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Minutes 2010-2011

Faculty Senate Minutes

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10-1-2010

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – October 2010

Faculty Senators

*University of South Alabama*

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### Recommended Citation

Senators, Faculty, "Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – October 2010" (2010). *Minutes 2010-2011*. 7. [https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes\\_twentyten/7](https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes_twentyten/7)

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October 20, 2010  
3pm -- Library Auditorium

**Minutes**

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

Excused: Guzy, Roddy, Toelken, Kingman, Omar, Grishko, Kahn, Perry, Madden

Unexcused: Bosarge, Green, Rusyniak

1. Call to order—J. Connors called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Quorum was met at 3:06pm.
2. Approval of minutes from the September meeting— S. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes. B. Lunceford seconded the motion. The September minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Guest presentations

a. Dr. Russ Lea, Vice President for Research

Dr. Lea discussed the revised document on “Standards in the Conduct of Research.” The updated policy defines research misconduct, presents roles/responsibilities of individuals involved in the process of handling misconduct, and outlines procedures for reporting and investigating incidents of misconduct. In the process of working on the revision of the misconduct policy, the issue of “whistleblowing” was reviewed. It was realized that the initialization of these types of allegations would begin with a “whistleblowing” event. Compliance and Internal Audit worked together to create a “whistleblowing policy.” Such allegations will be presented directly to Internal Audit. From there, the allegation will be investigated by the appropriate policy.

M. Spector asked for clarification of the term “deciding official” in the policy. Dr. Lea indicated that he serves as the “deciding official” and that Dusty Layton serves as the “research officer.” Dr. Lea added that an ad hoc investigation would be conducted within the unit of those involved and would be set up by the chief academic officer of that unit. Then, if there is merit to go forward, it goes to the deciding official. As it moves through the University committee, data would be collected and a judgment would be presented to the deciding official. M. Spector asked if there are any stipulations on how the ad hoc committee is formed. Dr. Lea indicated that there are no specific guidelines for the make-up of the committee. It is expected that those with any conflict of interest would not serve on the committee. He added, “This is extremely serious business. The process and the outcome are never satisfactory to all parties. It is a terrible process from start to finish. That’s why the procedure must be very clearly set forth.”

b. Dr. Richard Wood, Dean of Libraries

Dr. Wood presented information regarding the art exhibits in the library. He described the objectives of the library art exhibits as follows: serve as a center of cultural awareness, feature local/regional artists, and provide outreach to community. It was established in 2002, along with the addition to the original library facility. The library art gallery hosts 20-25 exhibits each year. Faculty members are encouraged to view the gallery.

c. Dr. Nicole Carr, Director of Student Academic Success and Retention

Dr. Carr indicated that a webpage for her office will be complete by 10/29/10, and the presentation from today will be uploaded to the site. She provided the outcome goals for her office. She also presented initiatives for increasing academic success. The JagSuccess program is currently at 76% participation. There are plans to have JagSuccess monitoring completed before advising each semester. The program is being streamlined to help faculty. Over 3,781 students received an alert and prompt to complete an online tutorial. She discussed initiatives of her office, including mandatory freshman advising, supplemental instruction (attached to courses that are known to be difficult), first year experience, JagPALS, and promoting academic success.

She reported that the First Year Experience is being adjusted to promote student success with more flexibility and freedom for faculty. 50% of the content will be provided by Academic Affairs (e.g., college readiness, study skills, strategies), and 50% of the content will be driven by the major or interests.

J. Shelley-Tremblay asked about the effectiveness of mandatory freshman advising and presented concerns related to the use of faculty time for this effort. He indicated that it takes time away from research productivity. She related the importance of the advising process and stated that this issue will be further explored. She also described plans to increase Learning Communities offered to freshman. J. Shelley-Tremblay asked how faculty time compensated for serving in this capacity, and Dr. Carr responded that this is currently under consideration. Applications are currently being accepted for Faculty in Residence positions.

4. Chair's report - J. Connors

J. Connors announced that the Fall Faculty Meeting will be held Thursday, November 4 at Laidlaw at 4pm. He indicated there has been some progress in moving forward with the Faculty Club. He reported that the financial outlook for next year indicates that we will face deficits. The Faculty Senate is addressing some campus-wide cost saving initiatives.

5. Old Business

- a. Annual Faculty Senate banquet- The University has agreed to fund this event. We plan to hold the event at the Faculty Club. Dr. Chang will present his humanitarian award. We are proposing an earlier date—April 1 or April 8. We have the Fairhope Yacht Club reserved as an alternate location.
- b. Homecoming 2010—Plans for a Faculty Senate tent for the November 6 Homecoming game are moving forward.
- c. Update on Faculty Senate Constitution reform—We are waiting on feedback from the administration. The initial, unofficial feedback is positive.

d. Ad hoc Committees

i. Calendar Committee (Brett Lunceford)

The calendar committee has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting. The committee recommends that any concerns be directed to Dr. Johnson directly. A senator asked if we have results from the SGA survey regarding Fall Break. J. Connors reported that he is not aware of those findings.

ii. Public Relations Committee (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)

The committee is developing some categories for recognizing individuals/entities at our Faculty Senate Banquet.

iii. Cost Saving Committee (Kathryn Toelken)

No report.

- e. Resolution Proposal—At our last meeting, we discussed a resolution to commend the administration on their performance during the current financial difficulties. J. Connors will work with the Executive Committee on the wording of the resolution.

## 6. New Business

### a. Distribution of Senate Minutes and Meeting Openness

J. Connors reported that a faculty member suggested more open distribution of Senate minutes and meeting agenda. One consideration is posting the meeting agenda prior to Senate meetings so that interested parties can attend. J. Connors recognized the efforts of Caucus Leaders to keep faculty informed of the business of the Senate. The majority indicated that the agenda could be posted on the Faculty Senate website. Discussion related to distribution method ensued.

## 7. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr)
  - The committee is focusing on two items: 1) posting a list of academic development opportunities on the Faculty Senate website, and 2) making recommendations to Dr. Johnson related to mentoring for faculty.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Marshall)
  - A campus-wide campaign for energy conservation will be presented to the USA community by the end of November.
- Evaluation (Patsy Turnipseed)
  - The committee met and decided that a very brief survey will be sent to the Senators related to the annual Faculty Survey (e.g., one or two surveys, content, comments).
- Planning and Development (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)
  - The committee will meet the first week of November. The Executive Committee has been discussing some development issues that the committee needs to discuss.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)
  - The committee is addressing the issue of the absence of sexual orientation in the Faculty Handbook policies on harassment. T. Shaw reported that some Alabama universities have this language in their handbooks and several do not. The committee will work on proposed language. SGA is working on the issue in the Student Handbook as well.
- Salary and Benefits (Elizabeth Adams)
  - Recently, the University Fringe Benefits committee recommended that the University absorb \$25 per month increase in health premiums. The Tobacco Declaration Form is now available on the Human Resources website. The form is due on November 30 to declare that you are not a user of tobacco and to receive a \$25 waiver.
- Technology Utilization (Diane Keasler)
  - No report.

## 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 (?)—No report.
- Nursing (Henri Brown)—The recent accreditation visit went very well. They were impressed with the faculty and the use of online technology.

Announcement: Dr. Joaquim Holloway has invited faculty who have been at USA 20 years or have retired to participate in the Senior Faculty Caucus. They will meet on December 20, 2010.

S. Fisher made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved at 4:44pm.