University of South Alabama

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3-1-2020

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – March 2020

Faculty Senators
University of South Alabama

Recommended Citation

Plenary Session

March 18, 2020 – Zoom – 3:00 pm

MINUTES

- Call to Order: 3:00

- Approval of Minutes: MMSA

- Approval of Agenda: MMSA

- President's Report (Susan McCready)

  o McCready began her report by encouraging senators to relay information from this plenary meeting to faculty in their departments.
  o She discussed her meeting with President Waldrop from earlier in the day.
    ▪ He confirmed that there are still 400 students in the dorms. Those are not all international students, but the dorms are open on a case by case basis to students.
    ▪ There will be a message shortly that the drop date is going to be pushed to later in the semester than it normally is.
      - Decision was made in consultation with deans and chairs.
    ▪ There is no decision yet as to what to do about commencement.
    ▪ A discussion followed on a possible non-discrimination policy.

- Library Report (Trey Lemley, Beth Shepard)
  o University Libraries are fully active online, with almost all library functions and services continuing as normal, the only exception being that physical library locations are closed.
    ▪ Reference service is being provided as normal either by online chat or telephone.
    ▪ Libraries are still filling Interlibrary Loan requests, depending on the availability of lending libraries being open. While USA is closed, no physical materials from any USA library facility will be shipped.
    ▪ Faculty are encouraged to contact the library for help finding alternative course materials and OER resources.
    ▪ Many vendors are making more of their content available for free.

- o In response to a question, currently-enrolled USA students can access all of the library's electronic resources from anywhere in the world. All they need is an internet connection.

- Schedule of remaining meetings for AY 2019-2020
    - o A discussion ensued on keeping the April plenary meeting on 4/15 or pushing it back to 4/22, with the thought that the campus might be open by 4/22, and the Senate could meet person-to-person, rather than by Zoom.
    - o A vote was taken via Zoom Chat, with sentiment in favor of keeping the April plenary on 4/15.
    - o Senators were encouraged to contact their caucus leaders about having more FS meetings.

- Election Issues
    - o A discussion followed on the best means of administering elections for new Faculty Senate officers and committee chairs, given the fact that the April meeting will be virtual.
    - o Cleary reiterated that the Faculty Senate Bylaws mandate that the elections must take place at the first plenary session of the new year, which is April.
    - o It was decided to proceed with elections in April, and online means of voting would be developed.

- COVID Issues Discussion
    - o Breakout groups were created in Zoom, followed by a general discussion of issues discussed in different breakout groups.
    - o Topic:
        - ▪ What issues/problems/questions regarding COVID need to be brought to the attention of administration?
    - o (Please see document entitled "Breakout Reports" for summary)

- Other

- End: 4:42 pm