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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – July 2010

Faculty Senators

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

July 21, 2010
Library Auditorium
3:00 pm

Minutes

Present: E. Adams, Estis, Gubler-Hanna, Spector, Connors, Guzy, Haywick, Hillman, Husain, Lunceford, Moore, Powers, Shaw, Shelly-Tremblay, Summerlin, Feinstein, Langan, Byrd, Campbell, Davidson-Shivers, Norrell, P. Turnipseed, M. Adams, Donovan, Omar, Finley, Lemley, Nero, Grishko, Kahn, Kaulfers, Martinko, Rachek, Rizk, Rusyniak, D. Turnipseed, Brown, Keasler, Meyer, Minchew

Excused: Carr, Dardeau, Fisher, Marshall, Toelken, Green, Madden, Retzlaff-Roberts, Herf

Unexcused: Roddy, Bosarge, Perry

1. Call to order at 3:00pm (with quorum)
2. Approval of minutes from the April meeting

Motion was made by Douzi and seconded by Lunceford to approve April minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Chair's report - J. Connors

The Chair is meeting with President Moulton and other administrators on a regular basis. We are working to improve communication between the administration and the faculty. First, we'd like to encourage them to provide information to us, the Faculty Senate, for distribution to the faculty. It is important the Senators and Caucus leaders get the information presented during Faculty Senate meetings to those they represent. Second, we are working to ensure adequate Faculty Senate representation on University committees.

4. Old Business

- a. Election of Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

Tom Meyer was nominated from the floor. The motion was seconded. After no other nominations were made, a motion to close nominations was presented and seconded.

J. Connors presented duties of the Chair Elect, which include working with the Chair to learn the job and prep for a year of service prior to becoming the Chair, and attending meetings with Executive Committee, meetings of Executive Committee with the Administration, University functions (e.g., Board of Trustees, SGA meetings), etc. Tom Meyer introduced himself and provided a brief description of his reasons for pursuing this position.

Floor opened for discussion. No further discussion was presented.

Tom Meyer was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair.

5. New Business

a. Fall Academic Calendar

J. Connors stated that several faculty members have approached the Faculty Senate with concerns regarding new academic calendar for Fall. The calendar includes a later start date, a Fall Break, Saturday final exams, and a later date for graduation. P. Carr represented the faculty on a University committee to investigate the addition of a Fall Break to the calendar. The calendar recommended by the committee was modified. SGA presented student concerns to D. Johnson and other administrators. Students reported specific concern over no “dead day” between classes and exams.

Discussion ensued. Concerns expressed regarding the calendar included: lack of fit with the local public school calendar, problems with Spring semester, issue of faculty giving up two consecutive Saturdays, and lack of “dead days.” There was a question from the Senate floor regarding nature of change to calendar. J. Connors responded that the initial change was to include a Fall Break.

J. Connors suggested that we form an ad-hoc calendar committee. B. Lunceford volunteered to serve as chair. T. Meyer encouraged us to view these types of committees as opportunities for the Senate to have a voice with the administration. J. Connors stated that at the last meeting we had with the administrators, they indicated that they appreciate the trust and collegiality that has been built between the administration and the Senate.

D. Haywick stated that the calendar will not be changed this year. Suggested inviting the registrar, D. Johnson, and any other administrators to come to discuss this issue with the Senate. J. Connors will invite D. Johnson to come to the next Faculty Senate meeting to discuss this issue further.

An ad hoc calendar committee was selected on volunteer basis: Lunceford (Chair), Kingman, Shivers, Brown, Feinstein, Donovan, Spector

b. Faculty Club progress update

J. Connors reported that workers are on-site and making progress. The building is framed out. Once completed, we will hold Senate meetings in this building. Includes large meeting room, bar, kitchen facilities, smaller fireside meeting rooms. It will be used for University functions. It is being given to the University by the contractors that are building the second phase of the Grove student housing. T. Meyer added that the building was given to the University in return for land.

c. Update on Faculty Senate Constitution reform

Constitutional Committee has been working hard through the Summer to create two drafts of reformed constitutions. One is a longer form that specifies the rules of the Senate in more detail. The other is a shorter version outlining the policies of the Senate with added bylaws to describe operating procedures. Committee reviewed 18 different constitutions from other institutions as they drafted the new documents. The Executive Committee will review and edit a draft of the Constitution prior to submission for initial review.

d. Proposal for annual Faculty Senate banquet

J. Connors and D. Turnipseed are working on putting together an end-of-the-year Faculty Senate banquet. The President will fund the event. The Chang award will be presented. The Friday before Final Exams begin for the Spring Semester has been suggested as a possible date. Please pass your comments along to J. Connors, D. Turnipseed, or J. Estis.

e. Faculty use of Student Recreation Center

This issue has been brought to the Senate from concerned faculty members. The proposed fee for faculty is \$15 per month. It will be a spectacular facility. President Moulton agreed to explore the possibility of reduced fees for faculty.

