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Faculty Senate Minutes

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## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – June 2009

Faculty Senators

*University of South Alabama*

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**June 17, 2009**  
**Library Auditorium**  
**3:00 pm**

**Approved Minutes**

Present: Adams, Baggett, Brown, Burnham, Byrne, Campbell, Carr, Connors, Estis, Falkos, Finley, Fisher, Hillman, Husain, Johnsten, Kahn, Keasler, Kingman, Langan, Lemley, Luceford, Meyer, Morris, O'Connor, Omar, Powers, Prendergast, Rizk, Shaw, Spector, Toelken, D. Turnipseed, P. Turnipseed, Woodford, and Wright.

Excused: Ambrose, Aucoin, Bosarge, Haywick, King, Kinniburgh, McCormick, Pérez Pineda, Romey, Rowell, Shelly-Tremblay, and Teplick

Unexcused: Axsmith, Estrada, Madden, Moore, Pacheco, Patterson, Perry, Quereshi, Retzlaff-Roberts, and Summerlin

**A G E N D A**

1. Call to order  
The chair, David Turnipseed, called the meeting to order at 3:05 with a quorum present.
2. Approval of minutes from the April meeting  
Woodford moved and Estis seconded the approval of the minutes as written. The minutes were approved by voice vote.
3. Chair's report
  - The chair described a recent meeting with John Smith and Camille's regarding the provision of food for the university club. A similar bid to determine who will do the lunches for the club is forthcoming from Banana Docks. The target is to have lunches Monday through Thursday. Both Camille's and Banana Docks will send menus to look at. The construction plans are downtown waiting for the construction permits. It will take four months for construction. Turnipseed is also looking into the possibility of drinks being served. He noted, however, that it is hard to know what the faculty want. He thus suggested a survey to all the faculty and staff regarding menus and their interests in terms of days of the week, prices, etc. This can be done in the early part of the fall semester.
  - The chair reported that he is holding up on faculty's involvement in the first homecoming, though would like to see the Senate plan something for the faculty. An ad-hoc homecoming committee has been created and will begin its work soon. He noted that if anyone else is interested in serving on that committee to let him know.
4. New Business  
The chair initiated discussion of a series of issues raised at the recent executive committee meeting. These are items the Senate will explore in the near future.

- Senate restructuring. Turnipseed raised questions about the reasoning behind the prohibition on re-election to the Senate and the one year waiting period. He noted that in the MCOB, Senate positions rotate by departments. This all means that committed individuals interested in serving are prevented from doing so. It also hurts continuity and leadership in the Senate. He asked the assembly about their opinions regarding potential changes in the structure. He noted that he would like the Senate to take a good look at this. No one, apparently, is aware of the history of the no reelection stipulation. Langan suggested perhaps a compromise of 2 terms or even reduce the term to 2 years with possibility of reelection twice. Turnipseed suggested that we discuss this.
- University Handbook. Turnipseed highlighted that the Handbook will be redone and published on-line. He also noted the need for the Senate to look closely at the Handbook to deal with some glaring problems. Among the problems and shortcomings are grievance procedures for instructors, and adjunct faculty. He also asked that if anyone wants to raise issues about the handbook that they bring these matters to the executive committee's attention.
- New secretary and chair of evaluation committee. Turnipseed announced that Kelly Woodford would be replacing Steve Morris as Secretary and that Amy Prendergast would take over as chair of the evaluation committee. Turnipseed thanks Morris for his service and presented him with a plaque.

## 5. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr) – no report
- Environmental Quality (Doug Haywick) – Langan reported from minutes of their recent meeting with former chair Smoot Major. The committee discussed issues of campus recycling and the lack of support from the administration of a comprehensive program because of costs; yet there is support from students. One possible route then is to use non-USA organizations. Haywick will be meeting with city officials regarding a program. Langan also noted that signage is still needed for the Sebastian nature trail.
- Evaluation (Amy Prendergast) – no report
- Planning and Development (Sheryl Falkos) – no report
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher) – no report
- Salary and Benefits (Julie Estis) – no report, but asked for members to stay after for a brief meeting.
- Technology Utilization (Tom Meyer) – have not met, but reports that he will meet people from national network of libraries of medicine and that this may be a possible source of funding for a technology fair. Meyer also invited Senators to forward technology questions to him. He also asked Senators about their satisfaction with wireless access.

## 7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Tracy O'Connor) – still moving into the new building. Some departments have completed the move.
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw) – the Caucus met with Dean looking at budget concerns. Nothing new was revealed but the Dean highlighted the need to keep morale up and his verbal support to providing travel funding for junior faculty next year.

- Continuing Education (Vickie McCormick) – no report
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan) – continue to look at moving into new building, though this is far down the road. The School is considering a reduction in the use of adjuncts and increasing teaching loads in response to the budget problems.
- Education (Dennis Campbell) – no report
- Engineering (TBD) – no report
- Library (Vera Finley) – Finley announced a retirement reception for Jan Sauer on June 25 at 3:00 in Room 181.
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts) – no report
- Medicine (Judy Burnham) – Burnham noted that 21 medical students are involved in summer research, that residents are undergoing orientation, and that the White Coat ceremony has been set.
- Nursing (Diane Keasler) – Keasler noted that Nursing has moved into the new building ahead of schedule and are conducting classes. She announced the awarding of a \$376,000 in grant funding doctoral students and an award from a foundation to fund the accelerated program. The college is waiting to hear on other pending grants.

Turnipseed suggested that the regular September meeting begin with an informal reception so that Senators can get to know one another.

He also asked that if anyone has questions for the administration that they be sent to anyone on the executive committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:41.

Minutes recorded by Stephen Morris, Secretary.