

Faculty Senate Minutes  
December 6, 2012  
4:00 p.m. Sharwan Smith Cedar Breaks Room

Senators in Attendance: Steve Barney, Julie Taylor, Nichole Wangsgard, Janet Seegmiller, Steve Irving, Sarah Duffin, Lee Montgomery, Emmett Steed (proxy for Jeff Barnes and Wayne Roberts), Griffon Edwards, Artis Grady (proxy for Helen Boswell), Connie Nyman (proxy for Richard Cozzens and Des Penny), Kim Weaver, Selwyn Layton, Mark DeBeliso, Randle Hart, Rachel Kirk, Kyle Bishop, Shobha Gurung, David Shwalb, Michelle Oriel, Ryan Yonk (Proxy for Randall Allen), Andy Marvick, Christine Frezza, Lynn Vartan, Jim McCoy.

Guests: Brad Cook and Joan Fitton

1. Steve Barney: Call to order at 4:02 p.m. Thanks to T-Fit for providing nutritious snacks. He recognized Provost Brad Cook and Joan Fitton as guests.
  
  2. Steve Barney: Called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 29. Motion by David Shwalb; seconded. Steve asked for addition of "approximately" in his report on enrollment. Short discussion on vote for amendments to the Internship policy from last meeting. Motion to vote on first amendment under 9b. Internship Policy by Mark DeBeliso, seconded by Christine Frezza. Vote on amendment unanimous with two abstentions. Kyle Bishop requested rewording of his comments on the committee report for Definition of Faculty [8a] to say there should be language to prohibit that from happening. Changes made. Minutes approved as amended by unanimous vote.
  
  3. Provost Report:
    - a. **Festival of Excellence.** Provost Brad Cook introduced Joan Fitton, Director of Sponsored Research. He proposed that Wednesday, April 10, 2013, be a campus-wide Festival of Excellence built upon the existent scholarship of faculty and previous UGRASP student presentations of research. A committee has been formed to create this event tentatively called "Festival of Excellence: Celebrating a Community of Learners." It is proposed that all classes be cancelled, but students and faculty will be involved on campus in a plenary session and also concurrent sessions, poster sessions, and creative works on clusters of topics. Any faculty member who has received institutional support to present or perform at a conference this year will be expected to present in a session. It is a time to highlight student capstone projects and is expected to be built into the academic calendar each Spring Semester.
- Joan Fitton: The committee established categories for presentation that are EDGE centered: leadership, outdoor engagement, community engagement, creativity, global engagement, and other. Short online applications will be due January 31, 2013. Senators questioned whether the UGRASP projects already in progress will fit the EDGE centered themes and whether students will be able to meet January deadline. Response: Some UGRASP projects will be listed as "Other." Kyle Bishop added that Faculty Development projects should also be considered. Artis Grady and Steve Barney suggested that the student deadline be in March. Kim Weaver said faculty could reserve spots for their students; Joan said abstracts and applications for students would have to be

completed by the third week of March. Need to consider accepting papers by college or by Centers, including the Faculty Development Center. Andy Marvick: the Engagement Centers do not represent all scholarship and we may not want to go down path of redefining scholarship as something other than actual scholarship. Artis Grady: UGRASP projects are all scholarship, but will they fit here? Joan responded that technically it was all about scholarship, but some may be more research intense. Do we need to divide by colleges? Response was that some might not attend sessions presented outside their discipline. The committee's intent was for the Festival to be open, not segregated by college or discipline.

Provost Cook said that sessions could be kept open and papers/presentations can be clustered into sessions as they are received. Senators suggested that the day be named "Festival of Excellence in Scholarship and Creativity" or "Festival of Excellence: Celebrating Scholarship and Creativity." Provost Cook said that the date needed to be set now to be included in spring syllabi. He wants to see a tradition develop of sharing scholarship, especially looking toward when there are perhaps 1500 capstone EDGE projects to be presented. Steve said that faculty need to put something into their curriculum that inspires students to go and experience this.

President Barney asked, "As the academic leadership of SUU, do we support giving up an instructional day devoted to celebrating scholarship?" He observed no strong or spoken opposition to establishing the date and the event.

