

SUU Faculty Senate Minutes  
April 24, 2014  
4:00 p.m. Charles Hunter Room, Hunter Conference Center

Senators in Attendance: Julie Taylor, Emily Dean, Kim Weaver, Selwyn Layton, Lee Montgomery, Connie Nyman, Artic Grady, Lindsey Harvell, David Shwalb, Steve Irving, Michelle Orihel, Derek Hein, Mark DeBeliso, Kyle Bishop, Lhien-Ying Wang, Christine Frezza, Randal Allen, Rheana Gardner, Helen Boswell, Tyler Stillman (also Proxy for Jeff Barnes), Lynn Vartan, David Berri, Chad Gasser, Matt Weeg, Nasser Tadayon, Mark Meilstrup, Brian Ludlow, Michiko Xobayashi, Loralyn Felix, Scott Lanning, Kevin Baker, Wendy Sanders, Denis Purvis, Kholoud Al-Qubbaj, Andrew Van Alstyne, Joy Sterrantino, and Ryan Yonk.

1. Julie Taylor: Call to Order at 04:02 p.m. Motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2014 by Mark DeBeliso; seconded by Steve Irving. No discussion; minutes approved unanimously.
2. Recognition of Guests and Introduction of New Senators:
  - a. Provost Brad Cook and Phil Roche (from the Faculty Scholarship Committee)
  - b. Highlights of accomplishments by Faculty Senate this past year by President Julie Taylor, including policies 5.32, 5.51, 5.52, 11.9, 11.11, 13.12, 6.1, 6.10 6.19, 6.22, 6.27, 6.31, 6.33, 6.41, 6.5, 6.83, 13.12 as a sampling. The senate also worked on the Faculty Constitution and By Laws, faculty work load, LRT process, academic standards, approved academic warning category for students, currently working on the grade appeals process and academic integrity, in addition helped in the selection of the current SUU President and received representation on the President's Council. The Senate also participated in development of President Kendell's smart growth initiative and participated in the Northwestern Accreditation of SUU. The Faculty Senate had an investigation of faculty retention at SUU which was found that SUU has some of the best retention rates in the United States making this one of the best places to live and work. Represented the faculty about concerns for parking, tickets for PVA and athletics and encouraged President Wyatt to make some of the changes that are currently under way. Also, donated funds for non-traditional scholarships for non-traditional students at SUU. The Faculty Senate also initiated a proposal for increasing the overload and adjunct pay rates.
  - c. Recognition of new faculty senators:
    - i. Business:
      1. David Berri Professor of Economics is replacing senior senator Griffon Edwards replacing him in his last year and Bruce Haslem

Professor of Finance who is replacing senior senator Emmett Steed.

ii. COSE:

1. Helen Boswell introduced Matt Weeg Professor of Biology who replaces her, Connie Nyman introduced Nasser Tadayon Professor of Computer Science who replaces her, Artis Grady introduced Chad Gasser Professor of Agriculture who replaces her, and Derek Hein introduced Mark Meilstrup Professor of Mathematics replacing him for the 2014-2015 year.

iii. Education:

1. Jim McCoy introduced Brian Ludlow Professor of Education who replaces him and Michiko Kobayashi Professor of Education replaces senior senator Lee Montgomery.

iv. Humanities and Social Sciences:

1. Shobha Gurung introduced Kholoud Al-Qubbaj Professor of Humanities who replaces her, Lynn White Professor of Psychology will replace senior senator David Shwalb, Michelle Orihel introduced Ryan Yonk Professor of Political Science who replaces her for one year, Joy Sterrantino Professor of English will do a 2 year term, and Kyle Bishop introduced Andrew Van Alstynne Professor of Sociology who will replace him.

v. PVA

1. Lynn Vartan introduced Kevin Baker Professor of Music who will replace her, Christine Frezza introduced Wendy Sanders Professor of Theatre Arts who will replace her, and Rheana Gardner introduced Denis Purvis Professor of Dance who will be replacing her last two years of service.

vi. At Large

1. Steve Irving introduced Loralyn Felix Technical Services Librarian who will replace him and Scott Lanning Professor of Library Media Access Svcs & Reference Librarian who will replace senior senator Janet Seegmiller.

