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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – November 2010

Faculty Senators

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November 17, 2010
3pm -- Library Auditorium

MINUTES

Present: E. Adams, Estis, Gubler-Hanna, Spector, Carr, Connors, Dardeau, Fisher, Guzy, Haywick, Hillman, Husain, Marshall, Moore, Roddy, Shaw, Shelly-Tremblay, Summerlin, Feinstein, Langan, Byrd, Campbell, Davidson-Shivers, Norrell, P. Turnipseed, M. Adams, Omar, Finley, Nero, Martinko, Perry, Rachek, Retzlaff-Roberts, D. Turnipseed, Herf, Keasler, Meyer, Minchew, Quiett

Excused: Powers, Toelken, Green, Kahn, Kaulfers, Brown

Unexcused: Lunceford, Kingman, Donovan, Lemley, Bosarge, Grishko, Rizk, Rusyniak, Madden

1. Call to order -- 3:00pm, quorum at 3:07pm
2. Approval of minutes from the October meeting—S. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by M. Spector. The minutes were unanimously approved
3. Guest presentations
 - a. Dr. John Smith, Special Assistant to the President and Vice President for Student Affairs

The new recreation center is going well. We have over 1500 paying members. It has been a tremendous recruiting tool for the University. The new dormitory, which is designed for learning-living communities, is progressing well. One faculty member will be selected to live the dorm. The dining facility is still under construction. The dining hall may open after Thanksgiving. There is a meeting room, which seats 100 individuals. It can be reserved for meetings. It could be reserved for faculty use on certain days of the week. The University Club is a donation to the university from Campus Crest. Money has been set aside for the university to complete the building if Campus Crest does not complete construction by November 30. The Student Center renovations are moving forward.

G. Dardeau asked about the parking concerns across campus. J. Smith reported that areas are being targeted for additional parking. G. Dardeau asked if environmental impact will be considered. J. Smith indicated that it will be considered. Also, additional Jag Tran shuttles will be added to accommodate the increased need. A. Guzy asked if the market return to ala cart after the Fresh Foods dining opens. J. Smith stated that it would and that outside vendors (possibly Chik-fil-a) and Aramark brands will come in to the market. V. Findley asked about parking near the Student Center. J. Smith indicated that there are no plans for additional parking in that area at this time. G. Dardeau asked if alcohol will be served at the University/Faculty Club. D. Turnipseed indicated that it had been in the plans all along. L. Minchew asked about plans for the bookstore. J. Smith indicated that it will move back to the Student Center when renovations are completed. G. Dardeau asked Dr. Smith if there was anything that he needed from us. J. Smith replied that he needed help with advisors for student organizations. G. Dardeau pointed out that faculty receive no credit for this type of service. J. Smith responded with support for the notion of faculty credit for this type of service.

4. Chair's report - J. Connors

J. Connors indicated that most of the issues will be covered in the following committee reports. He announced that the Senior Faculty Caucus led by Dr. Holloway will hold a luncheon on December 20, 2010 from 1-3 pm. J. Connors offered thanks on behalf of the Senate to David Turnipseed for his efforts in planning the Faculty Senate Homecoming Tent. The event was well-attended and faculty present enjoyed great food, live music, and door prizes.

5. Old Business

a. Faculty Senate Banquet-- April 1

Originally, we were hoping to hold the event at the Faculty Club. Given the delays with construction, we will be reserving an alternate location. The Fairhope Yacht Club and the Mobile Country Club are options for this event. We will be giving out several awards, including the Chang Award for Humanitarian Service.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

i. Calendar Committee (Brett Lunceford)

Brett Lunceford was not present at the meeting. The Office of Academic Affairs has created a calendar committee. Our appointees to that committee are Tom Meyer and Phil Carr. G. Dardeau commented that we might consider adding a female committee member for diversity. J. Connors indicated that the calendar for Fall 2011 is the same as the Fall 2010 calendar. K. Proctor (SGA president, invited guest) indicated that SGA representatives met with President Moulton and Dr. Johnson this week. T. Meyer asked K. Proctor if students and faculty seemed to have the same concerns with the current calendar. She indicated that the late start date and Saturday exams were problematic for both parties. M. Spector asked if the students were in favor of the Fall Break. K. Proctor will send the Faculty Senate a report of the Fall Break survey results. K. Proctor and P. Carr provided background information regarding student and faculty input on the calendar two years ago. The committee decision differed from the final decision of the administration. It was suggested that the Faculty Senate make a recommendation that the calendar for next year be amended rather than waiting a year for changes. D. Haywick indicated that spontaneous resolution is not recommended. T. Meyer suggested that the timing is too late and that it should be addressed through the new committee. T. Shaw stated that if the administration recognizes the need for change these changes should be addressed for 2011. M. Spector stated that the calendar is not published until much later than the time frame for the given deadline.

