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## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – March 2009

Faculty Senators

*University of South Alabama*

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**March 25, 2009**  
**Library Auditorium**  
**3:00 pm**

**Minutes**  
**Approved by vote at the April 15 meeting**

**A G E N D A**

Present: Baggett, Bru, Burnham, Byrne, Campbell, Carr, Connors, Doran, Estis, Fresne, Hamilton, A. Kahn, Irion, Keasler, I. Khan, Lemley, Loomis, McCormick, Morris, Pérez Pineda, Prendergast, Quereshi, Romey, Sachs, Tate, Toelken, Turnipseed, Woodford, Tony Wright, Tootie Wright

Excused: Aliabadi, Aucoin, Engin, Falkos, Fantoni, Haywick, Johnsten, King, Kinniburgh, Prescott, Teplick, Vrettos

Unexcused: Allison, Ambrose, Carter, Estrada, Major, McNair, Meyer, Moore, Nowlin, Omar, Pacheco, Patterson, Perry, Rowell, Summerlin

1. Call to order

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 without a quorum present. A quorum was achieved a few minutes later. The chair jumped to item #4 on the agenda.

2. Approval of minutes from the February meeting

Dennis Campbell moved and Liz Romey seconded the approval of the minutes as drafted. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

3. Chair's report – reviewed the written report

The chair briefly reviewed the written report previously provided to the senators. Eric Loomis commented on point #2 that there was resistance from the administration to the application of AAUP guidelines on faculty recourse for early dismissals. Sachs suggested that the Senate return to this question in the future to build on the recent gains in this area. On point #4, Sachs announced that President Moulton will conduct a general forum on April 21 at the Mitchell Center to discuss budget matters. Jean Irion suggested that the caucus leaders send out a special invitation to the faculty in their colleges encouraging people to attend the Forum.

On point #7, Sachs noted that he has yet to receive a response from Yancey.

4. Guest: David Randel, Vice President of Sales, Mobile Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau

In a brief presentation, Mr. Randel asked faculty with help in recruiting organizational meetings and conference to Mobile. He noted that Lois Wimms will be sending out an email inviting faculty to attend luncheons on April 22 and 23 in the John Count Room. The offer comes with a special offer on services at the Battlehouse.

## 5. Old Business

- Tenure Extension Resolution

Romey read the draft resolution. Limited discussion ensued. Jean Irion voiced her support of this resolution, noting that she took advantage of this sort of policy at another previous university. Moved by Morris, with a second from Tate, the resolution passed with unanimous approval.

- Appointment to Assistant Professor for those with terminal degree

This old business item has been combined with the resolution on Senior Instructor position in the library and moved to new business.

## 6. New Business

- Resolution to extend Senior Instructor position to libraries

Sachs described the negotiations with David Johnson and Richard Wood regarding the initial request by the Senate that the administration's proposal regarding hiring at the Asst. Professor level for those with terminal degrees include the library. In response, the administration proposes that the rank of Senior Instructor Librarian be included. Vicki Tate clarified that you cannot be hired as senior instructor, but that the new rank merely provides an opportunity for promotion for instructors. Tate clarified that there are two issues here: terminal degree and senior instructor position. Sachs clarified that the intent in both cases is to treat the library the same way as others units. Tate agreed it would have no affect on the library. The measure was officially proposed and will be discussed and considered at the April meeting. Morris promised to send an electronic copy of the proposal to the senators.

- University email communications

In response to a concern raised by a faculty member, Sachs asked whether senators felt they were getting too much university email communications. Langan suggested a better use of subject lines to make it easier to identify what may be of interest. It was also suggested that if there were a good university calendar, then many of these emails might not be necessary. Loomis recommended that the matter be explored by the Technology and Utilization committee.

- Academic Calendar.

Phil Carr reported on the work of the university Calendar Committee and the discussion regarding a fall break. He noted that most schools in the state and in the Sun Belt Conference have fall breaks. The committee is also considering starting later in the fall semester. The committee will meet again soon and consider changes to the 2010-11 calendar. Carr distributed a brief survey to gauge senators' preferences regarding these two variables. Deans have issues about the fall break because it breaks weeks up too much; they feel that limited instruction occurs during abbreviated weeks. When asked, Carr explained that the administration supports starting a week later because it saves money on utilities. Beyond that, however, their reasoning for this position is unclear. Sachs noted the issue of new faculty and orientation, but Carr insisted that this never came up in the discussion. Senators returned the completed surveys to Carr.

On a related matter, Irion mentioned the need for a three-year calendar, rather than a two year calendar because it affects students on a three year, lock-step programs.

- Update on elections

Moved to the caucus reports.

- Adieu and thanks to outgoing Senators

Moved to after the caucus reports.

## 7. Committee Reports (final reports)

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Susan McCready) –no report
- Environmental Quality (Smoot Major) -- no report
- Evaluation (Vicki Tate). Tate indicated that the survey is ready on the web page and that email notifications will be going out shortly. The survey will be available for 2 weeks, closing on April 8. She noted that the last section contains a series of questions similar to those proposed by SGA regarding a fall break.
- Planning and Development (Zari Aliabadi) -- no report
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Liz Romey) – Beyond the resolution reported earlier from the committee, Romey invited volunteers to chair the committee next year.
- Salary and Benefits (Jean Irion) – no report. Irion did remind everyone about behealthy.com.
- Technology Utilization (Tom Meyer) – no report

## 8. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Julie Estis)

Estis reported that the college is preparing for the move to the new building, receiving new information regarding proposed dates for the move. She also noted that the college has four nominees for new positions and will conduct elections within the next few days.

- Arts and Sciences (Phil Carr) –

Carr submitted a written report (addendum). He also noted that the college is working on its mid-term SACS report. A recent meeting with the Dean centered on the budget and the internal vetting process for the incentive plan for grants.

- Continuing Education (Stephen Bru) – no report
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan) –

The School is looking at details on the new building.

- Education (Leah Kinniburgh) –

It was reported that three faculty have been identified as potential senators.

- Engineering (Peter Byrne) –

Byrne noted that he has received no nominations to date, but will send out a reminder.

- Library (Amy Prendergast)

Prendergast stated that the library has received one nomination for the Senate seat and is waiting for all ballots to come in.

- Mitchell College of Business (Greg Prescott) -- 4 running for 2 seats
- Medicine (Sheryl Falkos) – no report
- Nursing (Tootie Wright)

Wright noted that Dr. Brown will be joining the senate next month and Tom Meyer will maintain his seat. The college is also getting ready for the move to the new building and will be working on curriculum changes this summer.

Sachs recognized and thanked the outgoing senators whose terms expire with the current meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Minutes recorded by Stephen Morris, Secretary.