

Faculty Senate Minutes

March 14, 2019

4:00 pm

Charles Hunter Room

Attending: Dave Berri, Nathan Barker, Steve Barney, Chris Monson, Daniel Eves, Scott Lanning, Doug Wayman, Michael Kroff, David Tufte, Tim Lewis, Joel Judd, Lee Montgomery, Tony Pellegrini, Matthew Eddy, Danny Hatch, Liz Olson, Jennifer Sorenson, Scott Knowles, Benjamin Sowards, Lynn Vartan, Cynthia Kimball-Davis, Bill Heyborne, Shalini Kesar, Mark Meilstrup, Matthew Roberts, Randall Violet, Brandon Wiggins, Christine Samson for Kelly Goonan.

Guests: Josh Price

Not Attending: Jonathan Holiman, Jason Smith, Daniel Swanson, Michael Crotty, Hala Sweringen, Mark Baltimore, Selwyn Layton.

- Call to Order (4:04pm)
- Recognition of Presenters and Guests (4:05)
 - Josh Price (Chair, Department of Economics & Finance)
- Approval of minutes from last meeting: (4:05)
- **Online Education Expansion Committee: Josh Price (4:07)**

Refer to handout for recommendations – this is broad for any online expansion not just a specific OPM. The Online Expansion Committee has organized recommendations as #1 is Quality – we want to recommend a quality OPM so our product to be optimal; #2 is Consistency in course design; #3 Resources as faculty in order to achieve our goals. Additionally, there needs to be a clear pathway for how new faculty lines are developed as we grow. What is the model that will be implemented to meet need? Faculty need to be compensated for the courses we are developing – suggesting \$3000-\$5000 (confirm with handout). There is talk about shared revenue – needs clarification on what that means – is it a 50% share with OPM and how much will go back to the department? There will be a lot more administrative responsibility with these new programs, which adjuncts could fill; #4 Authority and Responsibility – who is our point person to turn to? A program manager and liaison to help lead us into the transition. Authority to assure high impact classes to ensure this happens see details in handout. #5 Do No Harm as an OPM may have plans to toll out additional online programs in future, they should seek to be informed by Deans, Dept Chairs and Program Directors giving voice so the process will not cause harm.

Berri: will this affect all departments – how many can we expect?

Price: Most departments will be, to some extent, a part of this online effort. Not sure which or how many will be affected yet. Three programs (mostly Graduate programs) to start with the chance to expand.

- **Discussion of Three-Year SUU degree: James Sage & Daniel Bishoff (4:21)**

Bishoff: The state has been concerned for years and funding has been cut and they have asked higher ed to speed things up – focus on more technical degrees and be more innovative and try to plan ahead so that our institutions don't close (as they are in the Eastern part of the country).

for overloads and summer teaching – beyond their typical load. We would not be required to teach outside of our normal contract – but the elected programs have to be offered in a 3-year format. So faculty will need to be found. But what you work will need to be worked out in the department. The end goal is to have all degrees/programs offered in 3-years ultimately rolling out over the next several years as demand changes, but we will build up to it. Present your program challenges to Steve (e.g. the creative arts programs) and we can talk about your needs.

Berri: Administrators need to talk to faculty otherwise all these initiatives are undermined.

Question: Is there any way to just beef up summer without going trimester? There is a 13 week summer session.

Bishoff: Perhaps we don't need to do a calendar change – but that's a directive from the President, the option he wanted the most. He has dictated a 3-semester schedule. But please give feedback.

Question: What and why are we doing this trimester academic calendar?

James Sage: In early summer, there was a Shark Tank suggestion on how do we expand our programs and create a vibrant summer term. Pres Wyatt asked the question and Sage presented the parameters and different ways the university needed to think about these possibilities. Pres Wyatt put it forward as one of his budget requests for \$2.8 million. Katya Konkle took a look/analyzed the curriculum to see which degrees would be a candidate for 3 semesters and presented it to the Deans. President Wyatt put forward the information we had so far to the legislation session, mocked up some ideas for the Fall to try and see how it would all fit and reached out to other schools, but still wasn't sure if three equal length semesters would happen. The Governor had line itemed SUU's 3-year program, and it was expedited to the top and all were surprised. Things really happened fast from there. I kept reworking the possible calendar outcomes. To our surprise, SUU was granted 2.8 million dollars. We used BYU-Idaho's calendar as inspiration and adapted it quite extensively, based on the Academic Calendar Committee, to a 12-week trimester with 6 weeks per term; 60 min MWF and 90 for TR. 8 days ago was when this draft took shape. Still looking at which majors will make sense in fitting into 3-year completion. All conversations are all active. Contracts will still be 8-months, 4/4 load times and run from 8am – 5pm.

