**Faculty Senate Executive Council Minutes**

February 14, 2023

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

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

***Excused or Absent:***

***Guests:*** Tayler Fearn

Call to order: Hilary Hungerford called at 3:00 pm

**Brags:**

* Ben Moulton: UVU beat SUU
* Wayne Vaught: I’ll hit 30 ski days this weekend. I also met with the volleyball team. They gave

me some swag and a hat**.**

**PROVOST**

* House Bill 451: Universities will no longer be able to request demographic information or DEI sorts of information about ethnicities, gender, and all sorts of these things. There is also something in there about universities not being able to require students to take positions on the academic side. There could be quite a significant impact associated with this.
* Jon Anderson: Could there be scholarship implications?
* Wayne Vaught: There could, but the wording is so loose it’s hard for me to know what the exact implications will be.
* Kat Brown: The university has started going against race and ethnic based scholarships because they have been challenged and lost in the courts. That’s why we’ve been focusing more on things like first generation.
* Ben: Did you want to talk about the results of institutional prioritization?
* Wayne: It would be better to bring Laurie in because she has the notes, but I think a good percentage we will move forward with. I can present more in Senate next week.

**FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT**

* Hilary Hungerford: We need to start thinking about any by-law changes we want to make this year.
  + Jon Anderson: We need the bylaw changes in this group by the end of March. Most of the time it comes from this body.
* Wioleta Fedeczko: Faculty who do like the recordings in classrooms are complaining that people are sabotaging those.
* Jon Anderson: It does that whenever it has a firmware upgrade. It resets it to factory settings. The problem is a staffing issue and a carrying issue to some extent. Who’s responsible for to make sure those cameras are working the way they are?

**Digital Transformation/TA in a Box**

* Tayler Fearn: We are working on different learning technologies that will enhance the students’ experience and help faculty. TA in a Box is a course companion that allows for learning when it’s right for the student. This will work with Canvas, Teams and Kaltura. It will have access to all lectures, etc.
* John Hunt: Is this just a useful app with information? We are teaching analysis and want students to do their own thinking.
* Tayler: This won’t be able to answer those complex questions; students can access the principle, but it will be up to them to apply it in different ways.
* Hilary: It seems like this might be useful for math classes and maybe biology, but not so much for the higher order thinking courses.
* Tayler: What would be most helpful in your opinion as faculty members?
* Wioleta Fedeczko: Is it scanning all of the material in my canvas site and could it possibly point them to where the definition is? And all PDFs aren’t created equally (some faculty are still learning to do this).
* Tayler: It will search all the information in your course. For the accessible, that will be something defined later on as we continue to develop this out. It will give links so it’s accessible to students, but it won’t do any form of analysis or compare and contrast.
* Sandie Waters: What kind of boundaries are being set up to keep freedom and intellectual property safe?
* Hilary: Is it required, or can we opt into it?
  + Tayler: I don’t know if we have reached the point to determine what it looks like and we are still working with OTL.
* Hilary: This group would suggest not to have it required but it have it be an opt in sort of thing.
* Sandie: We give so much time to our students, but I don’t think it’s a time saver question for me. I don’t really need my interaction with my students taken away or lightened. What happens if the bot gives incorrect information or gives away an answer they should have come to on their own?
* Tayler: I don’t know what the faculty perspective is and we really need help in developing it. There will be mistakes early on, but we plan to launch it once it gets up to an appropriate level. Students will get feedback. It is really user friendly. There are ways for you to customize this as a professor. There will also be restrictions on materials that have protective rights.
* Sandie: Students often don’t go back to triangulate the information they receive. They will often go with the first answer at the top of the page. This will open up a lot of training for both students and faculty.
* David Frame: I’m concerned about the age-old garbage in, garbage out. Kaltura gets my transcription wrong a lot. I’m also concerned students will pull out words to create a deep fake of a professor saying something they never said.
* Tayler: That is something I’ll bring up with the group and see what they think with how we can work with it.
* Hilary: What about scaffolding and we don’t have assignments open at the same time? We intentionally create our classes so students can discover things. I worry that the students will get to the answer without the scaffolding. It can be really helpful in fact-based classes. Is it really scanning everything? What does it mean in the way we develop our classes? That’s why I think it would be good to have it an opt-in.
* Tayler: This is something we can take into consideration as we develop it out.
* David: Will this be available during tests?
* Tayler: It would be up to faculty discretion and what they want. We would like to develop a way that the teacher can shut it off during a test.
* Hilary: I think it makes us uneasy because faculty can currently connect directly with the students. We talk about retention and how one of the biggest predictors is the relationship with faculty. What does that do to those relationships?
* Dianne McAdams-Jones: Why do we need this? What is the purpose?
* Tayler: This idea came from Georgia Tech University. They did a similar thing and it was helpful to the students to ask questions. It proved effective in the way it was designed. We thought it would be appropriate here to enhance the learning of students with technology as the President seeks to transforms things.
* Jon Anderson: Some of this important but not all of it is. It needs to be built utilizing the resources that we know about our classes and our experience. I think this will come and it will be better to be ahead of it than behind it.
* Tayler: We need faculty to be involved in this and I’m really trying to do it.
* Sandie: I’m concerned that I may have to teach my students to check AI.
* Skyler Simmons: What’s to distinguish what the faculty actually say during a class session versus student comments? How are you going to pull it out and get correct, relevant information?
* Tayler: We will be transcribing these with a separate service that will be more accurate.
* Skyler: What about foreign languages?
* Tayler: I’ve been thinking about this and more craft-based questions. That’s a good point.
* Kat: But one of the ideas behind this is to free faculty up from some of those most mundane communications so they can spend time in more meaningful communications.
* Tayler: There is a demo of a dashboard. It’s not fully functional, but I would like to get feedback from you if you have time.
* Sandie: I see potential in my technology-based class because I choose project-based learning. What good can we do with this? We are just nervous about intellectual property. If there continues to be dialogue, I think we can move into this smoothly

