

Southern Utah University Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2007

4:00 p.m. ELC Room 405

Attendance: Mark Colberg proxy for Paul Larson, Shawn Christiansen, Kirk Fitzpatrick, Art Porter, Tim Lewis, Julie Simon, Denise Woodbury, Abe Harraff, Seth Armstrong, Jeff Salehi, Mark Grover, Christine, Frezza, Fred Lonhengrel, Britt Mace, Kay Andersen, Arlene Braithwaite, Dezhi Wu, Pat Keehy, Kevin Robinson, and Carol Ann Modesitt

I. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved with the correction that Julie Simons had been left off of the list of attendees at the meeting on November 30, 2007. Kirk Fitzpatrick made the motion that the minutes be accepted as amended. Fred Lohengrel seconded. Motion carried.

II. Old business

Kevin Robinson reported to the senate that he had had a meeting with President Benson and the major thrust of his meeting was salary equity. Renn Zaphiropoulos is in charge of a sub-committee which is looking at salary and compensation issues concerning faculty. Kevin said that he had asked the President to look at the base budget and to determine what actually goes to academics and to compare this to budget allocations throughout the university.

Policy Issues

Art Porter reported on the following Policy Issues:

{Policy 5.53} University Archives and Records Policy

Denise Woodbury moved that we should accept the policy as it is now written. Arlene Braithwaite seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept policy 5.53.

{Policy 6.13} Grading Policy

Art reported that his committee felt that Policy 6.13 should be sent back to the Dean's Council with an added Section D.

D. "A student may convert any class to an "audit" class at any time before the 9th week of the regular semester or before 60 percent of the summer term expired."

Fred Lonhengrel made a motion that the policy be sent back to Dean's Council with the added D. Section. Arlene Braithwaite seconded. Motion passed.

Art then reported on Policy 6.2 regarding selection of department chairs. Faculty senate and the policy review committee had inserted language under G. 1. The Dean's Council had struck this language from the policy in their meeting on January 9, 2007.

Fred Lonhengrel made a motion that the language be re-inserted as follows and sent back to Dean's Council:

“It is preferred that the department chair be elected from the list of tenured faculty in the department. In rare cases where tenured faculty do not exist, are unavailable, are unwilling to serve, or do not garner the support of the faculty and administration, then a non-tenured faculty member could be considered on an interim basis. If budget permits, an externally recruited department chair who garners faculty and administrative support could then be sought and considered in accordance with Policy 6.38.”

Seth Armstrong seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Grant Residuals

Grant Residuals were discussed concerning re-allocation and matching funds. The senate would like to entertain proposals from the faculty through your departmental senators as to how to deal with the allocation of these funds. The senate would like to discuss these proposals at the next scheduled meeting in February.

III. New Business

Faculty Senate Elections

Christine Frezza talked about the new procedure for selecting the President of Faculty Senate for the 2008-2009 term. Christine sent a memo to all faculty and has asked the senators to talk in their respective colleges and departments to see what individuals might be interested in running for the presidency of Faculty Senate. Christine will be the last president to serve under the old rules for selection.

Student Evaluations

Christine brought up the fact that one of her colleagues has asked that we look toward the questions asked on student evaluations to ascertain their relevance and whether the evaluation is too long. It was pointed out that this had been in the plans after the evaluations were converted to on-line. There seems to be a feeling that the committee that was originally in place for the on-line evaluations has lost several members and has disbanded. The provost said that they had 15,000 replies to student evaluations which constitute approximately 52% of the student body. It was felt

that this was a positive indicator.

Senators were encouraged to talk with their respective departments and colleges to ascertain what should be kept in the evaluations, what should be changed, or what should be gotten rid of. It was also mentioned that what specific questions could be inserted by each department.

IV. It was then moved and seconded for adjournment. The next senate meeting will take place on Thursday, February 22, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in the ELC

Minutes submitted by: Carol Ann Modesitt

Minutes approved by: