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## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes - February 2005

Faculty Senators

*University of South Alabama*

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA  
FACULTY SENATE  
2004-2005

February 16, 2005  
University Library, Rm. 110

Approved MINUTES

The meeting began at 3:04 p.m. with Chair Steve Morris presiding.

As a quorum was not present, so Steve started with the Chair Report (full copy included in Senate's records). Mostly, the report detailed discussions between the Senate Executive Council and President Moulton. Discussion points centered on environmental matters related to university construction, obtaining clarification on the new pharmacy deductible policy (Wayne Davis sent a handout with numerous examples via Steve to the Senate's meeting; a copy included in Senate's records), and updates on the possible site of the Nursing/Allied Health building, the possible pharmacy program, and the current state funding outlook for 2005-2006.

Dr. David Nelson, Association Professor of Biology, reported on the ecology of the USA campus. Dr. Nelson's presentation focused on the desire for university members to be good stewards of the resources here. Being good stewards does not mean being obstructionists, but aiding in choices that emphasize natural/native solutions to landscaping problems. (For example, Dr. Nelson recommends the use of native flora as it requires less care – watering/fertilizing, and the avoidance of engineered solutions – concrete/asphalt/riprap.)

After Dr. Nelson's presentation, a quorum was declared.

Present: Aronson, Beverly, Brown, Bru, Dickens, Dupree, Flynn Godfrey, Guion, Hain, Harris, Haywick, Jefferson, King, Kovaleski, Lauderdale, McCready, McIntosh, Millner, Morris, Nowlin, Pardue, Parker, Perez Pineda, Peters, Pillen, Powell, Robertson, Rodning, Ryan, Sachs, Sanders, Sauer, Scammell, Spake, Swofford, and Sylvester.

Excused: Ames, Brick, Coleman, Donovan, Giles, Harrison, Molokhia, Moore, Pruitt, Rattie, and Teplick.

Unexcused: Aldes, Burkhardt, Costello, Davis, Husain, Luterman, Mancini, Whitehurst, and Wooster.

Guests: Amy (**Mobile Register**), Nelson (Associate Professor, Biology)

The Minutes of the January 19th meeting were approved without revision.

There was no Old Business to conduct and Dr. Nelson's presentation was the only New Business item on the agenda.

### **Reports from standing committees**

Academic Development & Mentoring: John Kovaleski reports the committee will conduct a program evaluation of Mentors and Mentees in March. The committee is also working on including more information online.

Academic Policy and Faculty Handbook: Marian Peters had no report.

Environmental Quality: Along with the presentation from Dr. Nelson in New Business, Vaughn Millner requested that the Faculty Senate approve purchasing a Wood Duck box (for nesting purposes) to be located in the wetlands area. The box would be purchased from the Alabama Coastal Foundation. The \$25 expenditure was approved. (Also, individual senators pledged their own added funds to allow installing the 5-6 boxes that the area can support.) Installation will be done by a Boy Scout as part of his Eagle project. Vaughn also reported that the committee is gathering information as to how to donate a "living memorial" on the campus (and will place the information of the senate webpage for easy retrieval when obtained).

Evaluation: Deborah Spake reports the University Club survey results are in (to be discussed by John Sachs in Planning & Development report). The committee is trying to ready the annual Faculty Survey before Spring Break. Wrestling continues with the issues of length and security/privacy.

Planning & Development: John Sachs reports the University Club survey shows that 80% of those responding support the club's founding. However, only 20% of faculty responded to the survey. The committee will discuss implications. (The survey's results were included in handouts to senators and a copy is in the Senate's records.)

Salary & Fringe Benefits: Steve Teplick reports (via Steve Morris) that all examples of universities with Dental Plans have "optional" coverage and none has an employer paying for the coverage. A faculty salary comparison versus peer institutions that was incomplete from the past is heading forward under Dr. Covey's leadership. (Steve reports he will investigate administrator salaries as well.)

Technology Utilization: Jan Sauer reports that the possibility of ordering textbooks online for the bookstore seems remote at best given legal issues regarding access from outside vendors as well as the difficulty of the bookstore's having to deal with all individual professors instead of with departments.

## **Caucus Leaders reports**

Allied Health: John Jefferson reports no news.

Arts & Sciences: Federico Perez-Pineda reports the college's Dean would like to be able to meet with all faculty representatives at once instead of one by one.

CIS: Harold Pardue reports no news.

Continuing Education: Elliot Lauderdale reports no news.

Education: Irene McIntosh reports the college expects to have a Faculty Assembly within the next month. She reports a very cooperative process in working with the college's Dean in formulating assembly bylaws and such.

Engineering: Nicholas Sylvester reports two past meetings with the college's Dean. The two main issues are: 1) the desire to normalize teaching loads across the college and 2) new searches for two department chairs. One search will be internal, the other internal/external.

Library: Justin Robertson reports no news.

Medicine: Nick Aronson reports no news.

MCOB: Jim Swofford reports no news other than the hiring of two marketing positions.

Nursing: Rebecca Ryan reports no news.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

(A special Executive Council meeting convened afterward to hear a presentation from Mr. Gordon Stone, director, Higher Education Partnership (HEP). A handout from Mr. Stone regarding Higher Education Day is in Senate records.)

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23rd.