

University of South Alabama

JagWorks@USA

Minutes 2012-2013

Faculty Senate Minutes

8-1-2012

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – August 2012

Faculty Senators

University of South Alabama

Follow this and additional works at: https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes_twentytwelve

Recommended Citation

Senators, Faculty, "Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – August 2012" (2012). *Minutes 2012-2013*. 2.
https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes_twentytwelve/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate Minutes at JagWorks@USA. It has been accepted for inclusion in Minutes 2012-2013 by an authorized administrator of JagWorks@USA. For more information, please contact jherrmann@southalabama.edu.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

August 22, 2012 – Faculty Club - 3:00 pm
MINUTES

Call to order

The meeting was called to order 3:06pm. Quorum was met at 3:10pm.

Present: Estis, Gordon-Hickey, Kennedy, Spector, Benko, Carr, Connors, Dardeau, Faile, Fisher, Guzy, Haywick, Marin, Marshall, Moore, Roddy, Shaw, Landry, Byrd, Davidson-Shivers, Norrell, Britton, Nero, Tate, Alexeyev, Burnham, Falkos, Hunsader, Woodford, Turnipseed, Buckner, Fuller, Keasler, Meyer, Minchew, Quiett, Walls

Excused absence: Johnson, Bru, Daughtry, Feinstein, Ferguson-Martin, Sylvester, West, Rachek, Ruchko

Unexcused absence: Jackson, Stefurak, El-Sharkh, Green, Gupte, Rusyniak

Approval of minutes: May 2012 meeting

AnnMarie Guzy made a motion to approve April 2012 minutes. Sam Fisher seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Guest Presentation: Dr. Ron Styron, QEP Director

Ron Styron, Quality Enhancement Plan Director, discussed the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACS accreditation. The goal of the QEP is to increase critical thinking and collaborative skills of USA graduates. In order to do so, the QEP will focus on the implementation of Team Based Learning (TBL). During the summer term, 40 faculty members participated in TBL training with Dr. Larry Michaelsen. These faculty members will implement TBL during the 2012-2013 academic year. The QEP will occur over a 5 year time period with the 2012-2013 academic year serving as a pilot for the program. A second training will be offered during summer term of 2013. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.teambasedlearning.org/>. If you are interested in this training, watch for emails from Ron Styron during spring term.

President's Report

A summary of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis completed at our May 2012 meeting was summarized and presented to President Moulton. Over the summer, Phil Carr met with each academic Dean, and he presented the SWOT summary to the Deans in these individual meetings.

Phil Carr presented the following goals for his term as Faculty Senate President:

1) Increase communication:

Update and maintain webpage, Expand role of Caucus Leaders, Regularly scheduled meetings with administration, Summer meetings with Deans, Provide information to new hires in administration as appropriate, Fall/Spring meetings with each caucus and as requested, Meetings with individual faculty members as requested, and Annual meeting between the Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate Executive Committee

2) Be proactive agent of positive change

SWOT analysis, Future of Higher Education Panel, and State of the University Report

3) Support Faculty Senate Committees

He also stated that each committee chair established goals for their respective committees. These goals will direct committee activities for this Senate term.

Phil Carr met with Lynne Chronister, VP for research, and provided a report of faculty perspectives on research. This document was also presented to the President and Vice-Presidents. He indicated that he would like to see this established as a pattern as new administrators are hired to build a good relationship between the Faculty Senate and new administrators and to keep faculty issues at the forefront.

Phil Carr met with each academic Dean over the Summer. He mentioned the concern of chair development to each Dean. This is an important issue and way to address many faculty concerns.

A search is underway to replace Mellissa Wold, current USA Registrar, who is retiring early 2013. Two candidates have been interviewed and a third interview is in planning stages. It is hoped that the new registrar will be in place prior to December commencement. Mike Spector asked what happens if they can't find someone. Likely, an interim would be appointed until the position was filled. It was reported that there are a number of retirements in the Registrar's office. Mike Spector asked about the process for recruiting. Phil Carr responded that a wide variety mechanisms were used to solicit applicants; however, an outside firm has not been hired to conduct the search.

