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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – January 2009

Faculty Senators

University of South Alabama

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Senators, Faculty, "Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – January 2009" (2009). *Minutes 2008-2009*. 3.
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**January 21, 2009
Library Auditorium
3:00 pm**

Minutes

Approved by voice vote at the February 18, 2009 meeting of the Faculty Senate

Present: Aliabadi, Aucoin, Baggett, Bru, Burnham, Byrne, Campbell, Carr, Carter, Connors, Doran, Estis, Engin, Falkos, Fantoni, Fresne, Hamilton, Irion, Johnsten, Keasler, A. Kahn, I. Khan, King, Kinniburgh, Lemley, Loomis, Major, McCreedy, Moore, Morris, Nowlin, Pérez Pineda, Prendergast, Prescott, Quereshi, Romey, Sachs, Tate, Toelken, Turnipseed, Vrettos, Woodford, Tony Wright, Tootie Wright

Excused: Ambrose, Haywick, McNair, Meyer, Perry, Summerlin, Teplick

Unexcused: Allison, Estrada, McCormick, Omar, Pacheco, Patterson, Rowell

1. Call to order

Chair Sachs called the meeting at 3:04 with a quorum present.

2. VP Ron Franks on the new University Urgent Care Clinic

Dr. Franks introduced a colleague to describe the Urgent Care Clinic. The clinic began operation on January 1. It is open from 8-5 M-F to see faculty/staff and dependents and is staffed by Nurse Practitioner. The clinic is also open to all, but is not being marketed to the public. The facility is located next door to the student health clinic and includes lab facilities. While it is a full service clinic, it is not meant to provide primary care, just for urgent issues. If needed, the clinic will send you to the USA health system. A family medicine physician is on-call as backup to the Nurse practitioner. Web site provides additional information, showing the different services provided. The cost is the normal co-pay, which for USA health plan member would be \$10.

3. Approval of minutes from the November meeting

Jean Irion moved approval of the November minutes. Smoot Major seconded the motion and the assembly approved the minutes by voice vote.

4. Chair's report

Sachs reviewed the written report provided to the Senators (see attached report).

5. Old Business

- Dean's proposal on hiring faculty with terminal degrees
Item addressed in the chair's report.

6. New Business

- Food drive competition with the students

Sachs noted that we have four slots left to work the table at the SC. He also asked senators to donate can food during the drive.

7. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Susan McCready)
McCready reported that the committee had just met and are in the process of talking with new faculty to improve the Petal program for incoming faculty. She invited feedback from others. The committee plans on meeting soon with the head of the Petal program.
- Environmental Quality (Smoot Major)
The committee recently met. Among the matters discussed is safety. Given that the escort service has been discontinued, the committee plans on asking the police what they recommend. The committee also talked about getting the SGA involved in some sort of community watch effort. The committee is also addressing the issue of recycling on campus. One problem is that the paper bins look like trashcans. Major asked whether student clubs are active in particular buildings who may become more involved. One idea is to have students map the recycling bins on campus. The committee also talked about joining with the coastal cleanup effort to give it campus-wide sponsorship. Major indicated that there are plans to develop 20 signs for the nature trail and efforts are underway to have a Kiosk built. Langan asked about expanding recycling to include glass and plastic. Major noted that the committee looked into this last year, but were informed that it was not cost effective. Irion mentioned that the key is trying to get students more involved. One senator asked whether the committee had been in contact with campus recreation regarding the nature trail. Major noted that Philip Theodore has been contacted about it.
- Evaluation (Vicki Tate)
No meeting this month. The committee is working on the final stage of the evaluation survey. The committee expects to get the survey to the faculty sometime in February.
- Planning and Development (Zari Aliabadi)
No report
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Liz Romey)
Romey reported that the committee is looking at the resolution on the suspension of the tenure clock for personal emergencies. She expects to discuss a proposed resolution at the next executive committee. Sachs commented that the administration felt that we often do this already at least informally.
- Salary and Benefits (Jean Irion)
Irion reminded everyone of the on-line health survey that seeks to identify an individual's health risks. In return for completing the survey, BC/BS is offering a \$50 gift certificate for the employee and for the spouse. Irion mentioned that the next university meeting is next week. She also suggested that it may be good to have someone from BC/BS come to a future senate meeting to discuss materials on line at behealthly.com. A senator asked Irion to check up on the time it takes to get the gift certificate.
- Technology Utilization (Tom Meyer)
No report. Judy Burnham mentioned that Apple will be giving a presentation about iTunes in the College of Education next Tuesday.

7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Julie Estis)

Estis noted that the college is coordinating its move to new building, planned for May 4. Estis also announced that the Dean's Advisory Council, comprised of representatives from each department, will be working on initiatives to develop Grand Rounds and cross discipline course offerings (e.g. anatomy and physiology, research design, counseling). She also noted that the program in clinical laboratory sciences closed beginning next year because of lack of students and high costs. John added that he had discussed this with Moulton. Irion mentioned that the administration wrestled with this matter during the past three years.

- Arts and Sciences (Phil Carr)

Carr reported that the caucus had met with the new interim Dean and expects to continue to conduct monthly meetings. There is no decision yet on conducting a search.

Written report attached.

- Continuing Education (Stephen Bru)

No report

- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan)

No report. David Langan was selected to serve as the new caucus leader, replacing Mirke Doran.

- Education (Leah Kinniburgh)

No report.

- Engineering (Peter Byrne)

No report

- Library (Amy Prendergast)

No report

- Mitchell College of Business (Greg Prescott)

Prescott reported that the college faculty recently met to discuss budget issues. He also reported two large gifts from faculty going to their respective programs.

- Medicine (Sheryl Falkos)

Falkos reported that there will be a meeting at end of month to evaluate the medical center to see if it qualified for trauma I center funding

- Nursing (Tootie Wright)

Wright noted that the faculty is anxious about the move to the new building and concerned about the parking situation. Irion noted that the administration is considering changing the designation of parking spaces in the lot from student parking to faculty and patient parking.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm.