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Faculty Senate Minutes

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3-1-2014

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – March 2014

Faculty Senators

*University of South Alabama*

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**March 19, 2014 – Faculty Club - 3:00 pm**  
**Approved Minutes**

Present: Estis, Gordon-Hickey, Kennedy, Morgan, Smith, Carr, Connors, Fisher, Haywick, Kozelsky, Loomis, Marin, Marshall, Ni Chadhain, Rivenbark, Schulze, Smith, St. Clair, Freed, Campbell, Landry, Whiston, Broach, Davidson-Shivers, Norrell, Phan, West, Britton, Tate, Audia, Burnham, Falkos, Gillespie, Rich, Gillis, Noland, Woodford, Fuller, Huey, Walls

Excused: Faile, Husain, Mishra, Shaw, Finley-Hervey, Keshock, Glover, Richards, Buckner, Minchew, Varner

Unexcused: Benko, Alexeyev, Cioffi, Rachek, Ruchko

**Call to order** – 3:05 with quorum

**Approval of minutes:** February 2014 meeting

Moved; 2d; unanimous approval

**Approval of agenda**

Moved; 2d; unanimous approval

**President's Report**

- Transition

Dr. Waldrop will officially start on April 2. Official installation/inauguration will be in September around the time of the Board of Trustees meeting.

On April 9, Dr. Waldrop will meet with the Executive Committee and then he will come to the Faculty Senate meeting the following week.

He will be doing town halls with each college in the fall. Logistics of doing it in spring became unmanageable. The Senate officers are working to have caucus leaders involved in running those events and having a meeting with the Senators from the college either before or after the event.

Doug and Julie have met with Dr. Waldrop and he is committed to regular meetings with faculty leadership and is looking for opportunities to interact with faculty. For example, Dr. Waldrop has expressed interest in small group meetings with faculty, including the possibility of monthly campus “walk arounds.”

A welcome letter from Senate is being written. Doug and Julie have already talked to Dr. Waldrop about many of the issues that will be raised in the letter. He has expressed interest in issues such as equity (knows about the salary survey and is interested in results), inversion/conversion within departments, teaching loads, and evaluation of administrators (chairs, deans & other administrators). We will be giving him copies of all resolutions passed by 2013-2014 Senate – both those that have made it through administration and those that did not/have not.

COM Senator suggested adding “managing for growth” to the issues.

Tenure/promotion likely will be raised under several of the broader headings.

FYI – Dr. Sheri Everts (second candidate who came to campus) just got the job as Chancellor at Appalachian State.

- Mitchell-Moulton Scholarship Initiative

A committee has been formed to continue the look for matching funds. We noticed there was little faculty representation on the committee and no FS representation. Dr. Busta has added some Faculty Senate positions – specifically the past president. They are looking to set up college and/or department specific funds.

Q: raised regarding relation to annual fund. A: Not clear answer but Mr. Mitchell designated this as seeking “new” money so established scholarships funded by annual fund donations are unlikely to “count”. A&S Senator noted that we are going to be hit from multiple hands and discussion of need to come up with a strategy to deal with that.

- General Education

Actually had a focus on things we need to do. SACs is over, but the next one is coming and need to do more with Gen Ed. There are a set of core competencies that the state of Alabama and SACs expect us to address, including writing. Based on the meeting, D. Marshall feels like there may be some renewed focus on writing across the curriculum. Was some discussion of needing capstone class in each college with emphasis on writing. Discussion of reverse planning -- looking at capstone and working back to the individual classes as to what needs to be taught where.

The computer literacy requirement has been replaced with “technology.” Any department that can demonstrate that it has a course that teaches the technology its graduates will need will be able to be exempt CIS 150.

## **Announcements**

- Elections – Deadline Friday April 4 - K. Woodford

Each caucus leader has been provided election information, including the number of seats that are open and the term expiration for those seats. Election results need to be reported to K. Woodford by Friday, April 4 so invitations can be extended to new Senators for the new Senator Orientation.

