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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes - January 2006

Faculty Senators

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
FACULTY SENATE
2005-2006

January 18, 2006
University Library, Rm. 110

Approved MINUTES

The meeting began at 3:05 p.m. with Chair Doug Haywick presiding.

Doug announced a quorum was present.

Present: Brenda Beverly, Nicole Amare, Steve Brick, Kristy Britt, Cynthia Crumb, Nicole Flynn, Doug Haywick, Zoya Khan, Susan McCready, Steve Morris, Barry Nowlin, Federico Perez-Pineda, Tom Hain, Stephen Bru, Daphne Hubbard, John Kovaleski, Irene McIntosh, Vaughn Millner, Susan Santoli, Martin Parker, Dennis Guion, Jie Li, Jan Sauer, Judy King, Richard Whitehurst, Gary Carnahan, Kevin Olden, Kathy Porter, Craig Sherman, Natasha Delcours, Ed Harrison, Deborah Spake, Jim Swofford, Alice Godfrey, Irene Rattie

Excused: Robert Moore, Bill Pruitt, Donna Wooster, Robert Coleman, Genevieve Dardeau, Vasilij Prokhorov, Elliot Lauderdale, Abdullah Ficici, Curtis Harris, Arnold Luterman, Frank Pettyjohn, Randall Powell, Scott Douglass, Nicholas Sylvester, Cindy Morgan, Rebecca Ryan, Thomas Williams

Unexcused: James Davis, April Dupree, Harold Pardue, Nicholas Sylvester, Barbara Burckhartt, Melissa Costello, Elizabeth Mancini, Ehab Molokhia

The Minutes of the November 16th meeting were approved with no corrections.

Chair's Report

Doug began the Chair's Report by providing information from the December 8th Board of Trustees Meeting held at the Children and Women's Hospital. The net assets of the Foundation are \$267,698,000, an increase of \$1,997,000 or .8% from the assets at June 30, 2005. The Foundation received several recent contributions including a bequest from N. Jack Stallworth (providing funding for scholarships, a lectureship, and preservation of his historic home) and a bequest from the Peter Weise Estate with an initial gift of \$150,000 and a subsequent gift of \$50,000 for the Frederick Palmer Whiddon Scholarship. The Foundation provided a semi-annual contribution of roughly \$2,105,000 to the University to support academic programs. In addition, the Foundation pledged \$750,000 in support of the Cancer Research Institute. The Foundation also discussed the significant amount of timberland invested and indicated that this is a sound investment.

Doug thanked faculty for their attendance of the recent basketball game and their support of the players during the game. Bob Shearer reported to Doug that this was a very well-attended event.

In other news, Doug reported that Barbara Shirvanian, Administrative Assistant in Student Affairs, is working with Circle K in spearheading an annual campus beautification project. Students and faculty are invited to help clean the campus this Saturday, January 21. The clean-up effort is especially important this year since there is additional debris from Hurricane Katrina. If faculty are interested, contact Doug or Barry Nowlin.

Doug reported the faculty newsletter is somewhat delayed, but is expected to be published within in a couple of weeks.

Following his report, Doug opened the floor for questions.

- Is the Foundation soliciting new donations? Doug reported that Dr. Busta is responsible for raising money for the University but he did recently receive money from the Foundation that originated from outside sources.

- Are there donations for the University Club? Doug made a commitment to the administration not to independently solicit funds which otherwise might be targeted for the University. The plan is to expand the University Club and then ask Dr. Busta to raise funds for it. Any fund raising protocols should go straight to Dr. Busta.

Old Business

Ad hoc Retention Committee. Doug reminded senators that retention is measured at the University as to how many first time students will graduate within 6 years. The current calculation is 33%. There has been concern expressed by faculty as to how to evaluate success. Dr. Covey has endorsed the development of a faculty committee to study the issue. Committee members are Cynthia Crumb (chair), Kristy Britt, Tom Hain, Natasha Delcoure and Susan Santoli.

Doug asked senators about topics they would like for the committee to address. One suggestion from the floor was for the committee to ask the Deans how they are addressing retention. A second request to the committee was to be sure faculty are qualified to teach the Freshman Experiences course (CP100). Several senators expressed concern about the consistency of the content across all course sections. A third suggestion was that the committee look at exit interviews to determine why students leave. A fourth and final suggestion regarded advising. The committee was asked to examine departmental advising and mentoring initiatives and link advising to mentoring, if possible. The senate could look at data from a mentoring program collected by Cherry Watkins from Student Support Services.

Retention. Doug reported that Dr. Covey has scheduled a February 24th and 25th workshop in Atlanta for University representatives to study retention. Vans for transportation will be provided by the University and the group attending the workshop will include faculty senate representatives. A second initiative developed by Dr. Covey includes a visit by deans, faculty, and faculty senate representatives to Kennesaw State in Georgia to review the best freshman experience course in the country. Doug suggested that we develop a mechanism to evaluate the strategies adopted for retention to determine what does and does not work.

New Business. None

Reports from Standing Committees

Academic Development & Mentoring: John Kovaleski reported there is a full report in the upcoming newsletter. The committee intends to approach a new direction since the committee is no longer sponsoring the mentoring program. The committee intends to look at a new mission statement. They may survey individual faculty to see what is effective and what is not working.

Academic Policy and Faculty Handbook: Donna Wooster. No report.

Environmental Quality: Barry Nowlin reported progress with jogging/walking trails as well as with signing associated with nature trails. Students are enthusiastic about taking over the projects. Conservation initiatives will be involved as well as plans for maps.

Evaluation: Deborah Spake reported the committee met and looked at different ways to survey. They are considering using Survey Monkey. An advantage to this software is that faculty can begin the survey, leave it and go back later. They are planning a meeting to ask Dr. Covey about the cost and sponsorship of the software license.

Planning & Development: Nicole Flynn reported that she had talked with Dr. Busta about options for fund-raising. The committee is considering a wine-tasting event. A location that meets the needs of the event is the new archeological museum. The event would need to be limited in size (50 people). Firm details will be available at the next faculty senate meeting. Nicole suggested that the University Club be transitioned to a University committee. Dr. Busta should be on the committee and would be in a position to be sure that fund-raising efforts would not conflict with alumni fund raising.

Salary & Fringe Benefits: Susan McCready reported the committee will meet after the University Fringe Benefits committee meets. The Dental plan seems to be working.

Technology Utilization: Jan Sauer reported the committee will meet today following the faculty senate meeting. Jan has placed faculty development opportunities on campus on the web page.

Caucus Leaders Reports

Allied Health: Bob Moore. No report.

Arts & Sciences: Federico Perez-Pineda reported that the college will meet next month.

Computer & Information Sciences: Harold Pardue. No report.

Continuing Education: Elliot Lauderdale. No report.

Education: John Kovaleski reported for Daphne Hubbard. John indicated the COE constituted the Faculty Council and elected delegates. The Council is now intact. John offered to make the bylaws available to senators by e-mail upon request.

Engineering: Martin Parker. No report.

Library: Dennis Guion. There are new titles and a comfortable chair in the lobby for patrons.

Medicine: Gary Carnahan. No report.

Mitchell College of Business: Jim Swofford. No report.

Nursing: Irene Rattie. No report.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 2006