**b. Plagiarism:** Provost Cook discussed recent concerns about plagiarism. The University does not condone plagiarism and as faculty we must be committed to academic integrity. In recent news, the implication is that SUU and not just our ESL program permits plagiarism. It is an important issue for faculty. He explained:

1. On question of wide-spread plagiarism in ESL program, we have hired a third party independent accredited ESL program to audit our program.
2. Is our ESL a poor quality program? There are many unaccredited ESL programs in US; we are an unaccredited program seeking accreditation. As we move toward accreditation, we cannot yet be compared to an accredited program. Independent audit will give us a sense of where we are.
3. Saudi government has not banned students from attending SUU. The government acts through Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, SACM, for both types of Saudi students, ESL and matriculants working on degrees. SACM is concerned about oversaturation in ESL program, but there is not a ban. We are not on list of banned universities, but SACM has a hold on students entering business programs which do not fit the labor needs of the Saudi kingdom.

Questions:

1. Griffon Edwards asked what kinds of repercussions can faculty impose? Provost explained policy that if a student plagiarizes, they fail the assignment. If repeated, student can fail course. One tool of deterrence is Turnitin.
2. Have ESL students matriculated into SUU courses? Provost said there are "bridge" programs that allow matriculation without passing the IFL or TOFEL exams. These tests are standardized

exams and we are moving toward requiring passing these tests as an expectation of entering SUU classes. New director is coming in December.

3. Were there any warning signs of these problems? Attention called to some issues in the spring (grading scheme and faculty qualifications), but the first allegations of plagiarism were Nov. 14th in an email to the dean, copied to provost. Issues did not come up in Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> open forum with ESL faculty and SCPS staff.

Andy Marvick commented on his experience with plagiarism by Saudi students in his entry level general education course and having almost 1/3 of class enrollees be international students who don't understand lectures. Provost indicated that the "bridge" program allowed students to enroll prematurely and that has been changed. Our goal is to make sure they are academically prepared before entering classes.

Steve Barney: Please take this information back to faculty in your colleges.

4. Vice President Report: Julie Taylor. Trustees are meeting tomorrow; no report.
5. President's Report: Steve Barney. Announcement of Festival of Excellence on April 10<sup>th</sup> will come from his office. Nothing further to report.
6. Treasurer's Report: Sarah Duffin. She will arrange for room for Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> special meeting; 3:30 pm. Location TBA.
7. Ad Hoc Committee Reports
  - a. Lee Montgomery on Definition of Faculty: He is compiling suggestions and will get a draft out as soon as he can on changes received thus far.
  - b. Faculty Due Process. Julie: Nothing from committee.
  - c. Engaged Faculty Committee. Steve: Committee meeting next Monday.
8. Action Items
  - a. **CRAFT Policy**. Steve Barney: Policy drafted by Richard Cozzens brought to last meeting. Motion to approve the policy by Lee Montgomery; seconded by Selwyn Layton. No discussion. Approved; 0 "no" votes; 7 abstentions.
  - b. **Amendment to the Faculty Senate Bylaws**. Steve Barney: This amendment allows proxies to be designated by SUU email. Motion to accept amendment as presented at last Faculty Senate meeting made by Mark DeBeliso; seconds by Rachel Kirk and Lynn Vartan. Approved unanimously. It was suggested that Steve create new modules on Canvas for approved policies. One for approved, one for current, one for amended. Steve will do this.
  - c. **Academic Calendar**. Steve Barney: This issue came up in November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. There are more class days for spring semester in next year's calendar than for fall. Fall has 41 MWF; Spring has 42 MWF; Fall has 28 TR; Spring has 30 TR. This was calendared for this year and projected for next year. It is not our place to solve the problem, but to give our recommendations to the committee.

Kyle Bishop: I looked at the numbers. IF MWF classes are meeting 41 times, then the equivalent for TR should be the 28. In Spring, is there an existing three-day weekend that we can make a four-day weekend to kill two TR classes?

Steve Barney: I'll recommend to Bill Byrnes to look for a way to balance the classes, particularly the TR classes.

Artis Grady: People always ask why we aren't mirroring the public school classes for days off in spring and fall. We have Spring break, but nothing at Easter this year. Could we have a Friday off on Easter weekend to cut a day off the MWF?

Suggestion made that moving Celebration of Excellence to Tuesday or Thursday could help solve the problem.

