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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – June 2008

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Faculty Senate 2007-08

University of South Alabama
Faculty Senate
2008-2009
June 18, 2008
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Approved Minutes

Present: Aliabadi, Aucoin, Baggett, Bru, Burnham, Carr, Carter, Connors, Estis, Engin, Fantoni, Fresne, Haywick, Irion, Johnsten, Keasler, I. Khan, King, Kinniburgh, Lemley, Loomis, Major, McCormick, Meyer, Moore, Morris, Nowlin, Omar, Prendergast, Prescott, Quereshi, Sachs, Tate, Toelken, Turnipseed, Vrettos, Woodford, Tony Wright, Tootie Wright.

Excused: Ambrose, Byrne, Campbell, Doran, Estrada, Falkos, Hamilton, A. Kahn, McCready, McNair, Patterson, Pérez Pineda, Perry, Romey, Rowell, Summerlin, Teplick.

Unexcused: Allison, Pacheco, Quereshi, Rowell.

1. Call to Order.

The chair, John Sachs, called the meeting to order at 3:04 P.M. with a quorum of Senators present.

2. Approval of Minutes from the April meeting.

Meyer moved to approve the minutes from the April meeting with some minor grammatical changes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

3. Chair's report.

Sachs briefly summarized the written report. He noted that the committee assignments had been completed and asked if there were any objections or problems. He noted that Tate and he participated in the interviews for the the new Dean of Students and submitted their input to the search committee. Moulton recently announced that Michael Mitchell, from Southern Mississippi and a former USA student, has accepted the position. Reporting on the executive committee meeting with President Moulton, Sachs noted that the search to replace Dr. Covey as Vice President of Academic Affairs will be a national search and that the administration is planning on hiring a national firm to conduct the search. We have been assured that approximately a third of the the search committee will be composed of faculty. He envisions himself serving on the search committee along with the chair elect, David Turnipseed. During the meeting, Sachs congratulated President Moulton on the university's successful collaboration with the USA Foundation on the hospital expansion. Sachs also updated the assembly on the status of the non-reappointment resolution from the prior senate. Following meetings of a special ad hoc committee, the Deans have raised some concerns and recommended certain changes. The Senate has yet to see those changes, though the interim VP believes that we will be pleased. Sachs informed the assembly of our plans to conduct three faculty forum this year and invited Senators to try to attend the one in their area to participate in the dialogue. Sachs also informed the group of the concern raised by faculty about meetings being scheduled during exam week. In response, the executive committee agreed to send a letter to the deans politely requesting that if

possible to refrain from holding meetings during that time. At that point, Haywick raised the issue of faculty on 9 month contracts being expected to be present for various departmental matters during the summer, such as advising, orientation, and assessment. Morris agreed that this is a concern that needs addressing. Sachs agreed and asked the Policy and Handbook Committee to look into the matter. Sachs informed that he asked Moulton for the numbers and data on the Foundation since the Foundation has asked to have a meeting with us.

Referring to a private meeting with the President that is not contained in the written report, Sachs summarized their discussion about the Senate survey. Sachs indicated to the President his sense that many of the faculty see the Senate as an ineffective arm of the administration. He indicated to the President that if we are going to work together, the faculty has to see us as effective. Two measures to improve this are visibility and communication with the administration. Generally, faculty doesn't see the administration as looking after their interests, and administration sees faculty as complainers. One example was the way the administration handled equity adjustments, which created problems and irritated a number of people unnecessarily. President Moulton shared a number of concerns and problems about the Senate survey which Sachs promised to share with the chair of that committee.

4. Presentation by Jim Ellis, Director of the new Office of International Education.

Ellis offered a brief overview of the goals and objectives of the former Office of International Programs and Development now the Office of International Education. The idea is to integrate international education into the core of the institution; the challenge is how to build this. Ellis noted the establishment of the Council on International Education, which has already met twice. The Council facilitates discussion among colleges. Among its first acts, it drafted a resolution on developing a unified endowment/development process for international curriculum development, travel, study abroad, etc. The account is entitled "Paws Around the World." At the same time, Ellis stated that he is trying to get a handle on what is going on internationally here and pull it together. The Gateway Page web page is a work in progress to accomplish this. Ellis also distributed a draft questionnaire to Senators that he is developing to gain information on the international experience and interests of faculty so that his office can effectively address needs and be more outgoing about who we are and what we are doing. He noted that since 1996 we have sent 430 students study abroad and that this year about 70 students will study abroad. He has visited freshman orientation to promote study abroad, telling students to talk to their professors early on about the opportunities and procedures. He stressed that it is not just Arts and Science students who can study abroad, but students in all other areas as well. Thus, it is important that each college determine its priorities in international education and that each program be able to tell the students how to incorporate international education into their specific area. His target is that within five years 25% of our graduating students will have completed a study abroad. Jim Aucoin asked about the CCSA program and opportunities for faculty to teach courses in the consortium. Ellis briefly described the CCSA consortium program, which offers courses not just London, but also in Ghana and perhaps in Hong Kong and India in the future. Faculty may propose a course and if selected, recruit students throughout the member schools. CCSA handles the administrative aspects. Jim Aucoin noted that he once proposed a course and promoted it, but that there was no interaction with the office of International Programs. Haywick asked if students qualify for financial aid for study abroad. Ellis indicated that they could, but that this is sometimes a problem in the summer because students may have used up their financial sources by then. Ellis noted that this is part of the development issue and that he would like to find a way to offer students \$3,000-4,000 per student to facilitate study abroad. He also noted the national initiatives, including a bill before the Senate (Simon bill) for \$80 million to fund scholarships for study abroad and development funds for universities. Irion asked if this would apply to graduate education and service learning. Ellis responded affirmatively, noting that internships abroad are an important component now of study abroad. He also noted the need