After discussion, a motion was made to vote in support that the prior committees' recommendation be adopted for the 2011-2012 calendar. M. Spector seconded the motion.

E. Adams indicated need for consideration of the long-standing issues that led to the current calendar, including the orientation for new faculty prior to pay. G. Davidson-Shivers indicated that a broader indicator of our concern would be better.

19 voted in favor, 5 voted against, and 6 abstained. The motion carried.

ii. Public Relations Committee (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)

J. Shelley-Tremblay presented a call for nominations for Faculty Senate awards. These awards will be presented at the Faculty Senate Banquet. The nomination process details will be sent to all Faculty Senators. These awards will give us an opportunity to recognize research collaborators, teaching partners, internship preceptors, community collaborators, and community partners.

iii. Cost Saving Committee (Kathryn Toelken)

Kathryn Toelken was not present. D. Haywick volunteered to serve on this committee.

c. Resolution Proposal

J. Connors reported that this item has been tabled.

6. New Business

a. South Alabama Conference of Teaching and Learning: May 16, 2011 - Doug Haywick

This upcoming conference was announced. Those interested in participating may register and submit abstracts online. Participants are invited to submit a paper for peer-review. The deadline for abstracts will be in early January.

b. Constitutional Reform Update- Jim Connors

Our current Constitution is cumbersome and outdated. An ad hoc Constitution Committee was created to review constitutions from other institutions. The Executive Committee spent additional time reviewing and editing the document. In addition, the officers of the Senate met with key administrators to discuss the proposed constitution. A draft of the constitution was presented to the Senate. The discussion of the constitution will occur at our January meeting. A vote by the senate will follow. Upon approval, it will go to the full faculty for a vote.

c. Discrimination Policy—Kim Proctor, SGA President

SGA wants to partner with the Faculty Senate on their initiative to present a resolution related to nondiscrimination policy and the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. SGA has taken the policy to Dr. Smith and President Moulton. Over 30 peer institutions have similar policies in place. T. Shaw presented the work of the policies and handbook committee.

K. Proctor stated that the administration indicated that we are adhering to state and federal law with our current policy.

T. Shaw indicated that the committee may be flexible on the resolution and change the wording to reflect the language of the SGA resolution.

7. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr)—No report.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Marshall)—The committee will launch a conservation campaign in February. The Housing Department and outside sponsors are contributing to the effort. Doug asked that Faculty members look for ways to reduce phantom power sources. Power strips can be used and turned off each evening. The committee is also looking at safety concerns. There is a particular area of concern about the water runoff problems near the Humanities building. Please let Doug know if there are similar concerns.
- Evaluation (Patsy Turnipseed)—The committee out a brief survey regarding comments on the Spring survey. If you have not responded, please do so as soon as possible.
- Planning and Development (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)—No report.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)—Report by Thomas Shaw. Introduced a resolution regarding USA's nondiscrimination policy. M. Spector seconded the motion. Motion passed. This issue will be discussed further in January.

- Salary and Benefits (Elizabeth Adams)—Senators were encouraged to complete tobacco cessation forms by November 30. The committee is looking at benefits policies for the LGBT community. The committee will work with Policies and Faculty Handbook. The committee is also investigating leave time restrictions, and plan to recommend specific changes soon.
- Technology Utilization (Diane Keasler)— The Academic Computing Committee met. They are addressing the issue of bulk emails. One option is a digest format. A problem with that approach is determining priority. Luminous Portal- one login, one password to all USA features (PAWS, USA Online, Banner) is forthcoming. They are also looking at a new email system. The Learning Management System report is complete and available on the USA website. Teaching evaluations are being standardized across campus. Standard questions across the university with options for additional questions will be piloted this semester and implemented next year.

7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Mike Spector)—No report.
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw & Laura Moore)—No report.
- Continuing Education (Amy Kingman)—No report.
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan)—No report.
- Education (Dennis Campbell)—No report.
- Engineering (Francis Donovan)—No report.
- Library (Vera Finley)—No report.
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts)—No report.
- Medicine (?)—Groundbreaking for Children's and Women's Extension was today. Construction on that project is moving forward.
- Nursing (Henri Brown)—Leigh Minchew stated that CON is changing vendors for testing. Seven grants are currently under consideration.

E. Adams made a motion to adjourn. L. Moore provided a second. The Senate unanimously voted to adjourn at 4:44pm.