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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes - March 2007

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University of South Alabama
Faculty Senate
2006-2007
March 21, 2007
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Approved Minutes

Present: Irion, Moore, Amare, Britt, Brown, Crumb, Dardeau, Dupree, Farmer, Flynn, Fresne, Loomis, Wright, Doran, Hain, Bru, Ficici, McIntosh, Santoli, Sylvester, Guion, Li, Tate, Burnham, Carnahan, Falkos, Molokhia, Porter, Joseph, Prescott, Swofford, Robinson, Shamburger
Excused: Beverly, Brick, Carter, Engin, Heins, Hubbard, Kahn, King, Lauderdale, Major, McNair, Pettyjohn, Phelan, Rego Rivers, Sachs, Vrettos.
Unexcused: Prokhorov, Douglass, Burckhardt, Sherman, Harrison, Hamilton, Varner.

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm with Chair Irene McIntosh presiding. The rules were suspended to allow Dr. Joseph Busta to report on Campaign USA.

II. Chair's Report:

- Meeting with Dr. Covey—Travel reimbursement funds issues were addressed. After much research it was determined that there is sufficient amount available in the President's Fund for travel. The President's Office will continue to monitor the funds and work with faculty. Dr. Covey also encouraged faculty members to discuss travel issues with their chairs and deans for additional needs.
- Chair McIntosh has sent a request to caucus leaders for the elections of new senators. Election results should be forwarded to her by April 1st.
- Final year-end committee reports were also requested.
- USA Foundation Board meeting—The Foundation will give \$100,000 toward the Mitchell College of Business' new LRC, which has a deficit of nearly \$300,000 in direct gift payments.
- The Executive Committee attended and participated in an interview with Dr. McIver, second candidate for Vice-President for Research. Some senators expressed discomfort with the inconsistency in the search procedures between candidates. Chair McIntosh will convey this to the Search Committee.
- The Faculty Senate successfully hosted the USA suite at the Feb. 24th basketball game. A few of the USA trustees also attended the event.

III. Old Business:

A formal presentation of the Resolution to Dr. Charles Rodning, (passed in the February meeting), was made to him in person.

The Resolution on the University Club, introduced at the last meeting, was discussed. After revisions from the floor, the resolution was passed unanimously.

IV. New Business:

None

V. Committee reports:

Salary & Fringe Benefits (Doran)—No report.

Environmental Quality (Santoli)—No report.

Academic Development & Mentoring (Beverly)—“Using participant feedback, committee members formulated several suggestions for the Office of Academic Affairs for New Faculty Orientation. These were shared in part with Dr. Covey during the Executive Committee meeting, and all suggestions were given to her in writing. Timing of the orientation has been an issue, so we requested consideration of starting nine-month contracts for new faculty one week earlier. Dr. Covey rejected this idea because of broader ramifications (e.g., retirement system). Second, we suggested that the orientation be tailored to differing needs of experienced new hires versus inexperienced faculty. Dr. Covey indicated that this was a good suggestion for consideration. One barrier to streamlining orientation is the increasing need for specific content to be covered with all new hires (e.g., sexual harassment, potential student violence). The committee indicated that faculty would like to see some aspects of orientation increased (e.g., parking, benefits, etc.), but other aspects addressed predominantly through the PETAL and OLL programs (e.g., teaching development workshops, Writing Center tips). Although she did not respond to this request during the meeting, she did indicate that she feels the information from the Writing Center is an important component for all faculty, regardless of experience. The committee questioned whether departments and colleges could develop more standardized orientation procedures to assist with topics that are more specific at these levels. The committee is planning to meet again; follow-up with the Office of Academic Affairs will be addressed at that time.”

Academic Policy and Handbook (Brown)—No Report.

Evaluation (Hain)—Faculty survey is ready; committee trial has been run and the survey will be delivered to faculty next week.

Planning & Development (Flynn)—No Report.

Technology Utilization (Britt)—No Report.

VI. Caucus Leaders Reports:

Allied Health (Moore)—Election process is continuing.

Arts & Sciences (Wright)—Election process is continuing.

Computer & Information Sciences (Hain)—Election process is continuing.

Continuing Education (Bru)—No report

Education (Sachs)—Election process in continuing.

Engineering (Sylvester)—Election process is continuing.

Library (Guion)—No report.

Medicine (Carnahan)—Search for V.P. in near completion.

Mitchell College of Business (Joseph)—No report.

Nursing (Hamilton)—No report.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 4:25.

Revised minutes submitted by Vicki Tate and Steve Morris