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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – February 2012

Faculty Senators

University of South Alabama

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

February 15, 2012 - Faculty Club - 3:00 pm
MINUTES

Call to order: 3:05 pm (no quorum)

Present: Adams, Smith, T., Carr, Guzy, Hussain, Johnson, Lunceford, Marin, Marshall, Moore, Roddy, Shaw, Benko, Feinstein, Langan, Byrd, Davidson-Shivers, Norrell, Tunripleed, P., Finley, Nero, Burnham, Falkos, Roberts, Turnripleed, D., Brown, Keasler, Meyer, Minchew, Walls, Quiett, Bru

Excused absence: Gubler, Spector, Connors, Fisher, Hillman, Jackson, Ferguson-Martin, Donovan, Green, Madden

Unexcused absence: Picket, Powers, Britton, Grishko, Rizk, Rusyniak

Approval of minutes: January 2012 meeting approved with no edits.

Approval of agenda: Approved with no additions.

Guest: Relay for Life – distributed information flyer. Event is March 30th 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. March 31st, 2012.

President's Report

Tom Meyer encouraged senators to attend Higher Education Day, Thurs., March 1, 2012. Meyer stated that this is a great opportunity to meet the state legislators. Lunch is provided. A bus is being made available for transportation – contact Beth Daniels for reservations.

Old Business

Update: Constitutional task: “Faculty Senate State of the University Report” – Tom Meyer stated that he is in the process of drafting the statement and will distribute to the Senate via email shortly. Comments and informational items are invited from all Senators – please email tmeyer@usouthal.edu. The statement will be approved at the March meeting and presented to the President and Faculty in April. Phil Carr stated that this is a first time for this statement as it was an added in the initial draft in 2010 and provides the opportunity to look at the University from the faculty perspective. He encouraged everyone to read the statement carefully and please share ideas for content with Tom via email.

Update: Non-Discrimination proposal presented to Administration – Tom Meyer presented the resolution to administration at the Feb. 8, 2012 meeting and got mutual agreement on principle but there needs to be some clarification regarding the wording of the resolution and investigation into the issue of benefits. There is concern that “gender identity” is not in policies at sister institutions in the state. The resolution is still under review.

Update: University hiring processes/faculty handbook – Sam Fisher (no present – no report) Phil Carr noted that there is agreement on the wording regarding the hiring process for faculty in the Faculty Handbook. The VP for Academic Affairs will communicate with appropriate personnel regarding the types of recommendations that are acceptable.

Update: Year-End Faculty Senate Banquet update & Community Service Awards – Laura Moore

stated that the end of year banquet is set for April 20th at the Fairhope Yacht Club. The menu and venue costs have been presented to John Smith for approval by administration who will be footing the costs. Senators and their spouse for the 2011-2012 terms are invited. Administration and special guests (past Senate Presidents) will also be invited. The Community Service Award call went out on Friday, February 10th via email. There are three categories for nominations: Research Collaboration, Teaching Partner and Community Collaboration. Laura Moore will send the information regarding specifics on the nominations and the form to Diane Keasler, Senate Secretary who will email it to all Senators again. David Turnipseed is coordinating the Seemooon Chang Humanitarian Award which will be presented at the banquet also.

Update: Senate Elections – Diane Keasler reminded all caucus leaders to please submit the results of Senate elections by March 1st. Newly elected senators will attend their first meeting in April and their terms will be April 2012 to March 2015.

Update: New Senator Orientation plans – Phil Carr noted that a new event is being planned for newly elected Senators on March 21 at 5:00 p.m. – following the regular Senate meeting. New senators will be briefed on the functions of the senate committees, their role as senators, and will be introduced to the leadership of the senate. There will be light hors’ d’ouvres and non-alcoholic beverages provided.

Announcements:

Phil Carr announced that he is on a committee that is working on hiring a Registrar since Melissa Wold will be retiring in December 2012. This is a key position for the university and a national search is underway. They are working diligently to fill the position as soon as possible so that the new hire can see commencement in action and get a good handle on the functioning of the registrar’s office.

Tom Meyer announced that the stipend for online course transition to SAKAI is being distributed. He is concerned that many faculty are not aware of the stipend and they haven’t been given this information by their departments or colleges. He stated that there is a tiered level of funding for courses based on the complexity and contents of the course. He encouraged faculty to ask about this process within their units. Diane Keasler pointed out that this policy was developed by the University Committee for Electronic Learning (UCEL) - Dr. Jack Dempsey’s offices and has been in place since the transition process was implemented. It is not a new policy. Faculty must have completed the 4-phase SAKAI training and the course offered on the SAKAI platform to be eligible for funding.

Gail Davidson-Shivers reported that the University Emeritus Policy Committee is meeting March 5, 2012 to begin review of emeritus policy. If anyone has recommendations or input please email Dr. Shivers.

New Business

Adjustment to Senate schedule due to Spring Break:

Proposal to amend calendar as follows: since there are 5 Wednesdays in February and Spring Break falls on March 12-16, 2012, we propose the following calendar changes:

- Wed., Feb. 29, 2012 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting
- Wed., March 7, 2012 FSEC meeting with President
- Wed., March 21, 2012 Senate meeting

Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Thomas Shaw) He and Phil Carr will be meeting with Dr. Johnson and Dr. Franks this Friday to discuss a University committee of the same name. He and his committee will be working to develop best practices model for mentoring.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Marshall) as part of the 50th anniversary celebration the EQ committee is working with administration on making USA a sustainable campus. Plastic recycling will begin in March with HUMB, Admin & ILB buildings and expanded throughout campus during summer term. Also at the next phase of the Jag Bike program is in planning stages with a rental type program being made available to students. There is an ad hoc committee formed that is working on a plan to present to administration that identifies areas of campus that should be environmentally protected and also areas that have already been damaged by expansion that they are asking to be restored. This ad hoc committee will work closely with the EQC on these issues.
- Evaluation (Patsy Turnipseed) No report.
- Planning and Development (Laura Moore) see above
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher) see above
- Salary and Benefits (David Turnipseed) reported that the next phase of the salary evaluation process is underway to identify peer institutions to conduct a micro-evaluation by rank.
- Technology Utilization (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts) reported that she met with Angelia Bendolph (University Web Services) to discuss the updating of the FS web page.

Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Mike Spector) No report
- Arts and Sciences (Laura Moore) Caucus meeting Wed.2/22/12 at 3:00 pm
- Continuing Education (Stephen Bru) No report
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Feinstein) CIS School name has been changed to "School of Computing"
- Education (Gayle Davidson-Shivers) By proclamation Dr. James "Tres" Stefurak, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Professional Studies, is the new COE Faculty Senator for the next three years. The COE Faculty Women's Informal Social was a great success; about 16 faculty (or more) attended. Another is planned and Senator Kelli Byrd will host.
- Engineering (Francis Donovan) No report
- Library (Vera Finley) No report
- Mitchell College of Business (Ellen Madden) No report
- Medicine (Ludymila Rachek) No report
- Nursing (Leigh Minchew) No report