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# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes - June 2005

Faculty Senators
University of South Alabama

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# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA FACULTY SENATE 2005-2006

June 15, 2005 University Library, Rm. 110

## Approved MINUTES

The meeting began at 3:08 pm with Chair Doug Haywick presiding.

Doug Haywick opened the meeting, but as a quorum was not present, he proceeded with the Chair's Report. Doug reported that since the last April meeting, various faculty senate officers attended meetings involving areas of retention, University committee responsibilities and appointments, faculty salaries, faculty fringe benefits as well as other general University business.

Doug highlighted some of the meetings and the information discussed therein such as:

- 1) Retention: Deans, administrators and faculty senators should be involved in retention efforts. The University's graduate rate is 33%. Caucus leaders should talk to Deans about University retention efforts.
- 2) Safety: Currently, there is no faculty representation on the Safety committee.
- 3) Fringe Benefits: The committee set healthcare rates. The plan is considered to be in "good shape" with probably no rate increase for this year.
- 4) Banner Training: There is more paperwork to be transferred into the Banner system. The plan is to train 500 people to work with Banner by October, 2005.
- 5) Budget Council: The committee discussed the proposal for the Board of Trustee meeting. A 4% merit-based pay raise will be proposed and may begin by October 2005. It was clarified at the meeting that there will not be a 6% raise due to PEHIP and retirement costs.
- 6) Faculty Senate Officers' Meeting with President Moulton: The discussion was open and proved to be a good start for the year. Among the items discussed were the following:
  - (a) Clarification of parity and compression adjustment mechanism (the equity criteria must include a high evaluation from the chair for 3 years in a row, a 5 year employment record with the University and a comparison of peer salaries. Recommendations come from chairs and subsequently deans
  - (b) Special Faculty Development Fund: Faculty may apply for funds up to \$1,000 for a conference. This money, augmented by the USA Foundation, typically is granted to most faculty with legitimate requests. Faculty can send abstracts early. If not accepted, faculty would be expected to withdraw the application. Generally, there is also funding available through Deans and Chairs.
  - (c) Standing Committee Representation: Every committee will have one faculty senate representative. Doug asked for volunteers for a one year appointment to University committees.

Doug concluded the Chair's Report by congratulating senators on their excellent response to Happy Fulford's request to send an email or fax in support of the state budget appropriations bill.

#### **Old Business**

-USA Patent and Invention Policy

Holly Meadows, Director from the Office of Technology Development and the developer of the USA Patent and Invention Policy, was asked by Doug to discuss key points of the policy (available at the April 2005 faculty senate meeting). Holly discussed bulleted points (available in the Senate records) and commented that the policy is more consistent with the policy currently in place at the College of Medicine. She described three rating scales used to determine faculty reimbursement for inventions and commented that the policy was more favorable to the faculty than in the past. She noted that the policy described an affiliated university and the term "inventions" and offered an example of a typical faculty invention: If a faculty member creates software for a distance learning course, this would fall under the policy if the faculty member were paid to teach the course. Holly answered a few questions from the floor regarding clarification of the policy's intent.

A quorum was established after Holly's discussion of the patent policy.

Present: Kristy Britt, Stephen Bru, Gary Carnahan, Robert Coleman, Melissa Costello, Genevieve Dardeau, Natasha Delcoure, Nicole Flynn, Alice Godfrey, Dennis Guion, Doug Haywick, Daphne Hubbard, John Kovaleski, Jie Li, Irene McIntosh, Vaughn Millner, Ehab Molokhia, Cindy Morgan, Barry Nowlin, Kevin Olden, Frank Pettyjohn, Randall Powell, Vasiliy Prokhorov, Irene Rattie, Rebecca Ryan, Susan Santoli, Jan Sauer, Craig Sherman, Deborah Spake, Jim Swofford, Richard Whitehurst, Donna Wooster

