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Minutes 2019-2020

Faculty Senate Minutes

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2-1-2020

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – February 2020

Faculty Senators

*University of South Alabama*

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Faculty Senate

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### Plenary Session

February 19, 2020 – Faculty Club – 3:00 pm

#### MINUTES

Present: O'Connor, Pelekanos, Thompson, Adams, Beebe, Cesarini, Feldvoss, Gibbs, Gossett, Halbrooks, Hossain, Lewis, Mark, McCready, Raczkowski, Koon-Magnin, Zlomke, McKinney, Sittig, Gecewicz, Koestner, Broach, Donaldson, Fregeau, Woltring, Cleary, Lemley, Shepard, Harmon, Lin, Pai, Ponnambalam, Rayner, Sayner, Weber, Huang, Turnipseed, Copeland, Myers, Riley, Swanzy, VandeWaa

Excused Absence: Cooper, Henry, Powell, Bryan, Lindeman, Rinehart, Robertson, Sweeney, Cloutier, Webb, Madden, Scott

- Call to Order: 3:04
- Approval of Minutes: MMSA
- Approval of Agenda: MMSA
- President's Report:
  1. A lot has been happening on the Enrollment front. Salvadore (Sal) Liberto has been chosen as the interim associate vice president for enrollment services. He was one of three candidates identified by a registry firm of higher ed contractors who do these short-term (6-9 month) assignments as "fixers." Some of us on Ex. Comm had the opportunity to meet the three candidates, who were all here on campus together last week. Liberto came across as a straightforward professional, who was really clear about and totally unfazed by the challenges we are facing. He starts today!
 

While he is here, they are going to start the process of hiring for the permanent position. They are going to work with a search firm to do this. It is not clear to what extent restructuring might be part of this hire. They seem to want to leave that open-ended. I am not sure what the title is going to be either. We will keep you informed as this develops.
  2. The various enrollment committees have submitted reports and the main "Strategy Committee" is going to meet tomorrow and next week to formalize some recommendations. There were some common themes in the various committee reports: need to focus our brand and improve marketing, moving some scholarship funding to need based aid, evaluation of programs, enhance transfer recruitment, strengthen relationships with industry/career readiness, generally modernize recruitment. I think we should all be

concerned about what it means to start of process of evaluating programs with an eye toward sunseting some and expanding others. I am going to push for transparency and inclusiveness in this process.

3. Admin updated us on various building projects/expansions on the healthcare side. There is going to be a 45M bond issue to support some of this: renovation of the Commons, physicians of “Taco Mama,” warehouse on campus, Fairhope MCI expansion, more beds at University Hospital, pediatric emergency and Children’s and Women’s. The health system has turned around financially thanks to the Healthcare Authority that has allowed USA to acquire various medical practices into our network.
4. We asked Admin about a Dual Enrollment proposal which I think some of us seemed to know more about than they did. Johnson is expecting a proposal shortly and I think there is going to be a significant push to get us into the local schools with a variety of on-line offerings that will also have some on-campus components.
5. Board of Trustees:  
John Cleary and I met with Jimmy Shumack and Mike Windom of the Board of Trustees. Jimmy is the Chairman; Mike chairs the Academic Affairs subcommittee. We provided them with the results of the last two years’ faculty surveys and had a pretty good discussion about issues affecting faculty. We are not on their agenda for their March 6 meeting, but Jimmy Shumack, Alexis Atkins - Board Officer (Secretary), Vice Chair of the Audit Committee and member of the Budget Committee, Mike Windom - Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and member of the Compensation and Evaluation, Development and Endowment and Long Range Planning Committees, and Chandra Brown Stewart - Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee and member of the Development and Endowment, Budget and Health Committees, will attend our plenary on March 18. With this group of Trustees, we have all of the Board committees represented, including 2 Officers and 2 Committee Chairs. So, it is not exactly what we were able to do two years ago but it represents a not insignificant commitment of time and energy from the BOT.

- Committee Report: Faculty Senate Salary and Benefits (Jamie Adams)

An announcement was made in the Digest about Teledoc being a new benefit to USA employees. The University fringe benefits committee will meet in March. Adams discussed a recent meeting with Scott Weldon, Tina Stalmach, and Gerald Gattis.

- Elections (John Cleary)

New Senators will be elected soon. The April meeting will be the first official meeting of the 2020-2021 year at which time new officers and chairs of committees will be elected. Cleary asked for nominations for new officer candidates.

- Other

- Shepard: policies passed by the Senate are still with CAD. Handbook changes have all been made and are on the website.
  - Sayner discussed the College of Medicine town hall.
- Adjourn: MMSA, 4:05.