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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – January 2011

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January 19, 2011
3pm -- Library Auditorium

MINUTES

Present: E. Adams, Estis, Gubler, Spector, Carr, Connors, Dardeau, Fisher, Guzy, Haywick, Marshall, Moore, Roddy, Shaw, Shelly-Tremblay, Toelken, Feinstein, Langan, Kingman, Campbell, Davidson-Shivers, Norrell, P. Turnipseed, M. Adams, Omar, Finley, Nero, Grishko, Kahn, Martinko, Rachek, Rizk, Rusyniak, Madden, Retzlaff-Roberts, D. Turnipseed, Herf, Keasler, Meyer, Minchew, Quiett

Excused: Hillman, Lunceford, Powers, Summerlin, Byrd, Kaulfers, Perry, Brown

Unexcused: Husain, Donovan, Lemley, Bosarge, Green

1. Call to order—with quorum at 3:04 pm.
2. Approval of minutes from the November meeting. S. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by G. Dardeau. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Chair's report - J. Connors

J. Connors reported that the one-time salary supplement moved forward quickly. President Moulton consulted with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Upon our approval, he presented the proposal to the Board of Trustees. It was a significant investment in the faculty, and it served as recognition to the faculty.

The committees for the SACS review have been set. The Senate is represented. J. Connors- Leadership, K. Woodford- Policy Committee, S. Fisher- Reading Committee, D. Langan- Quality Enhancement Committee (committee will determine areas for university-wide enhancement). The Senate and the Faculty in general are well-represented in these groups.

4. Old Business

- a. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. Calendar Committee (Tom Meyer & Phil Carr)

The calendar committee met. The calendar for 2011-2012 has been set, and the start date cannot be changed. However, some minor modifications may be considered. The committee consists of faculty, students, and administrators. The committee recommended a one day fall break and a dead day. Saturday finals do remain on the calendar in this recommendation. The 2012-2013 calendar will receive more input from the committee. The committee will be soliciting feedback from all parties involved. The recommendation will be made by the end of the semester.

J. Shelley-Tremblay expressed concern that the report date for faculty is the same, but the course start date is later.

G. Dardeau stated that financial aid and veterans aid students are having difficulty meeting deadlines with the new schedule. G. Dardeau expressed additional concern related to the January 3 start date.

D. Langan expressed concern that the report date is January 3 rather than January 11. He indicated that this impacts the ability of faculty to engage in consultative work.

P. Carr suggested that one option to address this issue would be to drop the word “faculty” from the report date.

J. Connors recommended that this issue be explored further by the calendar committee representatives.

G. Davidson-Shivers stated that the calendar changes resulted in a change in the contract schedule because it goes beyond the 16-week schedule. Undergraduates in the COE fieldwork program had difficulty with the 2010-2011 calendar.

M. Spector reported similar problems with Allied Health.

D. Langan questioned the rationale of starting late due to hurricanes.

T. Meyer responded, indicating that the committee questioned these types of motives/rationales.

G. Dardeau stated that the SGA passed a resolution for a 2-day Fall Break, so it may be binding. She also questioned the motive of faculty orientation driving the decision.

J. Connors asked that any calendar information/suggestions be sent to T. Meyer and P. Carr.

ii. Public Relations Committee (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)

J. Shelley-Tremblay reported that nominations were solicited for the three categories of awards. Five different individuals or groups were nominated. All of them had multiple faculty support. The committee is recommending that all five nominees receive the awards this year. Nominees are Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, L. Dubose/Bay Area Women’s Coalition, Weeks Bay Estuary Reserve, Providence Rehab, Melissa Huff.

D. Langan asked that the process be vetted more. Additional discussion ensued.

D. Keasler made a motion to approve the recommendation to award five Faculty Senate awards this year. D. Haywick seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried.

iii. Cost Saving Committee (Kathryn Toelken)

No report.

b. Constitutional Reform

J. Connors presented the final draft of the updated USA Faculty Senate Constitution with minor friendly amendments. He described the development process as including the work of an ad hoc committee, the Executive Committee, and the administration. He stated that, “We have to be in a situation where we are building for this institution. This provides freedom for us to govern ourselves through our own by-laws, which will not require Board of Trustees approval.”

D. Haywick moved to accept friendly amendments. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The floor was open for discussion.

T. Shaw asked for clarification on the change of the committee structures to the by-laws.

M. Spector asked if moving the details to the by-laws would impact the recognition of our structure by the administration.

D. Feinstein asked for clarification regarding the terminology “impact on academic programs.”

M. Spector feels strongly that the Senate should determine which committees need representation.

D. Haywick stated that the constitution be as perfect as possible because it will not be revised easily.

T. Shaw stated that one of the nice things about this new document is that it does change the amendment process- making it easier to implement amendments.

G. Dardeau reported that the ad hoc committee did a comparison study. She stated, “This document makes us competitive with our peer institutions. This document gives us the strength we need to address issues with the administration. This document can stand alone.”

G. Dardeau made a motion to vote to approve the updated Faculty Senate Constitution. The motion received a second by E. Adams. The vote was 38 in favor and 1 abstention; therefore, the motion carried.

5. New Business

There was no new business for this meeting.

6. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr)- A teaching conference will be held on campus in May. Please see the USA website for details on submitting a proposal.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Marshall)- February 9-10 will be the launch date for a faculty and student drive energy-saving campaign.
- Evaluation (Patsy Turnipseed)—No report.
- Planning and Development (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)—The unique role of this committee is uncertain. He asked that the role of the committee be evaluated as the new by-laws are created.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)—The committee is addressing the outstanding issue on the nondiscrimination policy. A university committee has been established to address this issue. The resolution will be on hold until the university committee meets.
- Salary and Benefits (Elizabeth Adams)—No report.
- Technology Utilization (Diane Keasler)—No report.

7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Mike Spector)—No report.
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw & Laura Moore)—No report.
- Continuing Education (Amy Kingman)—Vaughn Milner was appointed Dean. Developmental Studies is moving to a new location.
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan)—No report.
- Education (Dennis Campbell)—No report.
- Engineering (Francis Donovan)—No report.
- Library (Vera Finley)—No report.
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts)—No report.
- Medicine (?)—Children and Women’s construction is underway.
- Nursing (Henri Brown)—No report.

S. Fisher made a motion to adjourn. D. Campbell provided a second. The Senate unanimously voted to adjourn at 4:10 pm.