**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes**

January 6, 2015

LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm

***Present***: Jon Anderson, Mark Bracken, Kat Brown, David Connelly, Karen Cushing, Matt Draper, Doug Gardner, Ryan Leick, Gary Measom, Jeff Olson, Dennis Potter, Craig Thulin, Mallory Wallin

Visitors: Renee VanBuren

***Excused or Absent:*** Clayton Brown, Leo Chan, Matthew Holland,

* Call to order – 3:05 PM
* Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2014. Exec meeting. Minutes approved.

UVUSA

* Secured TEDx coming to UVU on April 1, 2015. Faculty, students, and the community are eligible to submit applications. They will be seeking committee members to assist with the planning. Contact Mallory Wallin if you would like to participate.
* Student Government is investigating moving UVU to a smoke-free campus for primarily health reasons. Issues of concern are cultural, inclusivity, and freedom of choice. A suggestion was made to promote the effects of smoking and make it a voluntary smoke-free campus.
* Elections are coming up for Student Government the first week of March. Applications are due first week of February. If you know of any students that might be interested, please let Mallory or Student Government know. Measom requested that they remember smaller campuses such as the West Campus when advertising.

SVPAA

* Welcome Back!

Elections Proposal

* Reviewed Renee VanBuren’s proposal. She is proposing that regardless of how long it will take for the new constitution and bylaws to be approved, the Senate go ahead and hold elections if we have individuals currently willing to serve.
* Concern was expressed over what happens if the policies are not in place before the end of the semester. Connelly responded that the election component is not a problem if the current version is approved. If the election portion is to be revised, there will be a delay.
* Thulin recommended that an alternate plan be proposed to the full senate to move forward with elections if the current constitution and bylaws under revision have not been approved by a specific time.
* Options: 1) Move forward and hold elections under current policy, 2) make the proposal to the Senate regarding delaying for a specific time to see what happens, and 3) wait until the policies have been approved.
* Executive Committee reordered the proposed agenda to have the Constitution discussion be top priority. Connelly noted that the policy can be pushed through in less than 60 days if the other campus entities push the policy through. Thulin will draft a statement for presentation to the Senate.

Tenure & Retention

* Connelly notified the Executive Committee that several committees will most likely need to be constituted to address faculty appeals.

President’s Visit

* Connelly received a document from Scott Abbott making several revised proposals and he is working with him on those. What does the Senate want to do with that conversation now? Potter noted that the President did show the university has valued faculty while shared governance does need to be addressed. Bracken expressed he feels that shared governance is a structural problem. Connelly responded that he feels the problem is faculty has never articulated what they want and what they are willing to do. The senate needs to act as a strategic thinking body. Need to define what we mean by structural change.
* Draper proposed sharing “faculty-driven” successes with faculty so they can see what the senate is accomplishing. Connelly recommended producing a Year-End report for Senate. Proposed sharing the President’s information at Faculty Convocation.
* Discussion over how can the senate educate faculty and help them gain a desire to serve and understand their role on campus. Olson shared that while the PBA process is more open on this campus, but this doesn’t mean improvements can’t be made. Connelly recommended the SVPAA attend at least each department once a year or at least a college/school meeting.
* Executive Committee would like more internal conversations.

Standing Committees

* Faculty Development – Faculty Excellence Award Nomination information was sent out on January 5, 2015. Thulin apologized for the notification coming out late. Please spread the word to submit nominations.

Agenda

* Anderson will prepare distribution data for the representation portion of the Constitution.
* Merit Pay – Thulin shared that his faculty feel this discussion really does not have legitimacy. Connelly and Olson responded that the President is in full support. Concerns are viability and transparency. Connelly noted that the current proposal is based on a point-based system and awarded to base pay.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.