Things are moving fast!

Dave: Can we discuss changing the calendar if we want to change it?

Sage: We can talk about it.

Kroff: Any evidence on whether this is something students want?

Berri: A survey was not issued to students.

The president has tasked Steve Meredith and Daniel Bishoff to head this committee. We still know very little – but we do know that we have \$3.8 million dollars to help students speed up completion time. Pres. Wyatt didn't think a survey would be indicative of what students want. We are holding open forums with students – two are planned. We know we are going to be starting this in January 2020 and the bulk of the money will be set aside for faculty compensation. We are flexible and still working out calendar details, etc. We are about a week and half into all of this.

Barney: Is this a pilot program – how long will the legislature have patience with us?

Bishoff: From a pilot perspective they are not taking back this gift – we have been tasked to be innovative and make this happen. We are a model for the rest of the state for innovation.

Tufte: I attended an early meeting where this was discussed and initially worked through – there needs to be a lot more faculty input.

Bishoff: Not sure what Steve Meredith's plans are on pulling in faculty for consulting. Overloads for summer will be changed (get rid of \$4K cap) – all is still open ended and we want that communication. Focusing on getting calendar set so department chairs can start working on the 3-year degree plans. Keep giving us feedback.

Lewis: Faculty will have 8-month contracts – what does that mean for summer term?

Bishoff: 30-35% increase from 9-month to 11-month contracts for increase in taking on 3 semesters. Talks on removing the \$4K cap.

Heyborne: This is not just a matter of time, we are still going to be carrying our same load and adding an additional semester is 50%. 35% increase feels like a smack in the face for faculty, as there doesn't really seem to be a time off.

Bishoff: Constraint is that we have a limited amount of \$\$ to make this happen, if we increase to 50% compensation professor participation will be limited.

Question: How does this affect the full load and P&T

Answer: This conversation hasn't begun yet – look forward to having it. The marketing office is working on a landing page for frequently asked questions and the president is preparing an email to hit some key points.

- **Report on Course Evaluation Committee: Daniel Hatch (5:26)**

What we've done is try to work hard at creating a set of questions for students based on empirical literature on evaluating and getting student feedback. We will pilot some of these questions and then we'll gather a set of questions from each departmental level but there will also be options for additional individual questions. We'll start assessing this in a variety of ways and by the end of this semester we'll have a mock up for your review. We're trying really hard to get this to be a student feedback form and avoid numbers in order to be more informative. We want avoid quantitative numbers for administrators so we can prevent them drawing comparisons unfairly between faculty. There will be standard questions 4-6 for all university departments. Questions that would fit our mission and apply broadly and then each department can add on their own questions. We are trying to reflect how we care about our institutions. There will be trainings starting with Department Chairs and then faculty. The platform is intuitive and will not be hard to learn.

- **By-law Changes: Steve Barney (5:35pm)**

Policy 6.3.1 looks at academic standards and admissions. It was passed by Deans Council back in

“faculty senate” rather than just “faculty.” Because of FERPA Laws, students are no longer a part of this committee because of the sensitive details discussed. Do we approve the recommendations? YES by majority. Five (5) abstentions.

Duties of the Officers/Executive Committee – redefining duties is the next change we’d like to make to reflect the increase in representation. Not all academic departments are represented on the Senate and we’d like to make that happen. We’d like to move from house of representatives model to a senate model where all are represented. Another change is staffing faculty standing/university committees. There is a lot of flux and we would like to have more consistencies in terms of the logistics of the committees to give responsibilities in staffing to the Provosts office.

Question: Matt Roberts: Non-tenure track issues are not addressed?

Answer: Non-tenure track faculty can be on the Senate after two years and as long as half are tenured faculty. Department chairs can also serve on the Senate.

There are twenty-five departments on campus, so the numbers would be going down in the Senate. People who are serving on the Faculty Senate therefore we hope will make good contributions to the role and mission of the university.

Motioned as stated – moved, seconded: PASSED.

- **Review of SUU Revenue Model: David Berri (5:53)**

Trying to get faculty to understand how salaries are determined. Refer to spreadsheet (see handout) from Daniel Bishoff. We will have a consultant come explain how scholarships are issued and breakdown the big chunk of money we give out every year.

Committee will be formed to look at all these issues to watch the university operations in this matter.

- **Reminder of Elections**

Closing on April 16th.

Meeting adjourned: 5:57pm