Old Business

- **50 Outstanding Faculty**

We are currently soliciting nominations for the Faculty Senate's 50 Outstanding Faculty. The nomination process has been publicized through a wide variety of media outlets. To date, we have 59 nominations submitted. The nominations will be open through November 1.

- **Faculty Mentoring**

Thomas Shaw presented a plan for a faculty mentoring program at USA. A brochure was presented to new faculty at their orientation. Faculty interested in participating will be matched with a mentor. One new faculty member has requested a mentor. The information will be provided on the Faculty Senate website.

Ellen Buckner asked how mentors were being solicited. Thomas indicated that those interested in serving as a mentor could let him know. Matches with mentors will be made based on the needs of the mentee. Specific characteristics (e.g., tenured, particular discipline, gender) will depend on the request of the mentee.

New Business

- **Behavioral Assessment Team**

Phil Carr asked Sam Fisher to present on the university's Behavioral Assessment Team. Sam reported that the Faculty Senate was not aware that this team existed until recently; however, it has been in place for several years to address perceived threats by students or faculty. The purpose of this team is to meet and to react quickly to handle any threats. We wanted to make sure that this information is included in our Faculty Handbook and publicized. This falls under the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. They make recommendations to the academic unit or to law enforcement, etc. as needed.

A senator asked whom to call in the case of a perceived threat. Perceived threats should be reported to department chairs or the police. Sam Fisher responded that it is not clear that chairs know about this team and process. Vicki Tate asked if the Faculty Senate is to distribute this information. Sam responded that the intent of this discussion is to get it added to the Faculty Handbook. Vicki added that it also needs to be added to the student handbook, as well as the website. Gigi Dardeau indicated that putting this information in the faculty handbook causes us to be held liable. She also stated that issues between two faculty members do not go through human resources.

- **University Ombudsperson**

Sam Fisher presented information related to establishing a USA ombudsperson. Right now this person would be dedicated to mediating conflicts and to serve as a resource for faculty members. They are not there to take sides. It would be a confidential process and timelines for formal complaints would not apply.

Phil Carr remarked that many times once a complaint reaches the Faculty Senate it has often gone on too long or become too complex. An ombudsperson would serve as a mediator earlier in the process, before a situation escalates.

- **Future of Higher Education Panel**

Phil Carr stated that plans are in place for a panel discussion on the Future of Higher Education. The purpose of this discussion will be to look at current trends and concerns with Higher Education. President Moulton, VP David Johnson, VP Ron Franks, and faculty representatives will be on the panel. The date and time will be announced soon. Please contact Phil with ideas related to the panel discussion.

- **Research Committee**

While meeting with VP for Research, Lynne Chronister, she indicated that she would like to work with a research committee of the Faculty Senate.

A description of the proposed committee for inclusion in the Faculty Senate bylaws will be circulated and presented at the September meeting.

Committee Reports

- **Academic Development and Mentoring (Thomas Shaw)**

The new mentoring program was described earlier in the meeting.

- **Environmental Quality (Doug Haywick)**

Doug Haywick reported that he attended two relevant meetings. The first dealt with potential changes to the campus. One proposed addition is a ropes course for team-building activities. The specific location is under discussion. The second dealt with environmental issues on campus. The area between the student center and the humanities building is a particular concern. Doug made comments regarding maintaining a natural environment. Serious erosion on campus is another concern. Some of these issues have begun to impact buildings. The committee will address these issues and others this year.

- **Evaluation (Laura Moore)**

Materials from the 2011-2012 evaluation were transferred from the previous committee chair. A five-year comparison was completed and presented to the Board of Trustees. The committee will work to distribute comments to relevant parties.

