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Minutes 2009-2010   Faculty Senate Minutes

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – March 2010

Faculty Senators
University of South Alabama

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March 24, 2010
Library Auditorium
3:00 pm

Approved Minutes

Present: Estis, Gubler-Hanna, Spector, Connors, Haywick, Hillman, Marshall, Perez-Pineda, Shaw, Summerlin, Johnsten, Langan, Kingman, Campbell, P. Turnipseed, Byrne, Finley, Lemley, Prendergast, Falkos, Madden, Retzlaff-Roberts, D. Turnipseed, Woodford, Keasler, King

Excused: Axsmith, Carr, Fisher, Lunceford, Powers, Shelly-Tremblay, Toelken, McCormick, Kinniburgh, Romey, Omar, Bosarge, Burnham, Kahn, Rizk, Brown, Meyer

Unexcused: Adams, Rowell, Baggett, Ambrose, Pacheco, Perry, Quereshi, Wright

1. Call to order – 3:05 p.m. without quorum

2. Approval of minutes from the February meeting
    When quorum was reached, motion was made and seconded to accept minutes from February meeting. Minutes were then unanimously approved.

3. Chair's report

    1. Constitutional amendment vote
        To date we have had a very low response rate; just over 200 faculty members have voted. Very few members of COM have responded. Also have low response rate from A&S. The response rate is a good indicator of why changes are needed.

    2. Homecoming
        There was a meeting yesterday looking at plans for Homecoming 2010.

    3. Budget
        There is a possibility that the University could face another 3-4% cut in its state funding due to additional proration. The University budgeted for a 10% cut. The additional 3-4% would put the University within the budgeted shortfall.

    4. Bell Tower
        The date for the Bell Tower dedication has not been set. There is talk of holding the dedication in the Fall.

    5. University Club
        As you may have noticed, work is at a standstill on the University Club. The general belief is Campus Crest is dragging its feet because of the economy, but the administration

believes the facility will be completed. It is hard for the administration to push Campus Crest, given the company is donating the building.

6. Faculty Senate Elections
   D. Turnipseed noted that there are a lot of seats to be filled for the 2010-2011 term. He noted that a number of senators on the current roster have only come to 1 or 2 meetings, and some have never attended. D. Turnipseed encouraged colleges to look carefully at this issue and emphasize to senate candidates the importance of active participation. If a faculty member cannot commit to the one meeting per month, the faculty member should not run.

4. Old Business

   A. Report on Faculty Senate Constitutional Amendment Vote – D. Turnipseed

   As noted, the response rate has been very low; though those who have voted are overwhelmingly in favor of the proposed amendments. D. Turnipseed asked the senators present to take 4-5 ballots with them and go door-to-door. D. Turnipseed also asked the A&S representatives if a message requesting participation had gone out from either the Dean or the Chairs. A&S Senators responded in the negative. The A&S representatives opined that a message from the Dean would be the more effective message for encouraging voting.

5. New Business

   A. Constitutional Amendment – D. Turnipseed
   D. Turnipseed proposed another amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution; again changing the voting method for amending the constitution. Specifically, D. Turnipseed proposed requiring merely a majority of votes cast for an amendment to pass. D. Turnipseed's motion was seconded.

   Discussion ensued. The motion faced a good deal of opposition among members present with several members opining that it should be difficult to amend the constitution and that effort should be required if an issue is important enough to warrant a change.

   D. Haywick proposed sending the question to the Policy & Handbook Committee for review and recommendations.

   D. Turnipseed withdrew his motion and asked the Policy & Handbook Committee to take up the issue.

   B. Bulk Email Proposal – D. Turnipseed
   A copy of a request for changing the way bulk mail is handled was distributed. The request suggested two possible options to the current barrage of bulk emails: (1) sending only 1 bulk email per day with all messages for that day included or (2) establishing a website on which bulk messages would be posted such that users could go to the site and choose what/if to read. D. Turnipseed asked for feedback on the proposals. One member suggested a third option: an opt-in system in which each Groupwise user would

select the category or categories of email the user wished to receive (e.g., Sports, Community events, Dissertation defenses, Arts, etc.).

Concerns were raised that some distributions are required (e.g., dissertation announcements).

D. Turnipseed asked for a consensus of the Senate. The majority of members favored the proposal from the floor (opt-in system) over those proposed in the request for review.

C. Faculty Senate Elections for New Senators – K. Woodford

Elections for new Senators for the 2010-2011 term are underway. Voting needs to be concluded and a list of new Senators forwarded to K. Woodford by the end of the 1st week of April. Colleges will have the following representation for the 2010-2011 Senate:

College of Arts & Sciences – need to elect 5 Senators
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 17
Representative change from 2009-2010:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   5

Mitchell College of Business – need to elect 0 Senators
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 3
Representative change from 2009-2010:   -1
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   0

College of Education – need to elect 2 Senators
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 5
Representative change from 2009-2010:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   2

College of Engineering – need to elect 2 Senators
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 3
Representative change from 2009-2010:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   0*
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   1
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   1

College of Allied Health Professionals – need to elect 1 Senator
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 4
Representative change from 2009-2010:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   1

College of Nursing – need to elect 3 Senators
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 6
Representative change from 2009-2010:   +1
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   1
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   2

College of Medicine – need to elect 12 Senators
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 16
Representative change from 2009-2010:   +1
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   3
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   3
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   6

College of Computer and Information Sciences – need to elect 1 Senator
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 2
Representative change from 2009-2010:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   1

Continuing Education – need to elect 0 Senators
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 2
Representative change from 2009-2010:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   0

Library – need to elect 0 Senators
2010-2011 – total number of Senators: 2
Representative change from 2009-2010:   -1
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2011:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2012:   0
Number of Senators to be elected for terms expiring in 2013:   0

   D. Election of New Officers & Executive Committee Members at April meeting – K. Woodford
   K. Woodford noted that elections for Senate officers and Executive Committee members would take place at the April meeting. Anyone interested in serving should contact K. Woodford.

6.   Committee Reports
   • Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr) – No report.
   • Environmental Quality (Doug Haywick) – D. Haywick will be attending a University meeting regarding the wetlands at 4. The environmental committee has not met since the last general Senate meeting, but will meet soon to prepare its final report for the 2009-2010 Senate term.

- Evaluation (Amy Prendergast) -- Part 2 of the Faculty Survey is open. A. Prendergast asked if those present had received the announcement and members responded in the affirmative. The response rate on Part 1 was @50% -- about 400 responses. To date 220 people have started Part 2, with only 198 completing the survey.
- Planning and Development (Sheryl Falkos) - No report.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher) – No report.
- Salary and Benefits (Julie Estis) – No report
- Technology Utilization (Tom Meyer) – No report

7. Caucus Reports
- Allied Health (Elizabeth Adams) – No report
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw) – A&S has had 6 nominations for its 5 Senate seats. Elections are underway.
- Continuing Education (Vickie McCormick) – No report
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan) – The new building is coming along nicely.
- Education (Dennis Campbell) - No report.
- Engineering (Peter Byrne) – Engineering currently has 2 searches underway and expects to hire for 2 positions by Fall.
- Library (Vera Finley) – The Library has an active search to fill the open position at the MCOB Library. In addition, the University Library currently has 2 exhibits: an Azalea Quilt exhibit on the 3d floor and a Helen Keller exhibit on the 1st floor.
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts) -- No report.
- Medicine (Judy Burnham) - No report.
- Nursing (Diane Keasler) - No report.

Adjourned at 3:40.