



**USU FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2008
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Mike Parent called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from

Several senators simultaneously moved to approve the minutes of April 28, 2008. The motion was seconded by Byron Burnham, motion passed.

Announcements

Roll Call and Email Address Changes. A member roster will be circulated at each meeting. Senators are to sign or initial next to their names. The "cc.usu.edu" email accounts will become invalid in November. If senators are listed on the roster with a "cc" account, they are to email Will Pependorf and copy Joan Kleinke to update it.

University Business - President Albrecht

Rick Clement is the new administrative appointee to the Faculty Senate.

Campaign Update. An event was held August 6, 2008 in Salt Lake City where it was announced that the campaign goal has been doubled from \$200 million to \$400 million and extending the date to 2012. The majority of gifts received to date are expendable gifts, gifts given to build new buildings and start new programs, not gifts that went into our endowment. The second phase of the campaign will focus on growing the endowment fund. We announced the creation of a new scholarship endowment, the Aggie Promise Endowment, a need based scholarship fund.

Commissioner Visit. The new Commissioner, William Sederburg, from the Utah System of Higher Education and his staff will be on campus September 9, 2008.

Foundation Board Visit. The Foundation Board will visit campus on Thursday, September 11, 2008.

Dedication. The new Jim and Carol Laub Athletics Academic Center will be dedicated on Friday, September 12, 2008.

Other Announcements:

Friday September 12, will be USU's Old Main Event

Sunday, Sept. 14th and Monday, Sept. 15th Justice Scalia from the U.S. Supreme Court will be here.

October 2nd groundbreaking for the Emma Eccles Jones Early Childhood & Education Research Center and Dolores Dore Eccles Center for Early Care & Education.

October 17th groundbreaking for first USTAR building.

November 17th groundbreaking for the Bingham Entrepreneurship and Energy Research Center at our Uintah Basin Campus.

USHE Budget Request First Draft. The governor has requested that operating budgets include only mandated operating expenses and limit new program requests due to the current state of the economy. The last legislature set aside a \$110 mil in rainy day accounts, so they have somewhere in the neighborhood of \$600 mil to \$700 mil in rainy day funds. The critical point for us is how long the downturn in the economy extends. If the economy is still in downturn in mid January we will probably see an extremely conservative legislature and it will be a challenging year for us. In anticipation of that the governor has asked that we limit new requests and has asked that all state agencies to begin to talk about budget requests that reflect 1%, 3% and 5% reductions. We have not taken a significant step in that direction yet because it is hoped that this is a shorter term not a long term problem. It is expected that state tax funds will be \$55-\$85 million less than anticipated. The Regents approve the budget and it focuses on several issues; compensation again, adding to operating costs, student financial aid, and addressing workforce shortages (Teacher Education, Career and Technological Education, and Engineering). In addition we have asked for \$5.2 million to help address equity issues; compression issues, equity and retention. The Regents are very supportive of this request. In addition, we have talked about ongoing base adjustments in areas that the governor indicated he would be supportive; utility increases, wage increases, gasoline increases, operating and maintenance, IT infrastructure, and statewide CTE articulation. It is expected that we will see significant growth in FTE across the entire system higher education and we want to come back to the issue of funded growth. The requests for higher education would result \$26.1 million increase not including enrollment growth or compensation.

Information Items

1. **Code Review Committee.** John Kras reported on the Faculty Code Review committee. The committee is charged to look at inconsistencies, grammatical errors and non-substantive changes as it relates to the faculty code. The committee members are: Ed Reeves, Larry Smith, Michelle Baker, Robert Schmidt and Tom Peterson. Sections 401, 402, 403, 404, and half of 405 have been completed. They hope to have the entire code reviewed by the end of October and will present the non-substantive changes to the Senate.
2. **PRPC Update.** Grievance procedure timelines and GLBT code changes will be addressed by the PRPC committee at their next meeting.

Consent Agenda Items

Graduate Council Report - Motion was made by Tami Pyfer, second by John Kras to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed. Byron Burnham summarized the addition of the Graduate Student Health Insurance Program. They have 800 students who are taking advantage of the insurance program. They think it will be a great recruiting device for faculty. The School of Graduate Studies graduated 109 more students than the year before.

Key Issues and Action Items

Committee on Committees. Will Pendorf addressed committee appointments. Members of the Committee on Committees are elected along with the president and president elect. There is currently an unexpected opening which Betty Rozum has agreed to fill with the Senate's approval. Also, a few other positions have been filled but need Senate approval. A single motion was made by Flora Shrode to approve the recommendations of the Committee on Committees appointments and seconded by Vince Wickwar. Motion passed.

Appointments still need to be made to the Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee. These positions are elected positions. Ballots will be provided at the next Senate meeting with seven candidates, three of which will be elected to serve on the committee and the names forwarded to

the President, and one will be chosen to serve. We have a couple of names and we will recruit more to complete those positions.

Mike Parent encourages members of the Senate Executive Committee to caucus with Senators from their college and discuss what the Faculty Forum in November may cover.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.