

Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, February 24, 2005, 3:00 p.m.
ELC 405

I. Call to order by President David Rees

In attendance: David Rees (President), Luciane Berg (President-elect), Seth Armstrong (Treasurer; also proxy for Rob Robertson), Helen Boswell (Secretary), Doug Molash (Parliamentarian), Arlene Braithwaite, Shawn Christiansen, Richard Eissinger, John Eye, Kirk Fitzpatrick, Artis Grady, Judy Higbee, Kenny Laundra, Elise Leahy, Britton Mace, Carol Ann Modesitt, Paul Ocampo, Art Porter, Ty Redd (also proxy for Robert Eves), Kevin Robinson, Jessica Tvordi

II. Review and approval of minutes from January 27

Motion (Luciane Berg) to approve and seconded (Kevin Robinson).
Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Online Course Evaluation Report (Judy Higbee): If committee provides system requirements to IT by May, IT will begin coding in Fall 2005. Campus-wide implementation will be ready at the earliest by Spring 2006, but this may be a very optimistic time-frame. Volunteer faculty currently using WebCT and who are also tenured may test the evaluation system via Web CT in Spring and Fall 2005. This will allow for two semesters to prepare for campus-wide implementation. Volunteers would have to agree to make results of evaluations available to committee for confidential discussion.

IV. Officer's Reports

A. President (David Rees)

Board of Regents has approved a 3.5% tuition increase. SUU has discussed that they will additionally implement between 6 and 8% increase. A 2.5% salary increase was approved by state for all employees. A first priority for SUU will be the additional 0.5% increase for a total 3% salary increase. A budget hearing will be held on March 3 in the Starlight Room at 4 p.m. There will be a \$7,000 increase in fuel and power bill for SUU next year.

B. Treasurer (Seth Armstrong)

Expenses year to date:

In fund account: \$330 currently spent, leaving \$1,327 in balance. \$350 will be spent for food.

In dues account: \$2532 collected this year, leaving a balance of \$15,177.76.

Proposal for the remaining \$1,000 in fund account: Fall workshops and lectures on topic of bullying and mobbing behavior in the workshop.

Other suggestions? Senators should send a one-page proposal to David Rees or Executive Committee. At the next executive meeting, the proposals will be reviewed and the funding allocated.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Faculty Senate Scholarship Committee: (Helen Boswell) Committee met in the beginning of February and awarded two scholarships to two non-traditional students.

B. Constitution Committee

- a. (Kenny Laundra) The latest version of the Constitution has removed references to AAUP. Its strengths include that it references Utah State Code and policy, moves delegated responsibilities to new committees, eliminates outdated language, updates election procedures, and mandates that tenured faculty serve as senators when possible. This constitution, nor any constitution that the committee would right, would grant the Senate the right to exist, as this is a President's prerogative. Mike Carter has approved this version of the Constitution in its entirety and would vote in its favor.
- b. Discussion:
 - In academic freedom section (9), need to specify that we accept the academic freedom definition "as stated on January, 2005." (Art Porter)
 - The language in this Constitution will not bind future Presidents to definitions of faculty responsibilities as listed in the Constitution. Would a new Constitution be required if a new administration were in place? It might be better to keep the current Constitution in place and modify by-laws as a means of updating items.
 - Main purpose of the document is that of protecting academic freedom.
- c. Motion (Doug Molash) to bring item off the table and seconded (Kirk Fitzpatrick)
Motion passed unanimously
- d. Motion (Ty Redd) to keep the current Constitution and not adopt the new one.
Seconded (Kenny Laundra).
 - Followed by discussion: This new Constitution does have updated information. In order to change the Constitution, you must have votes from the entire faculty. In order to change by-laws, it may be approved by the body of Faculty Senate. By approving the new Constitution, it would allow the faculty at large to evaluate and vote on this document.
 - Call to question (Carol Ann Modesitt) and call approved unanimously.
 - Motion defeated with 2 in favor, 17 in favor, and 2 abstentions.
- e. **Motion (Carol Ann) to adopt new constitution and send it on to faculty at large to be voted upon with amendment made by Art Porter (see above).**
Seconded (Elise Leahy).
Motion passed with 18 in favor, 3 opposed, and no abstentions.

March 3 is next Board of Trustees Meeting. They meet again the day before commencement. If faculty vote and approve this Constitution, it will be approved but not be implemented until July 1.

Constitution Committee will arrange voting procedures perhaps with electronic voting but also a mechanism for paper ballot for those who wish to preserve anonymity.

A cover letter identifying strengths and weaknesses with proposed Constitution and reference to current Constitution will be sent with the ballot. Two-thirds of *those voting* must be in favor for approval.

C. Academic Officers Policy (Luciane Berg)

a. Discussion and suggestions for changes:

- (p. 2): Having a separate identifiable budget is not true of an academic department.

- (p. 2): An academic department has an identifiable teaching and scholarly/creative activity.

- (p. 6): “The departmental leave, rank, and tenure committee will review the final candidate’s credentials”

- (p. 6): Why cannot the Provost accept a ranked list of acceptable applicants from search committees that select deans?

- There is nothing in the document that holds deans accountable to their Colleges. Deans are only held accountable to the Provost. The dean should be an advocate of the college because they are technically a faculty member of a department. Should language from the previous document be put back in?

- Inclusion of the process: an initial 2/3 vote of no confidence of the dean will be followed by rehabilitation; if a second 2/3 vote of no confidence occurs, this will be followed by removal of the dean.

b. By two weeks (before Spring Break), send feedback and suggestions for changes to David Rees and discussion will follow in the March meeting.

c. Move to table until next meeting (Doug Molash) followed by second (Luciane Berg.)

Motion passed unanimously.

D. Motion to adjourn (Helen Boswell) and seconded (Ty Redd).