- **Planning and Development (Leigh Minchew)**

Leigh Minchew reported that this committee has three goals for the year: 50 Outstanding Faculty, Faculty Senate Banquet, increase communication between caucuses and Executive Committee.

- **Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)**

A request for change from College of Education regarding appointments was addressed by the committee. The Faculty Handbook is in the process of revision. The committee will review the handbook and report back to the Senate.

- **Salary and Benefits (David Turnipseed)**

The committee will look at data regarding salary comparisons to relevant institutions. They will be examined by discipline. Mike Spector asked about differentiating 9-month and 12-month faculty. David indicated that he will check to see if the data is available.

- **Technology Utilization (Kelly Woodford)**

This committee will focus on changes to the Faculty Senate website.

Vicki Tate asked if there was a specified webmaster. The Technology Utilization committee provides the information to Web Services, and they update the information. Kelly responded that

there are considerable changes underway to update the website. Julie Estis indicated that this is a priority and that significant updates will be made prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Caucus Reports

- **Arts and Sciences (Genevieve Dardeau, Jenny Faile)**

The caucus leaders are working on putting a slate together to fill two Senate positions now and should have elections within the next few weeks. They are coordinating with the dean's office for semester meetings, and they would like to hold a social for the college to meet with their senators.

- **Continuing Education (Jeremy Daughtry)-- No report.**

- **School of Computing (Jeff Landry)**

The Shelby Hall Dedication is set for Sunday, September 9 at 3 PM. New faculty members include Jeff Holifield, Pam Wisniewski-Information Systems and Todd Andel-Computer Science.

- **Education (Gayle Davidson-Shivers)**

Dr. Julie Cwikla is our new STEM faculty member with a joint appointment in the Department of Leadership and Teacher Education and Engineering.

Dr. Sally Lewis will start in January as the new School Counseling faculty member in the Department of Professional Studies.

Dr. Shawn Mitchell is our new Exercise Science faculty member in Health Physical Education and Leisure Studies.

- **Engineering (Kevin West)—No report.**

- **Library (Vicki Tate)**

The University Library has completely re-designed its home page to accommodate the addition of the One Search database search option. A person can now do a combined search of SOUTHcat, several EBSCO databases, and other full-text databases. The ProQuest databases and non-full text databases are not included in this combined search.

Currently the library has over 39,300 electronic books included in SOUTHcat. But this is not all of the e-titles available. The library has recently added e-books from Springer books and has access to 70,000 titles from the Ebrary collection. In the fall the library will be adding ebooks from Wiley and Project Muse.

In order for the library to pay for the new One Search option, it had to do another round of cancellations this past fiscal year. The library now receives only 350 periodical titles in print, but has access to at least 70,000 full-text electronic periodical titles.

The library has signed up for two database trials for the fall: 1) National Geographic magazine online digital archives from 1888-1994, and 2) ProQuest History Vault, a collection of digitized primary-source materials on topics in 20th century American history.

The library has eliminated 2 faculty positions and 1 staff position due to financial considerations. There are several rumors about changes coming to the library. Representatives from Starbucks have toured the library for the possibility of putting in a café in the building. The primary location under consideration is the current ARC computer lab at the west entrance. If this does happen, the library hopes the computer lab will be relocated elsewhere in the building since it is heavily use, mostly by A&S students.

Another rumor is that the University Administration is seriously considering moving the McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library (aka the University Archives) from the Springhill campus to the 3rd Floor South of the University Library. If this were to happen, it would mean the elimination of most, if not all, of the bound periodicals from the collection, as well as 50 study spaces for students. Such a move would, however, not affect the old PETAL center and the Library Instruction room.

