ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
February 6, 2017

Call to Order
The regular meeting of the Academic Senate, held on February 6, 2017, was called to order at 3:00 pm by Xan Johnson, Senate President. The meeting was held in the Health Sciences Education Building, Alumni Hall.


Absent: Elena Asparouhova, Brian Cadman, Adam Meirowitz, Jeff Nielsen, David Plumlee, Mark Durham, Leticia Alvarez, Yongmei Ni, Xiaoyue Liu, Ning Lu, Joe Marotta, Nadja Durbach, Avery Holton, David Hill, Per Gesteland, John T. Langell, Frederick Strathmann, Ravi Chandran, Andrea Bild, Baodong Liu, Lina Svedin, Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson, Lauren Adams, Madison Day, Ashley Wilcox, Edwin Lin, Caleb Hoffman

Ex-Officio: Bill Johnson, Robert Flores, Xan Johnson, Paul Mogren, Margaret Clayton, David Pershing, Ruth Watkins

Excused with proxy: Luke Leither, Linda Tyler

Excused: Vivian Lee, Kevin Yang, John Funk, Melonie Murray, Sean Lawson, Nicole Mihalopoulos, David Goldberg, Dmytro Pesin

Others: Greg Hatch, Dan Witt

Approval of Minutes
The minutes for January were approved with a motion by Jim Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.
Consent Calendar
The current list of appointments and resignations dated February 6, 2017 were approved with a motion by Jim Anderson and second by Joanne Yaffe. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Report
Mardie Clayton said that everything seen by the Executive Committee in its previous meeting would be seen by the Senate today.

Request for New Business
Liz Winter, Sherrie Hayashi, and Lori McDonald passed out new tear-off cards that will help U faculty, staff, and students in case of reported sexual misconduct.

Report from Administration
President Pershing gave a report regarding the university administration’s recent activities. The legislative session is the main priority for administration this month. U administration has testified before the Higher Education Joint Appropriations Committee, to talk about the importance of compensation, funding market demand and growth for the university, and the success of student retention (90% first to second year retention) and graduation rate (65%, the highest in the state). U administrators also testified before the capital facilities committee on the topic of the Medical Education building; the U is asking the state for $50 million in funding for the building. Other news included that the Bob and Cathy Goff Executive Education Building groundbreaking took place last week. President Pershing also addressed the status of foreign faculty, students, and staff in light of the recent White House executive order restricting travel into the US. The U is reaching out to those affected by the order. Ruth Watkins explained further about the U’s commitment to its role as an international institution. A communication was sent to international faculty, students, and staff immediately and was proactive in alerting them to resources available to them and actions they should take. There will be a campus rally on Thursday, February 9, in support of the U’s international presence. The U has been successful in diversity initiatives related to students and faculty, and the U will be working with the Division of Workforce Services in the state to create yearlong apprentice employment opportunities to increase staff diversity on campus.

Report from ASUU
Jack Bender gave a report on ASUU’s activities. The Class of 2016’s senior class gift was directed toward the Counseling Center and the Mindfulness Clinic. A total of $12,500 was allocated for the Mindfulness Clinic, for new couches, computers, and updates for the center. The money has yet to be spent, but the Clinic is collecting more funding for a full renovation. Student body presidents across the country are working on promotion of mental health on campus. There is a bill in the state legislature to promote mental health in Utah. ASUU will release a video in the upcoming weeks about the extent of the problem, and how the universities across the state are working to make a change in this area. Recommendations show that at least five to seven more counseling centers are needed across the state. A bill with a funding request for more FTE will be proposed at next year’s legislative session.

Notice of Intent
No items of intent.
Debate Calendar
Patricia Hanna, Hank Liese, and John Bartley presented the proposal for new Policy 6-321
governing Tenured Faculty Reviews, and accompanying revisions of Policies 6-303 and 2-005.
An earlier draft was presented in January. The version proposed today has been refined through
further consultation since January. As compared to the existing Policies the major changes of the
policy are a) shifting the process into the hands of faculty members as opposed to administrators
and b) moving the schedule up so that salary decisions may be made following the review
process.
Motion was made by Joanne Yaffe to approve the policy changes and forward to the Board of
Trustees. Motion seconded by Chuck Dorval. Motion passed unanimously.

Information and Recommendations Calendar
The following items were presented for the information and recommendations of the Academic
Senate:

- Ruth Watkins and Mary Parker presented information regarding student enrollment
  management on campus, which includes recruitment, entry, retention, and completion. The U has
  improved outreach and recruitment. Undergraduate admissions applications have increased
  dramatically in the past year. The U is reaching out earlier to potential students, starting prior
to their senior year in high school. The campaign was particularly targeted to women and
  minorities; applications for both demographic groups have increased substantially following
  these efforts. Another key effort is bringing more potential students on campus for campus
  tours. Other areas for improvement include increasing numbers of out-of-state students,
  increasing FAFSA completion rates, and reducing the number of potential students lost to other
  in-state or regional institutions. Affordability has been identified as an issue that affects
  whether admitted students choose to attend the U, as opposed to other in-state and regional
  schools. Mary Parker and Ruth Watkins are asking for faculty support on events and
  communication to help commit admitted students.

- Katie Ullman presented reports of the seven-year Graduate Council reviews for the
  Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Division of Physician Assistant
  Studies, and the Division of Public Health.

- Todd Zenger presented a proposal for the new Goff Strategic Leadership Center. The
  center has been provisionally approved by central administration. It will promote
  research, support curricular initiatives in various degree programs, and develop executive
  programs and trainings focused on strategic leadership, with the aim for providing
  revenue for the new Goff Executive Education building. The administration’s decision to
  approve establishment on a provisional basis (rather than seeking permanent status from
  the outset) is due to a tight timeline for the donor funding. As per the rules applicable for
  provisional establishment of a center/ institute/ or bureau, once it has been provisionally
  approved on an expedited basis by the administration, then within three years a proposal
  of permanent status for the center will come back through the Executive Committee and
  Senate for full approval.

New Business
No new business.
Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maddy Oritt