Discussion ensued and included faculty concern regarding facility closure during student breaks, fees for family members, faculty involvement in these decisions, and additional fees.

f. Homecoming 2010

D. Turnipseed (ad-hoc Homecoming Committee Chair) reported that Homecoming will take place on November 6. They are looking for sponsorships to cover food/drinks. Tent will be set up for gathering before game. Plans are coming together well.

6. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr)-- Laura Moore reported for the committee. She indicated that the committee will be collecting information and making suggestions to improve these aspects of our faculty. The committee will work to help faculty know about the programs that are in existence across campus. They will conduct a survey among Deans regarding mentoring in their respective college. Also, the Faculty Survey results and information from other institutions will be considered.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Marshall)-- No report.
- Evaluation (Patsy Turnipseed)-- The committee will meet August or September to review 2010 Faculty Surveys.
- Planning and Development (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)--Handed out committee goals. Please email with any questions/concerns. Proposing mechanisms for recruiting new senators.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)-- No report.
- Salary and Benefits (Elizabeth Adams)--Tobacco cessation program will be implemented in January. Waivers will be signed. Those who do not use tobacco will have reduced premiums. Committee will address the issues of: restricted leave time (sick family members) and salary compression (some on faculty who've been here for years earn less than new hires).
 - G. Davidson-Shivers questioned the insurance required for international travel raised to \$495 with no option to opt out.
 - J. Connors stated that the Executive Committee will take up this issue
 - B. Rizk indicated that the \$1 million cap on our USA Health Plan is a concern for many faculty members.
- Technology Utilization (Diane Keasler)-- Committee has been active. Met with D. Johnson and J. Dempsey to discuss the following initiatives: course redesign academy, undergraduate learning assistants will help with online teaching development, researching

learning management systems, new agreement with Camtasia software. The university is working on improved wireless internet access. Senators please poll faculty to determine if there are any dead spots or where services are low. A handout for Online Learning Labs courses for faculty was distributed. The university is looking at Luminous to take the place of PAWS, which should streamline services.

7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Mike Spector)-- Faculty expressed concern regarding the Fall Academic Calendar. The Dean's Advisory Council has not met in several months.
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw & Laura Moore)--The caucus leaders met with the Dean, and he is trying to have a good pedagogical foundation for online learning implementation. The caucus leaders asked that the Executive Committee or Technology Utilization Committee explore ways to communicate the vision of eLearning to the faculty. There seem to be myths about the intentions of the administration.
- Continuing Education (Amy Kingman)— The School of Continuing Education and Special Programs with the College of Engineering was awarded an \$80,000 grant to host the Exxon Mobil Bernard Harris Extreme Engineering Camp for forty 6th, 7th and 8th graders this summer. Activities were designed to interest students in the underrepresented fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Dr. Bernard Harris is the first African-American astronaut.
The School of Continuing Education and Special Programs had five course redesign proposals for fall. One of these is the Math Emporium model initiated by the Developmental Studies Department in a pilot study last spring. The Math Emporium model is an active learning model that involves computers; online instruction; tutoring and personal assistance by math faculty.
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan)—The new building is coming along well, with projected opening for January 2012
- Education (Dennis Campbell)-- The College of Education is getting ready for new Fall programs.
- Engineering (Francis Donovan)-- It was reported that the College of Engineering is looking forward to moving into the new building. They are currently developing a Ph.D. program in biomedical engineering.
- Library (Vera Finley)—The library is currently conducting a search for a librarian position.
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts)—No report.
- Medicine— Children's and Women's Hospital renovations are underway. Trauma Center is attracting a lot of patients who are unable to pay, but it is good for us to be labeled as this level of trauma center.
- Nursing (Henri Brown)— The College of Nursing is currently preparing for accreditation site visit in September. Moved BSN students to the new campus. All accelerated students have moved to Baldwin County. The College has received \$2 million in grants so far and await results from 4 more.

Adjourned at 4:31pm following such motion from T. Meyer and 2nd from T. Shaw.