3. Executive Committee Elections/Appointments

- a. Treasurer: Kim Weaver volunteered and appointed by unanimous vote.
- b. Secretary: Selwyn Layton volunteered and appointed by unanimous vote.
- c. Parliamentarian: Joy Sterrantino appointed by unanimous vote.

4. Gavel turned over to Emily Dean, new faculty senate president. Emily Dean introduction Kevin Stein (who was in China on Business) as President-elect for 2014-2015.

5. Provost's Report: Brad Cook thanked Julie Taylor for service.
  - a. Provost Cook shared the commendations and recommendations of the Northwestern Accreditors.
    - i. Commendations:
      1. The administrations, faculty, staff, and trustees are commended for their unwavering commitment to the mission and vision of Southern Utah University.
      2. The faculty and administration of SUU are commended for their creative and innovative spirit in the development of activities that promote student engagement. In particular, the committee finds the development of the EDGE program to be a model for the alignment between mission, core themes, and campus initiatives that promote student learning.
      3. The Division of Student Services is to be commended for the broad scale infusion of articulated student learning outcomes into the portfolio of the services that it offers. The division stands as a model for the measurement of meaningful indicators of achievement that have led to program improvements.
      4. The evaluation committee commends the SUU facilities staff for the excellent condition of campus buildings and grounds.
      5. The students, faculty, staff, and administration of Southern Utah University are commended for their extensive services to the local community and the extraordinary partnership that has emerged between the institution and City.
    - ii. Recommendations:
      1. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution articulate institutional outcomes that represent an acceptable threshold of mission fulfillment. In addition, it is recommended that the institution establish assessable and verifiable indicators of achievement of each of the core themes that encompass its mission. Standards 1.A.2 and 1.B.2.
      2. The evaluation committee recommends that the university engage faculty, staff, and students in a data-driven, strategic planning process that utilizes the core themes to inform the strategic plan which in turn informs the budget process through funding initiatives. Standards 3.A.1, 3.A.2, 3.A.3, 3.A.4, & 3.B.3.
      3. The evaluation committee recommends that the university expand its internal budget process to include broad representation of faculty, staff, and students. Standard 2.F.3.

4. The institution has yet to collect data with regard to the assessment of general education to feed back into curricular improvements. The institution should address this matter expeditiously. Standard 2.C.10.
6. Standing Committee Appointments
  - a. Benefits Committee: Wendy Sanders
  - b. Faculty Staff Association: Loralyn Felix
  - c. Policy Arbitration Committee: Denis Purvis
  - d. University Graduate Committee: Randall Allen
  - e. University Parking Committee: Kholoud Al-Qubbaj
  - f. University Press Editorial Board: Scott Lanning
  - g. Undergrad Research Advisory Board : Matt Weeg
  - h. University Curriculum Committee: Ryan Yonk
  - i. Academic Standards and Admissions Committee: Nasser Tadayon
7. Senate Treasurer's Report: The budget set was \$2,187.00 and have spent \$1,700.00. We have \$539.00 remaining to spend this year from the budget. The scholarship fund started with \$12,969.00 at the beginning of the year and we have given \$8,000.00 in scholarships while receiving \$2,840.00 in gifts. The current scholarship fund balance is at \$7,808.00. It was highly encouraged to donate to the faculty senate scholarship fund. Contact HR to do automatic withdrawal. There is also a withdrawal slip to fill out on the main page of the faculty senate which can be given to HR or the treasurer.
  - a. Faculty Scholarships (Phil Roche): Explained that these scholarships go to non-traditional students and encouraging donations so we can keep supporting these scholarships. Phil asked for a vote to appropriate \$6,000.00 of the \$7,808.00 to be used in scholarships this next year. Nasser Tadayon motioned to allow the faculty senate scholarship committee to use the \$6,000.00 for non-traditional scholarships this next year and Carmel White seconded the motion. Discussion was that the money should be able to go to living expenses as well as tuition. Approved with 1 opposed and the rest in favor.
8. Senate President Elect's Report: Nothing to report.
9. Senate President's Report
  - a. April 29 – Tenure Recognition Ceremony, 6 pm Great Hall
  - b. Report from President's Council
    - i. April 21 – Budget retreat (Adjunct/OL) President Wyatt will address later in the meeting. Acknowledgement to Jeff Barnes, David Shwalb, Emmett Steed, Bruce Tebbs, and Travis Rosenburg, who worked very hard on the overload initiative that came out of the senate.

