Hilary: I think it will be good to give a heads-up next Senate that the elections are coming.
  + Jon: We have to do it next Senate for sure. Remember it’s not the current Senate voting on bylaws but the next Senate.
* Sandie: I would still like to be involved in Faculty Senate. What would be the best way to transition?
  + Hilary: You can still attend Senate meetings.
  + Jon: You can be your college rep on a committee.
  + Wioleta: Communicate to me if there are committees you would be interested in.

**UVUSA:**

* Kenzie Jones: I am the new student VP of Academics. I will be taking Jaden’s place.
  + Jaden: Kenzie is top tier and won’t own how great she is. I worked with her this year as one of the senators. She has a lot of experience. She was an ambassador last year. She will be able to do a lot for the students.
* Kenzie: We have student council applications that close on March 28th. If you have students in your class that you think will be a good fit, we will share the application with you.
  + Sandie: Can I get a write up I can put in my Canvas course?
    - Kenzie: Yes, I can definitely do this.
    - Laura Ricaldi: I would like to post this in my classes too.
* Hilary: Good job Jaden and thank you for this past year.
* Jaden: We have battle of the colleges this week. We’ve had over 200 students participate between the events last night and this morning.
* Hilary: We should make sure that Kenzie is on the commencement committee with Wioleta next year.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

* Advancement of Teaching:
  + Jonathan Allred: We have a syllabus checklist that we’ve tried to get feedback from Senate. Right now it’s not required by UVU to use it, but we want a place where faculty can go to get some ideas. We would love to have a place for all the departments to keep it updated (Tile 9, Accommodations, etc.).
  + Laura Ricaldi: Can we send a suggested statement that isn’t on the list?
    - Jonathan: Yes, this can be populated right now; we have some placeholders.
* Hilary: Laura and I will chat about what days to work on this and share the invitation with anyone who would like to join us.
* Curriculum
  + Ben Moulton: We are going to start partnering up more with Apac to make sure we are on the same page when it comes to curriculum proposals and making sure they are accessible.
* Retention, Tenure, Promotions & Appeals:
  + John Hunt: We are working on 632 and 646. 646 is in the third stage and we received some last-minute comments that we will be going over tonight.
* Service and Elections:
  + Sandie Waters: The document is as current as I can have it with the information that has been given to me. I would like to share the link on Tuesday with people so they can start bugging their service reps for those positions. I would like it to be a more organic kind of experience.
* Special Assignments:
  + Laura Ricaldi: I don’t have an update, though I did hear from Valerie regarding what they do with their cost-of-living adjustment. They decide as a faculty what they should use it on (flat dollar amount) and then send it over the president and provost.

**Senate Agenda**

* Barb Smith from Marketing will come to tell us about the new MyUVU website. It’s getting a whole new look and will be happening April 2nd. They didn’t want to do it over the summer for our sake. They gave me access to it and it’s fine. They want to have less and less emails sent and direct us to the UVU pages for information.
* President Tuminez is joining us at 3:15.
  + The first question for President Tuminez will be about transparency in executive hires.
* Wioleta: I know that merit pay will come up because we took it back to our departments.
* Jon: I expect the President to point directly to me.
* Hilary: I have been asked to inquire about the presidential and trustee awards and why more faculty aren’t chosen.
* Wioleta: Do we know who the commencement speaker will be?
* Hilary: They said they will announce it on the other social media sites. I know who it is and it is good. We can ask the President next Tuesday if it’s not out by then.
* Sandie: We’ve been discussing with the higher ups about equitable equity and pay. It feels like we are doing a lot of talking about it but I also hear we are having a lot of financial issues.
* Kat Brown: We have been talking about this with P&C and they ensure money among protected classes is the first thing that money is dedicated to. There will be no difference this year. The state gave us money for raises for faculty and staff.
* Hilary: We might ask her what the COLA raises are shaping up to be.
* Kat: The Cabinet has to talk about it and then it has to be ratified by the President’s Council and the board of trustees. Until then, we can’t talk about it. Maybe by next week there will be more decisions with the raises.
* Hilary: We have our course-based fees that we will debate again. I will make this short.
* Merit-pay/Jon Anderson: would like to see it be treated like policy and have Senate vote up or down for the merit committee to review. We can bring it back in early fall in stage two. For the record, I have received three emails with feedback but have directed them to take it to their Senators.
* FEA Process: We have had 25 people take this survey. Does Senate propose the revision to this process or is it Jonathan’s committee?
  + Jonathan Allred: Senate will have to open it and my committee can go ahead with it, but it would have to go back to Senate.
  + Hilary: Based on the survey, people want an updated CV and a max three-page reflection that includes teaching and scholarship. And so far, it says that department chairs should not be eligible.
* Hilary: We will have the proposed wording on the Proctorio syllabus statement to vote on.
* Evelyn Porter: We should wait to discuss GE because of the uncertainty on the state level.
* Skyler Simmons: Regarding the agenda, does policy 160, the whistleblower anti-retaliation policy, need to be on there? It needs to go through President’s Council.
  + Jon: If we are going to see it this Senate cycle, it needs to be in next Tuesday’s meeting.
* Wioleta: I just want to make sure at this point I plan to have a vote on the Proctorio statement. Is there anything else we might be voting on?

**NON-POLICY**

* Hilary: May 2nd will be the Senate ExCo celebration from 3-5 with sweets and coffee. Wioleta and I have something very fun planned. Everyone in this meeting should be there.
* Wioleta: Do we need to remind faculty of the Wednesday start next fall? Monday and Tuesday will be all orientation sessions for students.
* Kat: We are all inviting all new faculty to the new faculty orientation that will be earlier than faculty convocation. Is the only good time we can meet with brand new faculty.
* Jon: We need to remind faculty there are no classes on the Thursday before finals start on Friday. Also, I’m curious how many people have had a hiring committee this semester and their experience with the software. We’ve had two hires in my department and it hasn’t been going well.
  + Dianne McAdams-Jones: What we saw on my end are a lot of things have to be put in manually.
* Jon: What is the right mechanism for us to get these complaints so we can get a working system?
* Kat: I’ve been keeping copies of specific issues to bring to P&C. I’m more than happy if you summarize and give specific things to me to bring these to P&C.

**Good of the Order:**

* Laura Ricaldi: I’m so excited for our students. 100% of our students passed the exam prep course. It’s the hardest industry exam in our profession. We are also hosting a 401k race on April 1st that is sponsored by Fidelity.
* David Frame: We have been hosting Skills USA Utah State Championships and the judges are really impressed with our program.
* Hilary Hungerford: I’m going to my geography disciplinary conference tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm