**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes**

February 16, 2021

Via Microsoft Teams – 3:00-5:00 pm

***Present***: Jon Anderson, Anne Arendt, Wendy Athens (OTL), Kat Brown, Joy Cole, Suzy Cox, Karen Cushing, Jessica Hill, Dianne McAdams-Jones, Alan Parry, Evelyn Porter, Denise Richards, Karen Sturtevant (Library), Wayne Vaught, Sandie Waters

Visitors: Nizhone Meza

***Excused or Absent:***

* Call to order – 3:00 p.m.
* Meeting is being recorded.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

* Hill submitted a proposal for the upcoming changes to the Women’s Success Center and provide feedback.
* Policy 522 – *Undergraduate Credit and Transcripts* email exchange regarding comments brought forward after the 2/9 senate meeting that were not pertinent to the limited scope of the policy. Decision made is to have Arendt send comment directly to the stewards and sponsors.
* Cox/Brown are finalizing all the comments on Policy 637 – *Faculty Tenure*. In course of drafting, the references section was revised to refer to all 600 series policies from specific 600 series policies. The committee is worried that interpretation means all 600 series policies would weigh in on a faculty member’s tenure. Brown indicated that could revise language to state “relevant to the position description” which would alleviate some of the ambiguity.
* Athens wanted to follow up on the “Thank a Teacher” program proposed a few weeks ago. The Thank a Teacher program provides an opportunity for students to share positive comments which would be given in the form of a framed certificate of the comments provided. Discussion centered on a permanent site to provide ongoing comments in addition to Institutional Research (IR) doing a push to the graduating seniors. Athens will follow-up with Lucy Watson. Another possibility would be to use the Canvas alert system.
* The Department Chair meeting on 2/17 will discuss workload as reports are due from Department Chairs to Deans on 3/15. As workload changes have not occurred at this point, chairs are to proceed as if there have not been any changes. Remind chairs about overload eligibility and guidelines.
* Completed first curriculum intercollegiate review for new programs that will now occur once a year in February. Campus entities such as Academic Affairs Council (AAC), University Executive Council (UEC), and the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) and others reviewed all proposed new programs. Faculty provided no comments. Porter shared that faculty should be involved in the curriculum process, but maybe are not involved as much as the UCC would like. Intercollegiate Review of courses will be done from the 1st to the 15th of every month starting March or April. Investigating a better way to inform faculty about the intercollegiate review other than the curriculum updates.
* Dialogue on how to motivate, inspire and engage faculty in items that pertain to faculty. Showcase some of the influence Faculty Senate has witnessed to faculty and let them know what efforts senators are engaged in. For example, policies and bookstore issue. Consider highlighting the support Academic Affairs (AA) gives to faculty to help change the perception. Part of building unity is trust. Does not mean everyone is going to agree, but knowing the issue will be heard and a compromise reached based on the information shared.
* Executive Committee (ExCo) apprised that discussions between PACE and Faculty Senate to address issues was a form of collective bargaining because the parties were organizing a collective voice. ExCo is of the opinion that collaborating with various areas is a form of shared governance.
* Waters met with Otukolo Saltiban recently and are working on some issues and feels moving in a positive direction.
* Faculty would like to establish a future process when selecting commencement speakers. President Tuminez proposed having President’s Council consider the proposed speakers and provide feedback. Discussion about senate creating a matrix that could be used in the selection of commencement speakers. Another recommendation was to solicit nominations from faculty, staff, and students for potential commencement speakers. An open campus conversation is scheduled for 2/17 at 11:15 am via Teams. A link will be sent out.

**SET AGENDA**

* Discussion about converting the 3/2 ExCo meeting into a full Senate meeting and dedicate it to debate on Policy 644 – *Appointment and Responsibilities of Department Chairs*. ExCo approved. Will present to Senate for consent.
* Proposal made to create comment documents for Policies 633 – *Faculty Annual Reviews* and 638 – *Post-Tenure Review*. Arendt will follow-up for permission since they were not approved at last President’s Council meeting.
* Anderson recommended creating taskforce committees and allow them to address strategic conversations and bring back recommendations. Senators need to invite faculty members including faculty that were on the original Merit committee in order to provide historical context.
* Deans, Cabinet and President are in agreement about having a central coordinator for advising who has some role and authority. Details need to be addressed to ensure advisors have sufficient engagement with individual academic units and will continue to report to their Advising Directors. Shift to structure to help evaluate, review, disseminate information, support advisor concerns, and provide consistency around the advising experience. Provost will be meeting with Advising Directors to provide updates, seek feedback, and where can land. Concerns: 1) advisors not directly reporting to department chairs can lead to program problems. Provost indicated if a chair needs the services of advisors and not getting, it needs to be addressed; 2) Advising Directors within units will continue to coordinate with the Dean/Associate Dean and will have dual report between the Senior Director and Dean’s office. The current position similar to what is being proposed was not given power or authority to address problems, so any decisions that need to be made come back to the Provost who then has to address. The new structure will assist in these day-to-day operations. Other part is to help coordinate training efforts, best practices, and enhancing the professionalization experience at UVU.
* **MOTION** – Anne Arendt moved to extend meeting five minutes. Jesse Hill seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.