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

* Special Assignments & Investigations:
  + Laura Ricaldi: I don’t have any updates. We are meeting at the end of this month to talk about compensation. I’m concerned that I got an email about compliance saying it’s due by the 28th, but it’s technically midnight on the 27th.
    - Hilary: I talked to HR about this. If this says the 28th, then that’s how it should be.
* Service & Elections:
  + Sandie Waters: I listed here my planned schedule of the new reps. I’m going to give a list of openings to Faculty Senate next week. I will meet with my team over the next few weeks. Nominations begin on March 14th and voting will begin March 28th. If any of the reps with Faculty Senate can help push serving within your college, that would be great.
  + Hilary: Which ExCo positions will we need?
  + Jon Anderson: Sandie, Dianne, Laura. Possibly the Advancement of Teaching.
  + Skyler is not planning to renew.
  + Hilary: Does CAS chair have to be a senator?
  + Jon Anderson: It’s specifically not supposed to be a senator. Standing committees are supposed to be senators with the exception of curriculum.
* Curriculum:
  + Ben Moulton: I already mentioned institutional prioritization. This is on its way. We are still plugging along with lots of curriculum.
  + Hilary: I do have on the agenda your position-extension that we will ratify in Senate next week.
* Retention, Tenure, Promotions & Appeals:
  + John Hunt: Policy 646 about the appeals process for rank and tenure is at the third stage. We are already getting comments about it.
  + Hilary: I will send this out to all faculty (including adjuncts).
  + John: Other updates are we are just doing editing and other boring stuff.
  + Kat: If there are any appeals, we hope to get a start on them before summer gets really quiet.
  + Sandie: I was approached by someone today about policy 644 with the understanding we were just waiting for Vaught to arrive a few years ago and everything was already done.
  + Kat: That was the department chair policy. We are going through it again. It was killed last time because of the inability to fund legacy stipends.
  + Sandie: Is there a way for us to keep historical information so things don’t die and we forget about them.
  + Kat: On the administration side, we are trying to keep the President more out and the Provost as the chief academic officer.
* Advancement of Teaching:
  + Jonathan Allred: We are meeting Friday to go over the submissions for the symposium at the end of March. Travel grants are being used appropriately and are being used up.
  + Faculty Excellence Awards and department chairs: should we talk about it in Senate? What would be the next steps to change it?
    - Hilary: We want to say that faculty chairs can be eligible?
    - Jonathan: Yes, this came from a department chair who would like to apply. They would like to be seen as faculty as well.
    - Hilary: Yes, we can put it on the non-policy action item.
    - Jon Anderson: We can put it in to talk about it this time and get a chance to gather feedback.
* Council on Academic Standards
  + Dianne McAdams-Jones: We haven’t had a lot of activity, but every quarter we have 150 to 250 students reapplying for admission. These things are in large volume when it does happen.

**Senate Agenda:**

* Complete your compliance trainings by the end of the day, Feb. 28th.
* Ben will explain his situation on how he wants to extend.
* Debating four policies next week.
* Skyler: These should be pretty light. I’m not sure who to invite just yet, but I’ll get that information to you by next week.
* Discuss adding chairs to Faculty Excellence: Jonathan Allred will talk about this.
* Service and Elections

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**:

* Hilary Hungerford: John finished the third chapter of his dissertation. It’s also Frederick Douglass’s birthday.
* Sandie Waters: I’ve been a level 4 foster parent for 17 years now and today my son came home and brought me a Valentine’s gift.
* Dianne McAdams-Jones: I spent the day at the legislature. There is an organization called the Black Physicians of Utah. The Northern School of Medicine has 10% of its 199 students who are brown. The importance of this is that we are not all the same and we don’t react to different medications so it’s good to have people who have different skin colors. My favorite senator also put a bill through about the transgender bill to try and meet in the middle. I also got to meet Deidre our attorney general and she gave me her card to get hold of her personally. We talked about getting more people of color to Utah.
* Sandie: I just want to give a shout out to Faculty Senate and Dianne. When I first started, I was super shy and reserved. On Friday night I received a letter from my chair from a student who complained about me. Instead of being mousy, I went and did a feedback analysis and sent it off to show the proof that I tried to help this student. I really appreciate all I learned in Faculty Senate.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm