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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – January 2020

Faculty Senators

University of South Alabama

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Faculty Senate

Plenary Session

January 22, 2020 – Faculty Club – 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Cooper, Henry, Pelekanos, Powell, Thompson, Adams, Beebe, Bryan, Cesarini, Feldvoss, Gibbs, Gossett, Halbrooks, Lewis, Lindeman, Mark, McCready, Raczkowski, Robertson, Koon-Magnin, Young, Zlomke, Sittig, Sweeney, Gecewicz, Koestner, Broach, Donaldson, Fregeau, Cleary, Cloutier, Spencer, Webb, Lemley, Shepard, Gassman, Harmon, Lin, Pai, Ponnambalam, Rayner, Weber, Huang, Madden, Turnipseed, Myers, Swanzy, VandeWaa

Excused Absent: O'Connor, Hossain, Rinehart, McKinney, Keshock, Woltring, Sayner, Riley

- Call to Order: 3:02 pm
- Approval of Minutes: MMSA
- Approval of Agenda: MMSA
- President's Report
 1. Internship/Practica committee
 2. Recruitment/Enrollment update
 - a. Two candidates for Director of Recruitment were on campus last week. Some of us were able to make their open presentations. Both seem very qualified.
 - b. The various committees that Dr. Johnson convened are meeting and hope to have some proposals for the main committee/admin in early February. I'm personally concerned that this is not moving any faster. The goal is to increase by 300 over fall 2019, so we have an actual numerical goal for once. We have increased applications by participating in the free application week. Whether that will yield more students is a question. Admissions are up 8% from this point last year but housing is down. So we don't really know where we stand. The International recruitment goal is to increase by 100 over fall 2019. They don't seem to think they are going to get there. Spring 2020 enrollment numbers reported last week: down 407 over last spring. This is more or less in line with the decline from fall 2018-2019.
 3. Budget concerns

Of course, enrollments lead to budget questions. We were assured that one of the strategic committees that is involved in Budget issues will weigh in on how to approach any future budget cuts. An optimist might see that as a small win for inclusive decision making. A pessimist might see that as window dressing. Time will tell, but we remain committed to pushing for transparency in decisions about budgets going forward.

4. Faculty participation in hiring
 5. Non-discrimination policy enforced in contracts
 - a. The idea was discussed that language should be included in all contracts with vendors that USA's nondiscrimination policy is to be enforced. Administration was of the opinion that USA did not have to use a particular vendor, since there are multiple vendors available.
 6. Outcome-based funding proposal in the Legislature
 - a. Might be problematic for USA because funding would be based on graduation rates. A benchmark would be set, with USA expected to have a higher graduation rate in following review periods.
 7. Regarding the murder of Matt Wiser of MCOB, the university should develop a protocol in the event a full-time faculty, staff, or student dies, in order to inform the university community. Also, it would be helpful for the Counseling Center to develop a packet that faculty could use in dealing with students in such instances.
- Committee Reports
 1. The USA Office of Diversity and Inclusion website contains links to diversity and inclusion resources and University offices.
 2. Tuition will probably remain at the current amount. There was discussion about going to a tiered tuition model based on credit hour, but the consensus emerged that there are too many risks to change the tuition model now.
 3. The Efficiency Committee agreed that the university suffers from administrative bloat. Perhaps some positions could be coalesced to reduce the bloat by streamlining positions.
 - Policy (Shepard)
 1. FS Bill 1013: Guidelines for Faculty and Administrative Searches

The Faculty Senate is supposed to come up with a way to address diversity and then afterwards the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will inform us we've done a good job. The process will involve faculty expertise, since faculty are experts in their respective fields. ODI will be happy to give advice and consults.

2. FS Bill 1012: Non-Tenure Track Professorial Positions: Instructional Track Appointment and Promotion Policy
 3. Adjourn: 4:00 pm
- Presentation by Dr. Nicole Carr, Julie Schwindt, Brooke Moore regarding the One Stop initiative and South Cares, a clearinghouse for a variety of resources for USA students.