

University of South Alabama

JagWorks@USA

Minutes 2012-2013

Faculty Senate Minutes

9-1-2012

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – September 2012

Faculty Senators

University of South Alabama

Follow this and additional works at: https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes_twentytwelve

Recommended Citation

Senators, Faculty, "Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – September 2012" (2012). *Minutes 2012-2013*. 7. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes_twentytwelve/7

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate Minutes at JagWorks@USA. It has been accepted for inclusion in Minutes 2012-2013 by an authorized administrator of JagWorks@USA. For more information, please contact jherrmann@southalabama.edu.



September 19, 2012 – Faculty Club - 3:00 pm
MINUTES

Present— Estis, Gordon-Hickey, Kennedy, Morgan, Benko, Carr, Connors, Dardeau, Faile, Fisher, Haywick, Marshall, Roddy, Shaw, Feinstein, Landry, Bru, Finley-Hervey, Norrell, Stefurak, Britton, Nero, Tate, Alexeyev, Hunsader, Woodford, Fuller, Meyer, Minchew, Quiett
Excused— Spector, Moore, Byrd, Ferguson-Martin, El-Sharkh, West, Burnham, Falkos, Ruchko, Turnipseed, Buckner, Keasler, Walls
Unexcused— Mishra, Jackson, Marin, Sylvester, Green, Gupte, Rusyniak

Call to order—The meeting was called to order at 3:08pm. Quorum was met at 3:15pm.

Approval of minutes: Sam Fisher made a motion to approve minutes from the August 2012 meeting. Anne Marie Guzy provided a second, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of agenda: Doug Haywick made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting. Sam Fisher provided a second, and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

Guest Presentation: Lynne Chronister, VP of Research

Phil Carr introduced the new Vice President for Research, Lynne Chronister. Ms. Chronister expressed her excitement about being back at the University of South Alabama. She indicated that she is looking forward to working with the faculty, particularly the Faculty Senate.

She indicated that the name of the office has changed from the Office of the Vice President of Research to the Office of Research and Economic Development. This change reflects the fact that we are an advanced and growing institution with a Technology and Research Park and a solid technology transfer record (ranked 16th in terms of royalty revenue compared to research revenue). USA is an important part of the economic growth and development of the region. She indicated that since beginning this position she has been hearing about barriers to research from faculty members. For example, she's heard, "It's really hard to do collaborative work, because we only have one budget." She indicated that a solution to this problem is now in place. Now you can set up sub-budgets to divide the funds as they come in. She's also heard that "It's hard to get credit as a co-investigator." With the creation of sub-budgets, this should be improved. On a biannual basis, awardees and co-investigators will be reported to Deans and Chairs in an effort to fully recognize all investigators involved in the grant.

She also reported that 50 Outstanding Research and Scholarly Projects will be recognized as a part of the 50th Anniversary celebration, honoring the research and creative activities of our institution.

In addition, she stated that we have achieved a Carnegie 2 ranking, and we are now setting goals to become a Carnegie 1 ranking. A committee, which will include faculty representation, will complete a gap analysis and create a road map to become a Carnegie 1 institution. This will give us a solid goal to work toward.

She presented a book regarding research to the person elected as chair of the Faculty Senate research committee.

A brief period of questions and answers ensued.

Tom Meyer asked if she has ideas for quantifying creative activities. She responded that books, exhibits, and performances are evaluated by discipline and represent important scholarly activity. She also stated that, as related to her position and office, “research” is defined very broadly to include all types of scholarly activities.

President’s Report

Amendment Passing: Phil Carr was pleased to report that the Constitutional Amendment passed yesterday. This is perceived as good for the University in the short term and provides some time for the State to determine long-term solutions.

Faculty Compensation/Raises: This issue relates directly to faculty and staff raises. The Executive Committee discussed this issue with President Moulton and other administrators last Wednesday (9/12/12). We indicated that faculty have reached or passed a tipping point after years without salary increases. This issue is taking a toll on faculty morale as we are asked to do more and more with less. We shared with the administration that we often hear that there are perceptions of excess spending on landscaping, events, etc., and faculty are frustrated with spending in these areas with no increases in faculty compensation. President Moulton responded that salary increases are a priority. It is hoped that a proposal will be presented at the December Board of Trustees meeting. One issue related to postponing a recommendation for raises is stable or slightly decreased enrollment this academic year. Also, there are additional outstanding balances on tuition payments.

