

Southern Utah University

Faculty Senate Minutes

January 31st 2008

Christina Frezza (President) Denise Woodbury (President-elect) Bart Reynolds (Secretary) Virginia Stitt (Parliamentarian) Andrea Weingardner, David Lund (proxy) Robert Eves, Jeff Ellison, Dennis Vredenburg, Carl Franklin, Kevin Stein, Kay Andersen, Mark Miller, Phil Roche, Denise Woodbury, John Howell, Paul Larson, Sean Miles (Journal) Julie Simon, Kathy Croxall, Andrew Marvick

Minutes: Motion made by Virginia Stitt and seconded by Phil Roche to approve the minutes from the November 2007 meeting, voting was in the affirmative.

Policy 6.4 [Adjunct Faculty Policy]

This policy hadn't been looked at in quite some time, Robert Eves lead a discussion, which included changing the word 'lecturer' to now read 'instructor.'

Policy 6.11 [Academic Advisement]

Robert Eves lead a discussion recommending changes to the wording to this policy. The first change is to have student referred to specific college instead of the university for advisement. In addition the word 'minor' was struck from the policy. In the last paragraph clarifies what academic advisement constitutes. Carl Franklin expressed concern at the numbers of advisee's overwhelming for the number of advisors to really do an adequate job.

Policy 6.17 [Faculty Authored Texts]

After discussion on faculty-authored texts, unpublished texts and manuscripts Robert Eves took the senate through the proposed changes to this policy, which included. (B) The words "Text and Workbooks" were taken out of the policy. Now reads all unpublished materials shall be sold... (f) Policy brought in to compliance with policy 5.52. Other recommended changes include Department "head" change to "chair." (H) "A pattern over time established" added and the word "accumulation" was struck from the policy.

Motion made to approve the changes to the above three policies was made by Paul Larsen and seconded by Denise Woodbury, voting was in the affirmative.

Student Evaluations Julie Simon and David Tufte

Discussion on student evaluation began by stating the current style and process by which faculty are evaluated by students and the uses of these evaluations. The website on evaluation developed by Wayne indicated students evaluate when they are happy with an instructor and very unhappy, not much middle ground. It was pointed out there was not much middle ground and the evaluations were to representative in proportion to actual satisfaction of teaching performance.

Jeff expressed concerns over the validity, reliability an unbiased nature of the current evaluations being used by the university. SUU has yet to set a confidence interval for these evaluations bringing into question the reliability of the instrument.