

SUU Faculty Senate Minutes  
March 27, 2014  
4:00 p.m. Great Basin Room (SSC)

Senators in Attendance: Julie Taylor, Emily Dean, Lee Montgomery, Kim Weaver, Selwyn Layton, Rheana Gardner, Keith Bradshaw (Proxy for Lynn Vartan), Janet Seegmiller, Steve Irving, Mark DeBeliso, Artis Grady, Kyle Bishop, Lhien-Ying Wang, Christine Frezza, David Lund, Carmel White, Jim McCoy, Randall Allen, Tyler Stillman, Isabella Borisova, Helen Boswell, Emmett Steed (Proxy for Jeff Barnes), David Shwalb, Mark Meilstrup ( Proxy for Derek Hein), Connie Nyman, Thad Morton, Lindsey Harvell, Shobha Gurung, Michelle Orihel (Proxy for Shobha Gurung).

1. Julie Taylor: Call meeting to order at 04:09 p. m. Christine Frezza motioned to approve minutes with suggested word changes and time change on the Board of Trustees meeting by Janet Seegmiller and Lee Montgomery seconded the motion. 1 abstention and the rest in favor.
2. Recognition of Guests: Christ Proctor, Andrea Stiefvater, Julia Anderson, and Steve Barney. Andrea introduced herself and is the new Spark Director.
3. Treasurer's Report from Kim Weaver:
  - a. Operating budget we had \$2187.00 allocated this year. The senate has spent \$1437.00 of the budget and there is a remainder of \$750.00 in the budget this year. The Faculty Scholarship balance at the beginning of the year was \$12969.00 and we spent \$8000.00 in scholarships thus far. The Scholarship Fund thus far has received \$2691.00 and current balance is \$7660.00. Thus, our treasurer believes we could put in for two scholarships next year. It was also mentioned that every faculty member did get a wage deduction slip to donate to the scholarship fund but the donations may not be seen until next pay period. A question was also asked where faculty could go to just write a check and donate to the fund without having a withdrawal every month or year from their account. It can be sent to HR but needs to specifically state that it is for the faculty senate scholarship. Kim Weaver stated that it is better for the treasurer of the senate to get the check and then they can make sure it is deposited correctly.
4. Vice President's Report from Emily Dean:
  - a. Upcoming Senate elections: Most elections are still in progress in each college and it is the responsibility of the outgoing senators to make sure the new senators replacing them are invited and introduced by them. We are still encouraging for nominations for senate president up till Monday March 31<sup>st</sup>. Once this is done there will be an online ballot where faculty can vote for their choice for president. Also, we will be holding elections for the other positions during our senate meeting on Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> and want the senators to be thinking about running for positions such as treasurer, secretary, etc.
  - b. Update from Trustee's Meeting: Refer to the minutes. Regents approved a first tier tuition increase with no second tier increase which is the lowest tuition increase since 1999. Trustees were positive about the senate's proposal to increase adjunct pay. Policy 6.51 on page two it says that two votes are given to the SUUSA student senator for

dismissing a graduate student. There is question why this is and the suggestion is to investigate this wording. SUUSA student fee increases were all denied except the outdoors. Ponderosa terrace costs were increased and meal plans cost increased. Beverly Sorenson Arts Center ground breaking ceremony will be today, however the construction will begin in July and bids will be in June. The Trustees commended the faculty and employees of SUU for giving to the University. Eighty percent of the faculty giving back to the University and is one of the highest rates in the country. Fourteen people were granted Tenure and four were granted a status change from assistant to associate professor and one non-Tenure faculty make the jump from assistant to associate professor.

5. President's Report from Julie Taylor:

- a. Report from President's Council/President's Forum: Ground rules were set and it will be an advisory role from the faculty senate president. It has been advised with this position of the senate president that the faculty senate meetings be moved from the fourth Thursday of the month to the second Tuesday of each month. With one exception in the month of August which will remain the fourth Thursday to bring the faculty senate up to date and get a start on things.
- b. Report from Dean's Council
  - i. New SPARC Director: Julia Anderson
  - ii. FOE Update: The Festival of Excellence has about 300 presentations with 200 concurrent presentations, 80 poster presentations, 13 performances, and nine displays. The dates, times, and presentations can be found on the provost website. Dave Barrey will be the keynote speaker for the FOE. President Wyatt and Provost Cook will also be speaking to kick off the FOE.
  - iii. FIGs: Focused Interest Groups for first year students. There are 23 program based FIGs and 6 theme based FIGs. Students can choose to enroll into the FIGs which help students register for the areas needed for their desired degree.
  - iv. Fall Graduates and Convocations: Students that are graduating in the fall (especially from a foreign country) must come back the next May to walk for graduation. The Deans said that they students will be allowed to go through the college or school convocation and not the main commencement. Their name on the main program will not show until next convocations when they officially graduate.
  - v. Adjunct Training – Fall Welcome Week: There is now adjunct training for new faculty during the fall week. Once they finish this training they get a \$50.00 gift card to the bookstore on campus.
  - vi. Adjunct/Overload Pay Proposal: The letter was hand delivered to President Wyatt and the Deans council also received the proposal. They are all in favor but have concerns of budget and where this money will come from.
- c. April 9-11: FACULTY meeting with NWCCU Accred. Evaluation Committee: The faculty open forum with NWCCU will be Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 02:00 p. m. In the Hunter Conference Center and faculty are encouraged to go. Also, the executive senate

committee will be meeting with NWC UU Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 09:00 a. m. President Taylor handed the senators a letter from NWC UU and what they will be addressing with faculty.

- d. Policy 5.52 – Intellectual Property: Looking for feedback on page 6 where distant delivered courses being added. Also, on page 11 there will be changes added about intellectual property and recording professors and given the professors the rights and deciding on who can record their lectures and how this can be done.
  - e. ESL program and placement [Andrea Stiefvater]: Andrea addressed how the ESL program will uphold standards which will be written into Policy 6.5. She explained the rigor she has added to the ESL program and that she has nothing to do with administration overriding the policy. President Taylor said she will put the standards up on the senate Canvas site for faculty when she gets the standards from Andrea. Andrea is also working to add workshop classes for those students who need help and are already taking courses as a University student.
6. Action Item:
- a. Policy 6.5 – Undergraduate Admissions [Chris Proctor]: Wording was worked on in page 6 with faculty senate input about the English Proficiency scores. This will include wording to give leeway to raise the standards and rigor but to never lower the standards and rigor of the ESL. President Taylor will be taking the policy to the Deans council for perusal and possible approval of the changes made to the policy.
7. New Business:
- a. Policy 5.32 – Part-Time and Temporary Employment: Human resources made some revisions due to changes in the law. These changes are on page 3 due to adjunct ICH which constitutes to less than 75% ICH which lowers how many credits an adjunct can teach.
  - b. Policy 6.31 – Academic Standards: Changes are being made to make an academic warning for a GPA under 2.0 for just one semester and if they are under a 2.0 GPA for two semester they go on probation.
  - c. Policy 6.33 - Academic Integrity and Policy 6.19 – Grade Appeal [Steve Barney]: Student appealed a failing grade for cheating in a course. The policy states that the needs to be a preponderance of evidence and there wasn't sufficient evidence and so the students grade was reversed. In section H page 5 of Policy 6.33 there were changes made to uphold students to academic dishonesty. Policy 6.19 changes were made on section C to make sure these two policies are in line with each other.
8. Motion for Executive Session: Randall Allen motioned and Janet Seegmiller seconded, all in favor.
9. Motion to Adjourn: Lee Montgomery motioned and Steve Irving seconded, all in favor.