J. Estis announced: Monday before the next meeting (Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>) we will have a new senator orientation. Has been a good opportunity to let people know what we do, what the committees are, etc. Helps to have that information before the April 16 meeting.

Caucus leaders have also been given information on K. Woodford's best estimate of where current Senators stand in terms of each caucus member's ability to run for re-election. That information was pieced together from old Senate rosters which may (or may not) be fully accurate. Each Senator is asked to check with his/her caucus leader to ensure that the record is correct. Having an accurate record will make the caucus by caucus election information MUCH easier to compile in the future.

Under the new Senate Constitution, Senators are allowed, if elected, to serve two consecutive three-year terms. Once two consecutive three year terms have been served, the Senator must "sit out" for one year. If a Senator is serving a one year appointment, the Senator is allowed to run for two full terms. If a Senator was appointed or elected to fill an opening for more than a year, the Senator is only eligible for one full term.

ADDENDUM: After the meeting a question was raised regarding a Senator who had served one three-year term, then was appointed to fill a 1 year opening. The issue was discussed and the consensus is that a Senator in that situation is eligible to run for 1 additional three year term. If, however, a Senator has completed two consecutive terms, the Senator would not be eligible to fill a 1 year vacancy and would be required to take a one year break from Senate.

- Common Read Brown Bag Lunch – Message from Nicole Carr – K. Woodford

Anyone interested in USA's Common Read initiative to join us for a brown-bag at the Dining Hall (Fresh Food Company) Conference Room on Wednesday, March 26, from 11:30-1:00. Please see forwarded email for more information.

- Banquet – M. Gillespie – Wednesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. – Moe's Original Bar B Q  
This year's Senate "banquet" is for on-going Senators, those rolling off AND the newly elected Senators. Also will be asking administrators. There will be vegetarian options. Ask current senators to please RSVP so we can provide Moe's with a somewhat accurate headcount. Link was sent by K. Woodford in an email.

- Digital Measures – K. West  
Several colleges have been informed that the college will soon begin using Digital Measures. Digital Measures is a web-based database that can be used to track faculty activity. It can be used for annual reports and for tenure/promotion. Some colleges have been using it – e.g. education and business. Engineering is moving to it this year. Others will be moving to it soon.

There is a learning curve. Question raised whether it will interface with Dr. Chronister's research database and that is unclear at this point. Concerns raised regarding lead-in time because A&S, for example, will be trained in summer and expected to use it for promotion/tenure.

K. West asked each caucus leader to email what his/her college is being told so we have a better understanding of what is actually going on.

- End of the Year Reports for Committees – K. Woodford  
Committee Chairs - Please send your committee's year end report to K. Woodford by April 10. The reports will be included in the April minutes.
- Nominations for officers and Ex Comm – J. Estis  
If you are interested in serving in FS leadership, please email J. Estis. We will need a strong group of caucus leaders and committee chairs.

In April we will present a slate of candidates who have been nominated. You can nominate yourself or someone else (IF that person has agreed to serve if elected).

- Health Sciences Division Meeting – J. Estis – Friday, April 4, 3:00, MCI  
The Health Sciences Senators will meet with Dr. Franks on April 4. Dr. Franks has indicated that he wants us to talk about the strategic plan. We can add agenda items on issues you would like to address.

There will be a pre-meeting at March 31 at noon. J. Estis will send an email

Question raised as to why MCI. J. Estis responded that Dr. Franks asked that we have it at MCI because many health sciences senators have not been to MCI and he was going to give a tour of MCI while we are there.

- Mara Kozelsky – Announced that she will be participating in a meeting tonight about Crimea, which is her primary research focus. She has been advocating to keep Russian as a major and with recent events the need for that major (and likely demand for that major) is in the forefront. USA is currently the only university in the Gulf Coast region with a Russian language major.

### **Old Business**

- On-Line Monitoring Resolution

Was presented in March. Any discussion?

Moved, 2d, passed unanimously

### **New Business**

- Special Resolution

Showing draft of resolution for consideration. Final will be sent. Recognizing that a good job has been done. Ideal world would be to vote on the resolution in April and, if passed, present at Faculty Senate banquet.