G. Dardeau asked about a timeframe for raises. Phil Carr responded that, if proposed, it will move forward at the December Board of Trustees meeting. President Moulton stated that he is committed to some type of compensation. Stephen Bru asked how the University can commit to a raise while raising tuition. He expressed concern regarding negative response from the community. G. Dardeau expressed similar sentiments.

Tom Meyer reiterated that the budget will be balanced this year. Raises will be predicated by the need for a balanced budget. Phil Carr added that this is important for SACS accreditation. Doug Haywick stated that while students may not appreciate us getting raises, we have gone 5 years without raises. Inflation has increased during that time, and our salaries have not reflected those changes. Tom Meyer stated that even with tuition increases we remain very competitive in terms of our cost. Phil Carr added that with more than half of our budget coming from student tuition, it is important to maintain the grounds and facilities to remain appealing to prospective and current students. Tom Meyer stated that the same type of investment needs to be invested in faculty or we will lose our best and brightest. Sam Fisher stated that the reasons for project decisions and for financial decisions were provided to the Executive Committee; however, these rationales are not widely known by the faculty.

Faculty Meeting Attendance: Related to our discussion on compensation and raises, the Executive Committee suggested that it might be beneficial for President Moulton to address these concerns and provide rationales directly to the faculty. He responded that he was willing to do that; however, he expressed frustration that General Faculty Meetings are poorly attended.

Discussion of this point ensued. A senator stated that content of these meeting is often lacking. Another senator expressed that people don’t attend because it is mainly a public relations event

where new faculty are introduced. Another senator stated that these meetings should be a time when real issues are addressed. Some reported concerns that teaching and clinical responsibilities preclude meeting attendance. One senator expressed a need to make sure the facility is full for the meeting. Options for encouraging faculty attendance were discussed, including holding a Town Hall meeting for faculty after General Fall Faculty Meeting, soliciting questions from faculty and presenting those to President Moulton ahead of time to be answered in the meeting, and mobilizing Caucus Leaders to promote attendance from faculty in their units.

Announcements: Negotiations are underway with the last Registrar candidate.

Freshman enrollment is steady, while overall enrollment was slightly down this year.

There was a 0.8 increase in average ACT score. The minimum ACT score for admission to USA was increased by 1 point this year. There was a 40% increase in incoming Freshman with an ACT of 30 or higher, bring our number of these students to 116.

Phil Carr attended the USA Foundation Board of Directors meeting. They gave approximately \$4 million to USA and \$4 million toward payment for the Brookley Field property.

Old Business

- **Research and Creative Activities Committee**
According to the Section 6 (6.1, 6.2) of the USA Faculty Senate Bylaws, an ad hoc Research and Creative Activities Committee was proposed. After discussion and several friendly amendments to the wording of the committee description, the issue was called to question by Doug Haywick. By show of hands, the proposal was unanimously approved.

The approved committee description reads:

Ad Hoc Research and Creative Activities Committee

This Committee represents the faculty in matters related to the facilitation of research, creative activities, technology transfer, and commercialization. Its activities include, but are not limited to, fostering new research and creative activities, promoting collaboration, facilitating pursuit of external funding, and supporting the reporting, publication, and exhibition of scholarly work. The ad hoc Research and Creative Activities Committee will be comprised of a minimum of five members of the Faculty Senate from a variety of academic units, disciplines and rankings.

Those interested in serving on this committee are asked to contact Julie Estis.

- **Future of Higher Education Panel**
A panel discussion and Q&A co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate and Innovations in Learning Center will be presented at Shelby Hall in October. Dr. Franks, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Spake, Dr. Davis, and Dr. Carr will be included on the committee. Details regarding the date and time are forthcoming.

New Business

None to report.

