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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – February 2011

Faculty Senators

University of South Alabama

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February 16, 2011
3pm -- Library Auditorium
MINUTES

Present: Estis, Gubler, Carr, Connors, Fisher, Guzy, Haywick, Hillman, Lunceford, Marshall, Moore, Roddy, Shaw, Toelken, Feinstein, Campbell, Davidson-Shivers, Norrell, Finley, Lemley, Nero, Kaulfers, Martinko, Rusyniak, Retzlaff-Roberts, D. Turnipseed, Brown, Herf, Keasler, Meyer, Minchew, Quiett

Excused: E. Adams, Spector, Dardeau, Powers, Shelly-Tremblay, Summerlin, Byrd, P. Turnipseed, M. Adams, Omar, Bosarge, Green, Kahn, Madden

Unexcused: Husain, Langan, Kingman, Donovan, Grishko, Perry, Racheck, Rizk

1. Call to order—3:04pm, quorum met at 3:25pm.
2. Approval of minutes from the January meeting— H. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by T. Martinko. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Special Presentation: Current Health and Wellness Status of USA Employees
(Dr. Jean Irion and Dr. Coral Gubler, PT Department)

Drs. Irion and Gubler presented information from a student research project exploring the wellness and health of USA employees. There is a need for additional health and wellness programs and resources at USA. They stated that USA should strongly consider the benefits of enhancing a health and wellness program. Employees seem to be aware of the risks associated with lack of physical activity; therefore, emphasis needs to be placed on participation.

Discussion regarding smoke-free campuses and incentives for wellness ensued. Suggestions included insurance premium reductions based on physical activity.

The audience was encouraged to support the health and wellness initiatives that are currently available.

4. Chair's report - J. Connors
J. Connors announced that the USA Foundation Board faculty representative elections are underway. To serve, you must be a tenured faculty and must have been on faculty for 10 years. The ballots are sent back to an independent agency for tabulation. The USA Foundation selects from the top three choices. Several Faculty Senate representatives are included in the list of nominees. J. Connors encouraged the Faculty Senate to vote in this important election.
5. Old Business
 - a. Ad Hoc Committees
 - i. Calendar Committee (Tom Meyer & Phil Carr)

P. Carr indicated that they are working with the evaluation committee to create a survey. This survey will be presented to all faculty in order to determine the interests of faculty at large.

D. Haywick—according to the Vanguard, there will no longer be Saturday exams.

P. Carr and T. Meyer reported that the Registrars office has worked to eliminate the Saturday exams.

D. Feinstein asked about the earlier report date and described how it impacted his ability to do consulting. P. Carr indicated that the committee has not met since our last Faculty Senate meeting, but this issue will be addressed at the next committee meeting.

D. Retzlaff-Roberts asked for clarification on the calendar for Fall 2011. There will be a two-day Fall Break, no dead-day, and no Saturday exams.

Senators were encouraged to complete the forthcoming survey to indicate faculty opinions on the academic calendar.

ii. Public Relations Committee (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)

No report.

iii. Cost Saving Committee (Kathryn Toelken)

Jim Connor, David Turnipseed and Kathryn Toelken met with Scott Weldon, USA Controller & Kelly Peters, USA Associate Controller on February 8, 2011. J. Connors reported that the initial meeting went very well. Scott had prepared an overview of our USA expenses, and they began a frank discussion about constraints and perspectives.

They are meeting again on February 22nd to continue our cost savings conversation. Scott will be presenting a detailed department-by-department breakdown of costs for the Committee to examine. We anticipate another proactive discussion.

J. Connors elaborated that this represents a grassroots efforts from the faculty to cut costs across the university.

b. Constitutional Reform

The current total is 381 yes, 7 no, 1 abstention, which meets the requirement to move forward to the Board of Trustees. The new constitution will go before the Board of Trustees at their March meeting.

D. Haywick asked if it would not be official until the Faculty Handbook is updated. J. Estis and S. Fisher expressed that the Faculty Handbook is now in real-time and will be updated if the Board of Trustees approves.

c. Faculty Club

J. Connors reported that the Faculty Club is under construction. The Executive Committee and any Senators are welcome to tour the facility next Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at 3pm.

J. Connors indicated that controversy surrounding the name remains. He recommended that we provide a resolution or recommendation to officially name the facility “Faculty Club.”

T. Meyer made a motion to resolve:

“The Faculty Senate recommends that the new facility be officially named the *Faculty Club*.”

K. Toelken provided a second for the motion. The resolution was unanimously approved.

J. Connors described the features of the new facility and stated that the facility will open around 3pm each day for drinks.

D. Keasler asked if Faculty Senate meetings will be held there. J. Connors indicated that they would. D. Haywick recommended that the first official function of the Faculty Club be the Faculty Senate meeting.

d. Faculty Senate Banquet

April 1, 2011, 6pm Fairhope Yacht Club. We will confirm attendance soon.

e. Nondiscrimination Policy

J. Connors reported that John Smith will be seating a committee to address this issue within the next month. The committee will be comprised of faculty, students, and administrators.

6. New Business

a. Elections

J. Connors indicated that we need to follow the rules of the old Constitution for this election process, because the new Constitution will be under review by the Board of Trustees.

President will address the new Senate in April.

b. Faculty Rec Center fees- revisited

A senator brought the issue of Faculty Rec Center fees to the attention of the Chair.

A faculty member described issues with spending time at the Rec Center with students and faculty. He asked if faculty participation could be incentivized through our health insurance premiums. He recommended offering it as “free” but with requests for a “gift” from those who participate.

D. Haywick recommended that they offer free days or times for faculty.

J. Connors indicated that we have brought many of these issues to the attention of the administration.

A. Hillman asked who controls the particular policies of the Rec Center. He recommended that the per visit fee be reduced for faculty.

J. Connors indicated that the Executive Committee will address this issue with the administration.

A. Guzy cautioned that incentivizing could be problematic for those who seek wellness activities outside of the Rec Center.

7. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr)—No report.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Marshall)—Launched student portion of our campus conservation campaign. D. Marshall will be meeting with individuals and groups to discuss conservation initiatives among faculty and staff. Stickers reminding faculty to turn off lights

will be distributed soon. The water drainage problem area near the Humanities building is being addressed.

- Evaluation (Patsy Turnipseed) —No report.
- Planning and Development (Jack Shelley-Tremblay) —No report.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher) —No report.
- Salary and Benefits (Elizabeth Adams) —No report.
- Technology Utilization (Diane Keasler) —Dr. Johnson sent an email indicating that we are transitioning to a new learning management platform over the next three years. The campus portal, My USA, is nearing completion. The email digest project will be included in the My USA portal.

7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Mike Spector) —No report.
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw & Laura Moore)—Thanked all A&S senators for their assistance with the voting process.
- Continuing Education (Amy Kingman) —No report.
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan) —No report.
- Education (Dennis Campbell) – Also, thanked senators for the excellent participation in the voting process.
- Engineering (Francis Donovan) —No report.
- Library (Vera Finley) —No report.
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts) —No report.
- Medicine (?)—No report.
- Nursing (Henri Brown)—Thanked senators for their help with the voting process.

S. Fisher made a motion to adjourn. D. Campbell provided a second. The Senate unanimously voted to adjourn at 4:35 pm.