Excused: Matt Ames, Brenda Beverly, Steve Brick, Barbara Burckhartt, Cynthia Crumb, Scott Douglass, Tom Hain, Curtis Harris, Ed Harrison, Judy King, Susan McCready, Robert Moore, Martin Parker, Federico Perez-Pineda, Kathy Porter, Bill Pruitt, Nicholas Sylvester, Thomas Williams

Unexcused: Bettie Bullard, James Davis, April Dupree, Zoya Khan, Elliot Lauderdale, Arnold Luterman, Elizabeth Manci, Harold Pardue

Guests: Holly Meadows, Director of Technology Development; Jeffrey Poor, Editor of the Vanguard

Irene McIntosh made a motion to approve the USA Patent and Invention Policy. By voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

The Minutes of the April 20th meeting were approved without revision.

#### **New Business**

#### -USA Foundation

Doug announced that he will attend the USA Foundation meeting tomorrow. He noted that relationships between the University and the Foundation are steadily improving. He also mentioned that the Cancer Foundation seems to be working well. He reminded senators that senate officers attending Foundation meetings will not ask for specific faculty needs and will instead let the University raise these issues via the budget.

### -Senate's Annual Survey

Deborah Spake provided a report on the results from the Senate's Annual Survey. The survey, substantially reduced from the previous 5 years, had more faculty participating than in the last year. She indicated that, on the whole, attitudes were most positive than those reported from last year. The most common complaint was parking limitations on campus. There were also some expressed concerns about the anonymity of survey responses. Deborah reported that faculty were more pleased with the administration than last year. Most opinions were more positive with the exception of the quality of students. The survey results will be on the University web site (also housed in the Senate records). Doug commented that this information is useful in determining needs in University committee work.

## **Reports from standing committees**

Handouts from this meeting included committee assignments.

<u>Academic Development & Mentoring</u>: John Kovaleski reported he communicated with his committee members via e-mail. He has established a plan for the summer. He has met with Dr. Covey and, as a result of their conversation, will meet with the Dean's Council to integrate the faculty senate mentoring program with colleges and departments.

<u>Academic Policy and Faculty Handbook:</u> Donna Wooster reported she was not aware of any pending changes in the handbook. Doug suggested that the committee consider revising the faculty reimbursement policy to include new University fees.

<u>Environmental Quality</u>: Barry Nowlin communicated by e-mail with his committee members to encourage members to consider ideas for this year's plan. Doug expressed his concern about the silt runoff from the multiple building sites on campus.

**Evaluation:** See New Business for Deborah Spake's report.

<u>Planning & Development</u>: Nicole Flynn consulted with John Sachs, the past chair of Planning & Development. They intend to promote the University Club and plan to host a Fall shindig at the site.

Salary & Fringe Benefits: Susan McCready was out of town. No report.

<u>Technology Utilization</u>: Jan reported that new policies and procedures need to be in place in regard to hardware and software. She identified several needs such as (a) consistent technological support (there is tech support in some areas of the campus, but not others; (b) better scheduling of faculty development opportunities; (c) update of Groupwise address book, (d) possibly adding test question data bank program for faculty; and (e) the development of web friendly Web pages for those with disabilities. Jan asked senators to think about their technological needs and to present them to her and her committee members. A couple of senators expressed their frustration with the amount of spam on Groupwise.

Jan noted she was appointed to the University Academic Computing committee. This appointment will facilitate her ability to identify needs and solutions.

### **Caucus Leaders reports**

Doug asked for names of all Caucus leaders. Identified caucus leaders are:

Allied Health: Bob Moore

Arts & Sciences: Federico Perez-Pineda

Computer & Information Sciences: Harold Pardue
Continuing Education: Elliot Lauderdale
Education: Daphne Hubbard
Library: Dennis Guion
Mitchell College of Business: Jim Swofford

Doug asked that those in the Colleges of Engineering, Medicine and Nursing to elect their Caucus leader prior to the next senate meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 20th