Steve: This is for the next academic year (2013-14), not this year. Public schools in fall have Thursday, Friday and Monday off for Fall break; we have Monday and Tuesday. Thursday and Friday are major recruiting days during UEA break. Monday is the overlap day. I'll give our recommendation to Bill Byrnes that the Celebration of Excellence be on a Tuesday or Thursday and balance the other days. [Subsequently, the 2013 Day of Excellence was moved to Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.]

#### 9. Old Business (10 Minutes)

##### a. **Merit Pay Process/Salary Compression Feedback.**

Steve: We need some time on this and have a good discussion, so if you have specific feedback, please email it to me or put it on canvas and then I'll take it to Dean's council.

##### b. **BA vs. BS discrepancy.**

Steve: We are looking for ways to make BS/BA requirements more equitable and Dean's Council has proposed that the language requirement for a B.A. be reduced to twelve hours. This is an opportunity to look at our curriculum and make some changes that we feel are appropriate.

Rachel Kirk handed out a document in support of continuing to require 16 credits hours of foreign language for the BA degree and spoke in favor of keeping 16 hours as we are the Liberal Arts institution of Utah. At 12 hours, we would require less hours than University of Utah, USU, UVU, and Dixie State. We should improve quality, not erode the standards.

Andrew Marvick questioned why the fact that more people choose a BS degree should lead to making the BA degree more common, less like a BA. Shouldn't the solution be entertained to make the BS degree more difficult, more challenging, more worthy rather than making the BA less worthy. Why don't we suggest that they add a language requirement to the BS degree to make them more marketable internationally as scientists.

Steve Barney: As a Senate, we can decide to accept what the deans did or we can creatively come up with an alternate solution. The problem is in inspiring students to take the BA route and to institutionally address the positive BA degree.

Kim Weaver: Because so many hours are already required, we shouldn't institutionalize the language requirements, but we should incentivize it.

Christine Frezza: We could put some teeth into the requirements by requiring proficiency, ie. a science proficiency or language proficiency.

Provost Cook: This is a conversation we should be having and it should become part of the general education discussion. I am hearing that we should retain the 16 hours and perhaps substitute one of

the science pieces. One position is to leave it alone. It may not encourage more to take a language just by lessening the required hours.

Kyle: The University of Utah's requirement is based in competency, not in hours.

Steve Barney summarized three choices for the Senate: (1) Leave BA requirement at requiring 16 hours of language as it is now; (2) form a subcommittee to look at this and come up with a more comprehensive solution or (3) defer this to the academic affairs committee.

Question: Are advisors encouraging students to take languages? Can we eliminate the Bachelor of Science option for PVA or other majors?

Provost Cook: We can leave this alone, but we must acknowledge that many students are going the BS route because it's easier. By keeping the language requirement the same, we're not going to encourage more language acquisition. The original and more compelling proposal was to elevate the science, but it's not as easy.

David Swalb made a motion that the Faculty Senate indicate they would like to keep the BA requirement the same at 16 hours, and form an ad hoc committee to come up with a better solution. This doesn't solve the problem, but it does put the Faculty Senate on record that we are opposed to cutting the language requirement. Second: Emmett Steed. Vote was unanimous.

Volunteers for ad hoc committee: Rachel Kirk (chairman), Emmett Steed, Janet Seegmiller, Selwyn Layton, Andy Marvick, Kim Weaver, and Steve Barney.

### c. **Strategic Planning Survey.**

Steve Barney compiled results of strategic planning prioritization survey for consideration. There were 63 participants. Instructions were to take goals and objectives of the institution and prioritize them into three areas. Bill Byrnes asked us to create initiatives that we can roll out over next 3 to 5 years that support these priorities. There will be an intensive and determined strategic planning process over next five years and this considers what the academic side of the institution wants to promote. Please share with faculty members and get input as to what we want to do.

## 10. New Business

a. President Benson has expressed interest in having a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter on campus. Steve would like to know if there are faculty members interested and invested in having a chapter. Bring back names of those who would be on committee. Connie said they would have to be PBK members. A Phi Kappa Phi chapter has been successfully started on campus.

b. Policy 6.27 Graduate Teaching Load (Action Item for January) is on Canvas for senators to read.

11. Adjournment. Motion by Mark DeBeliso, seconded by Steve Irving. Approved. Our next meetings are: Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting with Sen. Urquhart, 3:30-4:00 pm, and Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> both in Charles Hunter Room.