- ii. NWCCU Summary: Commendations and Recommendations: Previously discussed by Provost Cook.
- c. Report from Dean's Council
  - i. New UGRASP Director: Betsy Bancroft
  - ii. Adjunct Training – Fall Welcome Week (Mon, Aug. 18) the adjunct faculty will also get a bookstore discount and lunch during this time. It was encouraged to let the adjunct faculty know about this.
  - iii. Christian Reiner looked at trends in enrollment and so the faculty senate will hopefully hear from him this coming fall about this report.
  - iv. It was also brought to the senate's attention that suggestions are needed for the visiting scholars for the Eccles Foundation.

## 10. Action Items

- a. Policy 6.33 – Academic Integrity
  - i. Page 5 changes clause 1 and 2 to be consistent to Policy 6.19 which states that the appeals goes to the Department Chair or the Dean of the College if the Department Chair was the one who assigned the failing grade. This brings the appeals back to the College level instead of Student Services. Also, on page 6 the burden of proof is on the student and not the faculty member. Also, clarification the graduate student for an appeal from a grad student but also added that similarly, it should be an undergrad student for and appeal from an undergrad. Scott Lanning motioned for the changes and Ryan Yonk seconded the changes. Motion passed with 1 opposed, 1 abstention, and rest in favor.
- b. Policy 6.19 – Grade Appeal
  - i. Changes to page 1a and page 2e and section d. Page 3i changes. Discussion making the language consistent so that instances where the text said Student Appeals Panel was replaced with Student Appeals Committee. Ryan Yonk motioned in favor for the changes and Wendy Sanders seconded the motion. Motion passed with 2 abstention and rest in favor.

## 11. New Business

- a. Randal Allen brought to the senate's attention that the health insurance plans will be going up in some instances by 70%. HR stated that the increase was due to the legislator not funding the increases in benefit costs in the latest round of funding. All plans, even the high deductible plan will be going up. Someone from the benefits committee stated that the traditional users were the high users thus to keep the plan alive there had to be increases which is what the University can support financially. There was a letter that came out by HR explaining why the plans are going up. It was also explained that the plans covered by SUU is a better

plan than policies elsewhere. Senators would like to have more discussion about this.

- b. President Wyatt discussed what was evaluated during the budget retreat on (Adjunct/OL). A leading question about the adjunct pay is how to meet what the senate/faculty would like to be done. The proposal is to increase adjunct pay from \$700 to \$850. The legislature authorized about 1 ¼% for a cost of living increase and expects the University to make up the rest through things like tuition raise. If we were to shoot for 4 ½% salary increase would the faculty like that pulled down some to increase the adjunct pay? The commissioner's office also said that if the legislature has given a certain amount for cost of living increase there cannot be an increase greater than that amount. Thus, if they provide a 1 ¼% increase and the University gives everyone a 5% increase then the message is that we do not need them or their money and they pull back funds or give no funds for an increase. The question then does the faculty want a 4 ½% increase driven by market and have a \$800 adjunct increase or do we want to give up some of that % increase and give the \$850 for adjunct pay? It was voiced that since there has been less than market based % increase year after year thus we are already getting less and thus it is unfair to cut any % out of our yearly market increase. However, it is also felt that the adjuncts are teaching overload and not hardly making anything and how do they live on that? The President has been told to not do across the board increases because then we will lose money in the future from the legislator and we do not want to send that message to them. President Wyatt said that a poll for if we would like the increase spread out throughout the University or would we like more to go to the adjuncts.
12. Motion for Executive Session by Ryan Yonk with a second by Mark DeBelisio, all in favor.
  13. Motion to Adjourn by Mark DeBelisio with a second by Randal Allen, all in favor.