- Handbook Committee – resolutions to amend bylaws

One of the things we want to do is to create a way for part-time/adjuncts to have some voice/representation through Senate. A meeting has been held with a group of adjuncts and we had a good discussion meeting. We are still looking at a way to create a body through which they can have a voice. Not looking for them to be on Senate.

E. Loomis noted that to create a mechanism for an adjunct voice we need two changes to the bylaws.

First, we need to amend bylaws to add a new category of committees. Currently we can create two types of committees – standing and ad hoc. Standing must be comprised of sitting senators. Ad hoc are temporary. We want something more permanent but need new category – e.g. “special committees”.

Second, if passed, we will need to pass a second resolution to then create the first special committee.

The drafts are being worked on will go to handbook committee and once that committee reviews and approves, a resolution will be brought to the Senate. Because it is a bylaw change we will introduce the text in April for vote at the May meeting.

**Guest Presentations:** Krista Harrell from Student Affairs regarding the Student Center.

Ballroom – has been expanded – 450 for banquet; 600 chairs. Larger than John Counts Room.  
Terrace also expanded – 75/80 capacity

SGA offices with conference table.

Upstairs lobby has meeting rooms on each side – 30/35 capacity

Student life suite – greek life, multi-cultural affairs, Jaguar productions, etc. will all be housed together

Computer lab/student center services – where you will come to reserve rooms – will be rent free for departments during regular center hours. Computer lab will have 20+ computers.

Have 8 meeting rooms plus ballroom plus terrace

Incorporating more lounge furniture for students downstairs

Are getting Java City & POD Express (convenience store)

COTL conference will be held in ballroom this year

Q: Red Box – can we get one? A: We tried but they are not putting them on college campus anymore.

Q: Way to open up access from student center to Library. A: It could be done and we are looking at it.

- V. Tate – can't be done because have to put in and staff a service desk for security.

Q: Is amphitheater being fixed? A: It is on the list but not part of this project. There is a piece of art that needs a home and that may be a fit. Will be put back the “way it was”.

Jag Tran will be coming back.

Student Life is moving into the building in the next week, but it is not opening yet. Have training to do first. Have some events coming. Soft opening in April. Formal opening will be first day of classes – August 18.

Adjourned - 3:58

## **Committee Reports – submitted in writing**

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Justin St. Clair)

The Academic Development and Mentoring Committee met on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 and on Monday, March 17, 2014.

The following senators were present at the February meeting: Elise Kennedy (AHP), Jeff Landry (CIS), Leigh Minchew, (NURS), Ron Morgan (AHP), Phillip Smith (A&S), Justin St. Clair (A&S), and Ellen Buckner (NURS).

- St. Clair reported on the Faculty Senate Mentoring Program (FSMP). Following the email that the committee sent to all faculty members at the beginning of February, three new mentor/mentee relationships were initiated. The committee discussed possible ways to follow up on the initial mass email.
- The committee began discussion on how to step up efforts re: research mentoring. A quick straw poll suggested unanimous support on this front. We first discussed Lynne Chronister's suggestion that we construct a one-page handout for chairs w/ "best practice" suggestions for mentoring. After much additional discussion, we also hit upon the idea of a "grant mentor" program—a system by which grant writers could be paired with people who have had experience applying for the same or similar grants. We agreed to begin by looking into the existence of such programs at other institutions.

The following senators were present at the March meeting: Jeff Landry (CIS), Leigh Minchew, (NURS), Ron Morgan (AHP), and Justin St. Clair (A&S).

- The committee made plans to send a follow-up email on the FSMP that specifically targets new faculty.
- Work also began on a roadmap report that will be useful to next year's committee.

- Environmental Quality (Doug Haywick)

- Evaluation (Sam Fisher)

The 26th Annual Faculty Survey was open March 10 to March 17. A total of 388 faculty took the survey. The results will be posted to the Senate website within the week.

