

University of South Alabama

**JagWorks@USA**

---

Minutes 2009-2010

Faculty Senate Minutes

---

10-1-2009

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – October 2009

Faculty Senators

*University of South Alabama*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes\\_twothousand\\_nine](https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes_twothousand_nine)

---

### Recommended Citation

Senators, Faculty, "Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – October 2009" (2009). *Minutes 2009-2010*. 7.  
[https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes\\_twothousand\\_nine/7](https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/minutes_twothousand_nine/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 2009-2010 by an authorized administrator of JagWorks@USA. For more information, please contact [jherrmann@southalabama.edu](mailto:jherrmann@southalabama.edu).



---

October 21, 2009  
MCOB 265

**Approved Minutes**

Present: Adams, Estis, Gubler-Hanna, Spector, Carr, Connors, Fisher, Haywick, Hillman, Luncelford, Marshall, Powers, Rowell, Shaw, Summerlin, Toelken, Johnsten, Kingman, McCormick, Baggett, P. Turnipseed, Byrne, Finley, Lemley, Prendergast, Burnham, Falkos, Madden, Retzlaff-Roberts, D. Turnipseed, Woodford, Brown, Keasler, King, Meyer, Wright

Excused: Axsmith, Campbell, Kinniburgh, Kahn, Perry, Teplick

Unexcused: Perez-Pineda, Langan, Romey, Omar, Ambrose, Bosarge, Pacheco, Quereshi

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by D. Turnipseed at 3:30 p.m.

Prior to the start of Senate business, D. Turnipseed asked President Moulton to address the Senate. President Moulton thanked the faculty for their time, effort and service to the University. President Moulton noted that the University has challenges on its hands but he believes that by working together and building on our common purpose, we can weather the economic storm. He applauded the willingness of the faculty to work together to find solutions.

President Moulton discussed the University's goal of maintaining the programs it currently has and the quality of those programs. He pledged that the University has no intention of cannibalizing programs because of the current financial situation. He noted that during the 2009-2010 fiscal year the University will be dipping into reserves to cover the funding shortfall and avoid major layoffs or salary roll backs. He noted, however, that reserve spending is not something that can be relied on for the long-term. Each college has been asked to identify areas in which the College's budget can be cut while maintaining the viability of its programs.

2. Approval of minutes from the September meeting

Motion to approve minutes from September's meeting was made and seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's report

a. Faculty Appreciation Lunch at the Terrace

D. Turnipseed reminded those in attendance of the Faculty Appreciation lunch scheduled for October 22 from 11:30-1:00 in the Student Center Terrace. The lunch is jointly sponsored by Athletic Marketing and the Faculty Senate. All faculty members are invited and everyone

who attends will receive a \$20 bookstore gift card for the purchase of Jagwear. Coach Jones will say a few words and be bringing game balls, jerseys, etc. to give away. D. Turnipseed asked Senators to spread the word and encourage faculty to attend.

b. E-Learning

D. Turnipseed noted that earlier in the day he had attended a *long* meeting regarding the E-Learning initiatives. He noted that Sam Fisher is chairing a subcommittee on copyright, ownership, and other intellectual property issues. D. Turnipseed also noted that a number of meetings have been held across campus relating to E-Learning and many of those meetings are generating more questions than answers.

The Faculty Senate has sponsored Town Halls in the past that were avenues for general questions and discussion. This year the Faculty Senate will be hosting a Town Hall focused on E-Learning. The meeting will be in MCOB 265 on Thursday, October 29 at 3 p.m. A number of deans and administrators have agreed to attend including Dr. Johnson, Dr. Chilton, Dr. Dempsey, Dr. Moore, Dr. Franks and Jean Tucker.

The Town Hall will be the faculty's opportunity to ask questions and, hopefully, get answers. Faculty Senators were asked to encourage the faculty in their colleges to attend.

c. Health Insurance Plan

The University's health insurance plan had been doing well for the last few years, with the plan taking in more than it was paying out. As a result, premiums had been held constant and the plan was able to build some reserves. Unfortunately, last year the plan did not fare as well and there is a short fall that now must be covered. The decision has been made to cover the short fall through a small premium increase, some co-pay increases, and the utilization of some reserves. The only benefit that will be lost is the Medivac service. That service has only been used one time since the plan was implemented.

d. Homecoming

D. Turnipseed indicated that there had been a number of complaints about the Faculty Senate getting involved in athletics. He noted that the Senate is not involved in athletics. Instead, the Senate is making an effort to get the faculty involved in the football spirit that has swept campus and raise the profile of the faculty. To this end, the Faculty Senate has secured sponsorships for a faculty tent at the homecoming game on November 7. The tent will be highly visible in the tailgating area next to the USA Alumni Association's tent at Ladd Stadium. There will be no cost to the faculty or to the Faculty Senate.

The tent will have food and beverages for the whole family. Prizes will be given away. The details will follow by email.

4. Old Business

- \* Approval of change in Faculty Senate by-laws allowing for succession

The Faculty Senate previously voted in favor of changing the Faculty Senate bylaws to allow a Senator, if elected, to have two consecutive three year terms. The Faculty Senate also previously voted in favor of changing the Faculty Senate bylaws to allow the President of the Senate, if elected, to serve two consecutive one year terms.

Sam Fisher and his committee have drafted new language for the bulletin. That language was circulated by email and also attached to today's agenda. If the language is accepted by the Senate, the change must be presented to the full faculty for a vote, and, if accepted, presented to the Board of Trustees at their December meeting for final approval.