Committee Reports

- **Academic Development and Mentoring (Thomas Shaw)**
We have had two additional people request mentors and we are in the process of attempting to match them.
- **Environmental Quality (Doug Haywick)—No report.**

- Evaluation (Laura Moore)—
The final report of the Faculty Survey 2012 has gone to the Technology committee, and will be posted on the Faculty Senate page soon. Comments from the survey have been distributed to the various Senate committee chairs for discussion and possible action. Individual data reports were sent to the Library and Service Learning for their annual reports. The Evaluation committee will be meeting to discuss the comments from the Survey regarding the teaching evaluation forms and process.
- Planning and Development (Leigh Minchew)
There are 85 nominations to date for 50 Outstanding Faculty. The committee met today to discuss plans for the selection process and committee composition. Homecoming 2012 is coming soon. The Faculty Senate will have a tent for faculty prior to the Homecoming game. We need help running the tent and registering faculty for door prizes.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)— No report.
- Salary and Benefits (David Turnipseed)
The Salary and Fringe benefit committee will meet soon to discuss which institutions should be included in a salary comparison to USA. This comparison will be from CUPA data and will allow comparison at the organizational level, and at school and discipline levels.
- Technology Utilization (Kelly Woodford)—No report.

Caucus Reports

- Arts and Sciences (Genevieve Dardeau, Jenny Faile)— A&S will be holding elections in the upcoming week or two to fill 3 vacant seats. We are still working on organizing the social event to let faculty meet Senators as well as the meetings with the Dean. Will hopefully have these things in place in the next few weeks. Elections are underway. Meeting with Dean of College of Arts and Sciences.
- Continuing Education (Stephen Bru)—Welcome new Senator- Joycelyn Finley-Hervey.
- School of Computing (Jeff Landry)— Roy Daigle and David Langan have announced retirement. Three faculty searches and several new degree programs are in progress.
- Education (Gayle Davidson-Shivers)— National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) external reviewer is visiting this week. The final report is due Spring 2013. Dean Hayes is holding a faculty meeting tomorrow, 9/20/12. Dan Surry, professor in Professional Studies, was recently named as the new editor of *Tech Trends*, a journal published by Spring US on behalf of the Association for Educational and Communications Technology (AECT). AECT is a primary organization for the instructional design field. Gayle Davidson-Shivers, professor in Professional Studies, was just appointed as the North American Corresponding Editor of the *British Journal of Educational Technology* (BJET). BJET is an international journal published by Wiley-Blackwell on behalf of the British Educational Research Association.
- Engineering (Kevin West)— No report.
- Library (Vicki Tate) –Geneva Staggs has been nominated as Hospital Librarian of the Year by the Medical Library Association's Southern Chapter. The Biomedical Library will be celebrating National Medical Librarians Month next month with special training events and give-aways.
- Medicine (Judy Burnham)
The team from the Liaison Committee for Medical Education was on campus for a follow-up visit last week. The preliminary report was very positive.

Dr. Robert McClellan was recently appointed assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. Dr. John Gosche was recently appointed professor of surgery and professor of pediatrics at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine.

COM Faculty Senator Dr. Valentina Grishko, associate professor of orthopaedics and cell biology and neuroscience recently died of colon cancer. Dr. Grishko served at the University for 18 years. Donations may be made in honor of Dr. Grishko to her minor children's education fund. An account has been established with Regions Bank.

- Mitchell College of Business (Ken Hunsader)— The old portion of the building is being repainted (interior and exterior). We welcomed the Mitchell Scholars on Sept. 6 with a formal introduction and small ceremony. (These are freshman who entered the college of business and received the Mitchell Scholarships).

The AACSB accreditation visit is scheduled for the first week of October.

The finance department recently obtained Morningstar Direct, a financial service.

Starting next spring select students will be able to obtain certification and can use this to report on their resumes.

- Nursing (Ellen Buckner) – No report.
- Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health (Susan Gordon-Hickey)— The CAHP welcomes Ron Morgan from our EMS Department as a newly elected Senator. The CAHP is excited to report a Fall term credit hour growth of 21%, the highest in the University. Additionally, Biomedical Sciences currently has the highest number of honors students enrolled in the program.

Student groups from BMD participated in the 25th annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup at Municipal Park. Approximately 300 USA students from various organization participated by spending approximately 3 hours collecting trash around and in the lake at Municipal Park. Local TV (WKRK) interviewed several BMD students and Cindy Stanfield.

Respectfully submitted by J. Estis, 9/19/12