- **Medicine (Judy Burnham)**

Healthy U-S-A Fair to be held 8/24, 10-2 at the Faculty Club. First 200 participants get a free lunch and door prizes will be awarded

Monthly Med School Cafe continues to be held with the next one on 9/19. Presentations by COM Faculty are on timely, interesting health-related topics

COM is in second week of new curriculum, which is based on organ system rather than discipline. To enhance integration of Team-Based-Learning in the curriculum an Active Learning Center has been developed across from the Biomedical Library

- **Mitchell College of Business (Ken Hunsader)**

The MCOB had its annual retreat on August 17th. We welcomed one new hire in accounting. We also discussed our AACSB accreditation visit which is to occur on Oct. 1 and 2nd. Our new doctoral program's webpage is up and running on the MCOB website and it has led to some calls from professionals around the country who are possibly interested in our new program.

- **Nursing (Ellen Buckner)**

The College of Nursing is actively transferring and creating courses in SAKAI. We would like to thank the ILC and particularly Jeff Davidson for their Outstanding Assistance. We also welcome new full time Faculty in Adult Health Nursing (AHN), Community Mental Health Nursing (CMN) and Maternal Child Nursing (CMN):

Dr. Kay Lynn Olmsted Assistant Professor CMN

Dr. Bettina Riley Assistant Professor CMN

Kelly Branford Instructor AHN

Shanda Scott Instructor CMN

Dr. Alice Younce Assistant Professor AHN

Heather Horton Instructor AHN

Dr. Callie Cheese Assistant Professor MCN

- **Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health (Susan Gordon-Hickey)**

The Physician Assistant Studies Department was awarded a USA Department of Health and Human Services - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant. The grant is aimed at helping PA majors from disadvantaged backgrounds with the cost of their education. The College hopes to have the Emergency Medical Services Training Department move from Brookley to Main Campus in the next year.

Some CAHP faculty are participating in the QEP and implementing Team Based Learning in their courses this year.

Special Presentation on Amendment 1 by President Moulton

In summary, President Moulton reported that the state system is struggling to fund public institutions. Alabama's tax funds are divided into the General Fund and the Educational Trust Fund. Public safety, prisons, and health care are funded out of the General Fund. For the most part, these are taxes against revenues and income. This system is volatile and dependent on the overall economy. Alabama has never had an adequate tax base to fund Medicaid. There is an incentive for the state to provide funds to match federal funds. Then, those funds are reimbursed. There is not enough money to match Medicaid, which would result in no federal funding for Medicaid. Our hospitals and physicians provide a great deal of indigent care and Medicaid services. If federal funding is not available, it will put hospitals out of business. The legislature voted to propose a constitutional amendment that borrows \$400 million from the Oil and Gas Trust Fund with a plan to pay back across three years. Since we are a primary provider, our teaching hospitals would be in danger and a large percentage of our community would be without adequate healthcare. This plan does not raise taxes. As an institution we are in favor of this passing. Since it relates to our teaching, service, and research purposes as an institution, we are encouraging faculty, staff, and students to vote in favor of this amendment. It is unusual for us to take a stand on this type of issue. There will be emails, meetings, and other efforts to support this amendment.

Phil Carr asked President Moulton if the Educational Trust Fund is in jeopardy if this does not pass. He stated that the likelihood of that happening is low. It is possible through the political process if funds are diverted or taxes are proposed to fund Education. He stated that what we have is bad enough, but what we could get is worse. K-12 only has funding through the state, while higher education gains revenue through tuition. This could lead to decreased funding for higher education and increased funding for K – 12.

Judy Burnham asked if there was any information source for faculty. President Moulton responded that it was not available at this time, but that they would work on providing information to faculty.

President Moulton indicated that the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve the budget in the next two weeks. Our enrollment is down slightly which leads to a \$1 million deficit. A balanced budget was created without raises, but this must be adjusted because of this deficit. He indicated that they will be looking for ways to provide raises to faculty this year. They will be working on this and keeping us informed. Two factors likely impacted enrollment: family financial situations and increased minimum ACT score was raised by 1 point (eliminated 160 students who would have enrolled).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm, and administrators joined Senators at the Faculty Club for a social event.