- Planning and Development (Mark Gillespie)

The Long Range Planning Committee wishes to announce that the date of the 2014 Faculty Senate Banquet is Wednesday, April 16. The event will be held at Moe's Original Bar B Q in downtown Mobile beginning at 6:30. Please see the invitation e-mail for more information.

- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Eric Loomis)

- Salary and Benefits (Susan Gordon-Hickey)

The Salary & Benefits committee is working to survey 403b benefits for Universities in the area. The 403b matching benefit was discontinued at USA due to the economic down turn. Faculty hired after 2007 were not eligible for matching of 403b retirement savings. However, faculty hired prior to 2007 who enrolled for this program receive a 3% match of 403b savings. We hope to ask that the administration reconsider the 403b matching benefit for all current and new faculty. There are concerns that USA has lost very well qualified candidates for open faculty positions due in part to the benefit structure no longer including a percentage match toward 403b retirement savings.

- Technology Utilization (Kevin West)

- Ad Hoc

- Research and Creative Activities (Ellen Buckner)



## Caucus Reports – submitted in writing

- Allied Health Professionals (Elisa Kennedy)

The COAHP Senate Caucus met with Dean Talbott on March 10, 2014 for a regularly scheduled meeting to discuss topics of interest. Items of interest are as follows: There is an interest in the development of at least one interdisciplinary undergraduate class for students registered in allied health programs of study (such as Growth and Development, Statistics, Research and Evidenced-based Practice, and Ethics and Professionalism). A date will be set to provide interested faculty a forum to explore ideas further. There is an interest by some faculty and alumni about the possibility of USA establishing an interdisciplinary PhD program with an IPE focus to promote academic development of faculty teaching in allied health programs. There is interest by some programs in the COAHP to develop an undergraduate honors program for students with designated allied health majors.

- Arts and Sciences (Mara Kozelsky)

- Continuing Education (Joycelyn Finley-Hervey)

- School of Computing (Jeff Landry)

- Education (Tres Stefurak)

- Engineering (Grant Glover)

- Library (Vicki Tate)

- Medicine (Judy Burnham)

University of South Alabama Children's & Women's Hospital will host Local Goodness, a unique farm-to-table experience sponsored by Hancock Bank on Sunday, April 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. in Geri Moulton Children's Park on the hospital's campus. At this casual party in the park, guests will dine on local meats, seafood and produce as they enjoy authentic bluegrass music performed by local band Fat Man Squeeze. Local Goodness will help raise funds to redesign the Evaluation Center, the emergency department that sees over 35,000 patients annually, almost 90 percent of them children. Local Goodness will pay tribute to local cuisine, art and music while raising awareness and support for the hospital's mission of providing the highest quality healthcare for the children and women in this region. Tickets for this event are \$150 and can be purchased by calling (251) 415-1636 or visiting [CWHLocalGoodness.EventBrite.com](http://CWHLocalGoodness.EventBrite.com). For sponsorship opportunities, contact Beth Mattei at (251) 415-1636 or [bmattei@southalabama.edu](mailto:bmattei@southalabama.edu).

On March 21, 2014, senior medical students and residency training program directors across the United States and Canada will find out this year's Match Day results. The National Residency Matching Program, or Match Day, is the annual event in which future doctors simultaneously learn where they will be doing their residency training.

Dr. Jarrod Fortwendel, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, recently was awarded a five-year research grant by the National Institutes of Health. The grant award totals \$1,513,250. Dr. Fortwendel's research focuses on deciphering novel mechanisms through which the pathogenic fungus, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, causes disease. *A. fumigatus* is the most common mold pathogen of patients with blood cancers, causing high morbidity and mortality

- Mitchell College of Business (Tom Noland)

The search for a new Dean is moving forward. We have received more than 50 applications. The Search Committee will meet on Friday, March 21 and semi-final candidates will be invited for a "fly-in" interview on March 30/April 1. Full interviews of the finalist will be conducted in early-to-mid April.

- Nursing (Elizabeth Fuller)

The CON welcomes Dr. James Harris who is the new chair for the Department of Community Mental Health. Dr. Barbara Brooms retired 2/2014.