A. Prendergast asked if the position of past chair was still necessary in light of the succession provisions. D. Turnipseed indicated he believed having the past chair position is helpful for the purpose of maintaining institutional knowledge. D. Haywick noted that the past chair position is a non-voting, ex-officio position any way.

V. Tate, attending to assist with parliamentary procedure, stated that, despite the previous vote representing the consensus of the Senate, the Senate could not vote on the new language today. Instead the new language could be entered into the record today and voted on at the next meeting.

D. Haywick raised a point of order, noting that under Roberts Rules of Order the Senate can move and vote to suspend the rules and, if the motion to suspend the rules passes, the Senate can vote on the proposed language today.

T. Meyer noted that if the vote is delayed until the October meeting, the proposed change could not be voted on by the full faculty in time to submit the change to the December Board of Trustees meeting.

D. Haywick then moved to suspend the rules to allow a vote on the proposed language. The motion was seconded. The members presented unanimously approved the motion.

A motion was then made to accept the changes as drafted and present the proposed changes to the full faculty for a vote. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## 5. New Business

- \* Town Hall Meetings
- \* Faculty Appreciation Lunch
- \* Homecoming

All new business items were covered as part of the Chair's report.

## 6. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr)

The Committee is working on a new charge regarding its role in mentoring. The committee is also looking at questions being raised regarding the use of teaching evaluations across campus.

D. Turnipseed noted that the teaching evaluation issue had been raised at the Executive Committee's monthly meeting with President Moulton. During that meeting Dr. Johnston indicated that the teaching evaluation issue had been on the table for a while and the administration was open to looking at the question of the instruments and how they are being used. D. Turnipseed indicated there are questions that need to be reviewed (e.g., does the teacher know the subject matter).

D. Turnipseed encouraged the members of the Senate to look at the evaluation instrument being used in their colleges, the way those evaluations are administered, and how evaluations are being used in the annual evaluation process and give feedback to P. Carr.

- Environmental Quality (Doug Haywick)

The committee continues to look at recycling on campus. The committee is also addressing concerns regarding run off and erosion, particularly near the library and the life sciences building. The committee is working with building & grounds on the issues.

- Evaluation (Amy Prendergast)

The committee has met and is looking to see what changes, if any, need to be made to the survey instrument for the annual faculty survey.

D. Turnipseed noted that in most areas the satisfaction trend seems to be improving; however, the trend for satisfaction with the Faculty Senate seems to be declining. D. Turnipseed asked: what can we do to reverse that trend?

- Planning and Development (Sheryl Falkos)

The committee is still working on Homecoming plans. The committee is also working to address the issue of parking, particularly faculty parking, on campus.

D. Turnipseed noted that he went on rounds during the "busiest times" for parking and problems were noted. He attended a meeting regarding parking at which two overarching issues were discussed: (1) student fines are so low that the fines are not a deterrent (indeed some students view the \$10 fine as simply a daily parking fee); and (2) student fines do not have to be paid until graduation (students currently can register even with holds for fines on their student accounts). The administration is looking at increasing fines and requiring students to pay the fines, regardless of amount, prior to registering.

Several members of the Senate noted that from the student perspective, if the student zone is already full, the fine is the same whether the student parks in a faculty space or another student zone. As a result, the students opt to park in the closer faculty spaces.

Concerns were also raised regarding the current Jag Tran routes and service schedule. From several points on campus, students simply cannot get to class on time if they ride Jag Tran.

T. Meyer asked about allowing teaching assistants to obtain faculty parking tags. D. Haywick suggested caution with respect to that issue because some TAs teach only 1 class, and some

colleges have a large number of TAs which could make the shortage of faculty parking even more of an issue.

The possibility of asking the University police to address the parking issue at the next meeting was raised and met with favorable response.

- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)

The new policy handbook should be out any day now.

D. Turnipseed noted that the handbook will be released in paper. However, as changes are made to the handbook, those changes will be uploaded to the University website and become official immediately.

- Salary and Benefits (Julie Estis)

As previously noted, there will be changes to the University health plan. The University Benefits Committee has been working hard to minimize the impact of those changes on participants; however, the plan has been losing money and change is necessary.

The committee has been exploring the idea of a sick bank through which faculty can voluntarily contribute accrued sick time that could then be used by faculty who need it. The committee is looking at a similar system used in the public school system.

D. Turnipseed noted that there currently is 1 terminal cancer patient and several other serious health issues. It would be nice to be able to keep sick members of the University community covered through voluntary contributions of accrued leave.

- Technology Utilization (Tom Meyer)

The Senate committee has not met.

T. Meyer and various members of the committee are on other University committees that are looking at the E-Learning issues. At this point, the faculty is, in many ways, “riding the coattails” of the E-Learning push.

T. Meyer is currently trying to get another grant for a tech fair, possibly with an E-Learning theme.

D. Turnipseed noted that the administration wants the E-Learning initiative to go forward; however, the administration seems genuinely interested in doing so without huge faculty opposition. D. Turnipseed believes that the administration is willing to listen to the faculty on this issue.

## 7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Elizabeth Adams)  
No report
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw)

No report

- Continuing Education (Vickie McCormick)

No report

- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan)

No report

- Education (Dennis Campbell)

No report

- Engineering (TBD)

No report; K Woodford noted that a caucus leader still has not been appointed for Engineering.

- Library (Vera Finley)

No report

- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts)

No report.

- Medicine (Judy Burnham)

COM is gearing up for accreditation next year.

- Nursing (Diane Keasler)

No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.