to help graduate students do research abroad. The key here lies in the departments where contacts already exist. Ellis asked if anyone had comments or suggestions to contact him.

5. Committee Assignments.

This item was addressed during the Chair's report. Meyer noted that Diane Keasler should be added to the Technology Utilization Committee.

6. Old Business

- Resolution Endorsing a Revision to the Faculty Handbook Exceptions to Standard Faculty Workload Expectations

Loomis, the former chair of the Policy and Handbook Committee, briefly described the change called for in the resolution. He noted that the change applies only to instructors. With no questions or discussion, Tate made a motion to move the question, which Major then seconded. The resolution passed by voice vote.

7. New Business

- Caucus Leaders.

Sachs asked about the selection of caucus leaders. The following selections were confirmed:

Allied Health: Julie Estis
Arts and Sciences: Phil Carr
Continuing Education: Stephen Bru
Education: same as last year
Engineering: Peter Byrne
Library: Amy Predergast
Medicine: Sheryl Falkos
MCOB: TBA
Nursing: Tootie Wright

Sachs noted that he would like to arrange a meeting with the caucus leaders and the executive committee to discuss ways to enhance and better define the role of the caucus leader and to help enhance the visibility of the senate and communications with faculty.

- Faculty forum in October.

Sachs pointed out that he will be coordinating the forum in the College of Education, Irion and Meyer will coordinate the forum at the Shack, and Tate and Morris will handle the one on the main campus.

- Grade grievance committee.

Sachs announced the need for 3 volunteers to serve on this university-wide committee. Haywick, Vrettos (Nursing) and Engin volunteered. Woodford and Mosely also agreed to serve as alternates if needed.

8. Committee Reports.

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Susan McCready): no report
- Environmental Quality (Smoot Major): Three members of the committee met prior to the senate meeting, briefly discussing issues from last year. The committee expects to work on a long-term vision for the nature trail. Major asked for members' email addresses.
- Evaluation (Vicki Tate): The chair will send out an email next week, hoping to have one meeting over the summer.
- Planning and Development (Zari Alabadi): The chair will send out an email next week, hoping to have one meeting over the summer.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Liz Romey): no report

- Salary and Benefits (Jean Irion): The chair will send out an email next week, hoping to have one meeting over the summer. Irion offered an update on the university salary /fringe benefits committee meeting. She noted no plan for an increase in the insurance premium at least for now. The general funds seem to be taking care of some additional costs. The premium is still low compared to other institutions. Unfinished business was coverage for assisted reproduction technology and the issue of tiered system of premiums for one-dependent and utilization of insurance.
- Technology Utilization (Tom Meyer): The chair will send out an email next week, hoping to have one meeting over the summer. Hopes to repeat the success of the technology fair and compile a short list of technology concerns of faculty and perhaps an action plan.

9. Caucus Reports.

Sachs asked if any of the caucus leaders had reports.

- The College of Nursing reported that they Dr. Anita Smith will fill the position of chair in maternal-child nursing and that the college has received a grant from Dept of Health and Human Resources to develop a doctoral program in cardiovascular nurse practitioner. Wright also noted that the college had been ranked the 3rd largest provider of on-line nursing education by the US News and World Report.
- College of Medicine: Falkos submitted the following written report read during the meeting.

The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology's new Chairman is

Dr. Gerthoffer. There are two searches for Chairmen in the COM currently underway.

The Department of Neurology is in the first stages of negotiations and the Department of Surgery is in the beginning stages of their search. The Human Simulator programs are either opened or about to open. The Director is Mike Jacobs. There are four sites which will have the simulators and USA will be the first non-military site to have iStan, the newest simulator. Children's and Women's will be expanding. The work should begin March of 2009. There will be an expansion of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit prior to the expansion of the hospital. Also, the park at CWH will be expanded up to the entrance of the hospital with renovations to the parking lot. USA Hospitals have been doing well with consumer measures and quality scores. Trauma has also become a focus of clinical efforts working on an agreement with Mississippi and Level 1 trauma patients.

- Library reported that the search for the head of the Baldwin County campus library had been completed.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Minutes prepared by Stephen Morris, Secretary.