

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 23, 2012

4:00 pm in Hunter Conference Center Whiting Room 211

Senators in Attendance: Alan Hamlin, Steve Barney, Robin Boneck, David Berri, Wayne Roberts, Emmett Steed, Tony Pelligrini, Nichole Wangsgard, Richard Eissinger, Jim McCoy, Nathan Barker, Artis Grady, Helen Boswell, Randle Hart, Rachel Kirk, John Howell, Kyle Bishop, Shobha Gurung, Jeremias Paul, Christine Frezza.

Guests: Brad Cook, Ginny Romney, Julie Simon.

1. Call to Order: 4:01 PM
2. Approval of Minutes: Emmett Steed motioned Richard Eissinger seconded.
3. President's Report: Problem that just came up on elections. How many senators are supposed to come from each college or school? Formula exists but nothing is in writing.
 - a. See section 1: Election of senators. Nothing in there for how a school should now. We need a formula so colleges know how many senators. Alan proposed a statement to clarify that includes formula. The following will be added to By-Laws at the end of Section 1.... "The number of senators from each college or school will be counted as follows; each college/school (and at-large) will have a minimum of two (2) elected Senators, plus one additional Senator for each 13 or more full-time faculty members in the college/school. For example, a college with 35 full-time faculty members will have 4 ($2+(35/13)=4.69$). It will not get another Senator until they have 39 faculty (or $2+(39/13)=5.00$). The number of faculty in each college or school will be provided by the Provost's Office at the beginning of each Spring Semester (see Section 2)."

Alan proposed motion to approve formula. Christine Frezza approved and Wayne Roberts seconded change in bylaws.

4. President-Elect's Report: Trustees did not meet since we last met so no update. It is close to election time. Senators need to coordinate election in colleges. See list of senators. Several senators are on their last leg in their three year term. Senior senator needs to conduct election. Provost office will give list of names to Steve. We need this done within the next two weeks. This needs to be done in April meeting. Steve encourages people to review constitution and bi-laws in how to choose/select senators. Half of the selected senators should be tenured. You can monitor this as needed. The by-laws are pretty specific in how elections should take place. When you hold elections, consider staggering elections (Colleges that have merged). You will be working with the dean to make elections happen. When we vote a new president elect there are

specific procedures to follow as well. They must be tenured and served in senate. Be thinking of people.

5. Provost's Report:

- a. House Bill 322. Second year this has come around. Tenure is still being threatened. We are concerned in where this is going. Bill changed this year. This year bill proposed tenure for Utah and Utah State but not the rest since they recruit nationally. Well, so does everyone else. This is poor public policy. Not having tenure would put SUU at a disadvantage. It would be hard to recruit good faculty. To offset tenure, you would have to have a much higher salary. The agreement was that no one else in this country has guaranteed lifetime employment other than if you are a federal judge. Tenure provides faculty to have academic freedom and not be fired for their ideas. Elimination of tenure is not the answer. The public needs to be aware of what really happens with tenure and the post tenure process.
 - i. Alan...could we come up with a list of tenured faculty that were let go? Chris Harry claimed that only 100 have been let go nationally. Getting tenure is an arduous process.

Brad encouraged senators to be much more engaged in the political process. You need to be there as a voice. Be a part of your caucus meetings. We are fine this year. Brad is worried that someone might bring this up again in the future. There needs to be faculty voice in this issue. Faculty needs other advocates. We need to find folks and voices that can carry message in different ways. We need other ways to lobby strength on this issue.

- ii. Randle: Students carry a lot of weight with legislators.
- iii. Christine: We could use a list that shows who are not granted tenure.

Here is how many started and here are how many received tenure and who did not. We might need this. 87% of our faculty is full time. It would be very hard to attract good adjuncts for one year contracts. 6.1 helps show the process to help people who do not understand.

- b. Truth in tuition: We are putting in strategy on the 29th of February. Most resources will go to bottle neck courses that keep students from graduating on time.
 - i. Alan: Does the 1% granted to education through tax revenue go to higher education? Yes, but maybe through alternate ways.
6. Committee Chair Report: Adhoc committee on the status of SUU Faculty women (Gender Issues). Many things have happened. A grant has been submitted. We have not heard outcome yet. Committee is submitting a second one as well. Created a minor in gender studies and conference last year. We met in December to prioritize projects. We decided on 3 projects:
- 1- Pursuit of membership status. Apply to AAUW movement to create a workshop for young women (students) on campus which encourages women to pursue opportunities.

- 2- Project...Create annual report of status of women on campus. Share information with STEAM project. Review of literature for a study regarding study has been done. Currently going through IRB process.
 - 3- Conduct a Survey next Fall. Creating plans for a focus research group project next year.
7. Policy 6.46: Academic scheduling. Deans are asking us to tighten up final exam schedule. They add J. Final exams must not be given prior to exam schedule without dean's approval. Across campus faculty are not holding final exams during designated hours. If somebody changes hour they must have dean's approval. They must have something during finals week. Final exam hours are contact hours. "Final exam or equivalent."

Kyle: J seems redundant.

Brad: Contact issue and students are currently trying to talk professors into holding finals early.

Alan: Clean up I and get rid of J. "Classes, and final examination or their equivalent, are to be held at the times and places officially scheduled by the Register's office, unless approved by the dean." Kyle Bishop made a motion Robin Boneck seconded.

Christine: 10\$ fee to take final early. Pay cashier.

Alan: There is a separate policy for students who want to take finals early.

8. Policy 6.1 Revisions: Wording change in Appendix A.
- a. The annual review fair column. The only thing in there for LRT departmental level was third Monday in September. This means more work load for large department. Purpose to protect faculty, but in reality it is too much of a burden. Reword this to include only certain faculty members whose eyes are of LRT need to be on there. "Department lrt input is needed only if somebody is applying for merit pay or conflict is involved." Department LRT only involved if money or conflict is involved. This is in debate right now.
 - b. Delete or dean? We want faculty involved in process. Reconvene if necessary. For example, Dept. Chair votes standard and dean votes sub-standard. Kicked back to department level. Alan...How can I reword date?
 - c. Senators decided to change one cell. Add asterisk (include or dean) which will refer to a comment in case there is a negative review from dean. Fourth Monday (back to department) will only apply if negative review from Dean. Motion to approve Shobha Gurung seconded by Robin Boneck.
9. Other Business:
- a. Steve and Alan will be working on committee assignments, which will be up in next meeting.

- b. Kyle: Lack of handicap spots. Snow dumped in these spots. Only one space in some areas. Email concerns and Alan will pass it on to the parking committee.

10. Motion to Adjourn: John Howell motioned and then seconded.