**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes**

September 23, 2014

LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm

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

Visitors: David Knowlton

***Excused or Absent:*** Matthew Holland, Mallory Wallin

* Call to order – 3:03 PM
* Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2014. Exec meeting. Minutes approved.
* Anderson is on the Academic Technology Steering Committee (ATSC). They would like faculty input on Canvas specifically. He will be conducting a survey and plans to use Qualtrics. It will be an open ended survey. Would like support from Faculty Senate. Anderson will notify the Senate in October.
* Shared Governance and Academic Freedom
  + Knowlton would like to have a discussion of what the actual structure of shared governance looks like at UVU. He presented a proposal for a symposium on shared governance.
  + Connelly noted one of the most consistent questions he entertains is why can’t it be different at UVU. He would like one session to state reality of shared governance at UVU and then another session, given what we discussed, what we could do within that constraint. Another option is to invite other USHE institutions to hear their position.
  + Potter shared that the real problem is more with the Regent’s policy and not with UVU’s policy.
  + Bracken commented that UVU is unique in the fact that students have more shared governance than faculty. He noted that students sit on President’s Council, Board of Trustees, and fee committees.
  + Draper recommended a panel for shared governance for dummies to discuss why shared governance should matter to faculty. Connelly concurred due to the lack of understanding on campus.
  + Chan would like a document available for faculty that discusses shared governance.
  + Knowlton recommended inviting Brian Birch into Faculty Senate to provide his perspective of administration vs faculty now that he has returned to faculty.
  + Connelly noted he has been having a conversation with Olson about service. He wants to know how Faculty Senate can take service and have more control such as who sits on committees, etc.
  + The Executive Committee agreed to host two symposiums with two sessions each on the dates below. Karen Cushing will arrange a meeting location.
    - January 21, 2015 (1-3 pm); 22 (2-4 pm)
    - February 11 (1-3 pm); 12 (2-4 pm)
  + Knowlton and Connelly will develop the agenda/program and bring back to the Executive Committee for discussion. It was proposed to invite an individual from Regents regarding policy to participate.
* SVPAA
  + Olson commented that he is glad to see the Executive Committee moving forward with the shared governance idea.
  + PBA Acute Equity discussions begin tomorrow, September 24. Olson is concerned that faculty has not played a role in bringing ideas forward. Connelly proposed an exercise that Senate would conduct to discuss retention, graduation, and growth. This would provide faculty an opportunity to drill down into those areas and propose their ideas. This gives faculty a forum to discuss ideas and present them to administration.
  + Olson provided an example of Math 1010 and the sequencing of courses. He noted that UVU needs to determine the best route for students to achieve the requirements they need to advance in their chosen field. Chan expressed concern over students not being prepared and the lack of rigor.
* Guns & Fieldtrips
  + Brown discussed the issue with Robin Ebmeyer. State laws trump campus laws. Beyond that, if the field trip takes place on state, federal, or private lands, those laws would apply.
  + Bracken asked if UVU could have a policy on campus that when students go on a field trip they cannot carry arms in a UVU vehicle. Draper recommended that it might be more of a sensitivity issue and that we could stress that issue. Again, Brown noted that federal and state laws come first.
  + Olson recommended that we provide more definitive information about the law and remind students that some might be carrying.
* Robert’s Rules
  + Faculty Senate has a few copies of Robert’s Rules available for check out. Contact Karen Cushing if you are interested in checking out a copy.
* Instructional Development Grants
  + Thulin noted that the Faculty Development Committee oversees disbursement of funds for both faculty travel and instructional development. Funds used to be two separate pots of money, but are now combined and the total available amount has been decreased. Thulin recommends that the funds be separated out once again.
  + Joyce Oliphant is compiling relevant stats regarding expenditures on the types of grants. Thulin will provide info to Connelly within the next week.
* Curriculum Process
  + Leick provided an overview of curriculum history, nature of the process, time frame, composition of the committee, the decision-making function, and role of the university curriculum committee. He reported there is a proposal in terms of the nature of the curriculum process being discussed. There is consensus that the process needs to be overhauled. Leick noted there are more deans on the curriculum committee than faculty. The Curriculum policy was last updated in 1993 and he feels the Faculty Senate should be the ones to rewrite this policy.
  + Leick noted that the University Curriculum Committee does not review R401s and noted that there needs to be a larger discussion of the faculty’s role is in the curriculum process from the department, college, to the university level.
  + Olson recommended that based on policy, the University Curriculum committee should be constituted by the Faculty Senate. However, the members of the committee need to be individuals that are committed and have expertise.
  + Senate needs to reassert their position and then get the policy opened up into Stage 1 in conjunction with the SVPAA’s office. The question is how do we really right the policy going forward in a meaningful way.
  + Potter recommended Senate dovetail it with what does it really mean to be a member of the Faculty Senate.
  + Olson noted that in Acute Equity, Academic Affairs is proposing additional instructional designers and more faculty travel funds for professional development. They are also trying to take some steps to get more resources to faculty and departments.
  + Connelly feels that if we are going to provide additional resources to faculty and departments, we need a system in place to vet courses and programs. Draper noted that he does not use instructional designers as there is a communication gap. They should have no approval, but provide recommendations.
  + Olson expressed concern over release time as we really want full-time faculty to be teaching in the classroom. Connelly noted we need a robust discussion over release time.
* Service – Senate needs to have a larger discussion.
* AAUP Equity Pay Study – Connelly noted that the study looks at gender pay on campus. There was a call to conduct that study on campus. Does the Senate want to address this matter? No response.
* Role Statements – Measom noted that Faculty Rights and Responsibilities do cover what are included in other university’s definitions. Anderson will discuss at the next Executive Committee meeting.
* Constitution & Bylaws – Connelly needs to meet with Olson and then bring back to Faculty Senate. The intent is to get bylaws out of policy to have the flexibility to address other issues.
* Standing committees
  + Benefits – Bracken wants to push an aggressive wellness program on campus since we now have the facilities. His interest is to not have an increase in medical costs. He shared that we have students who are currently in health professions programs that could participate in an internship program to address some of these issues. Connelly noted that HR plans to have a follow-up forum in the spring to discuss: 1) UMR updates 2) employee wellness, and 3) roll out ideas regarding merit pay. Schedule meeting for Bracken, Connelly & Olson to discuss budgets.
  + Curriculum committee – Leick also noted that English 990 was voted to become a 1000 level course. Issue is now moving up to the SVPAA for approval. Anderson provided insight on Developmental Math and their issues.
* PBA – discussion on the value of PBA and the importance of faculty expressing their views.
* Adjourned at 5:00 pm