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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – October 2015

Faculty Senators

University of South Alabama

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Faculty Senate

October 21st, 2015 – Faculty Club - 3:00 pm

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Gordon-Hickey, Phlmann, Kennedy, Morgan, D. Smith, Carr, Fisher, Freed, Harrington, Kozelsky, Marin, Marhsall, Mata, Moor, Ni Chadhain, Poston, Reichert, Schulze, Smith, Bourrie, Campbell, McDonald, Gecewicz, Whiston, Broach, Davidson-Shivers, Fregeau, Norrell, West, Yazdani, Bauer, Bennett-Baldwin, Chinkers, Cioffi, Falkos, Gillespie, Omar, Ponnambalam, Rich, Richards, Richter, Taylor, Gillis, Grant, Woodford, Buckner, Dolan, Huey, Minchew, Riley, Vandawaa, Palle, Piazza

Absent: Culler, Lindeman, Stutsman, Glover, Phan, Clanton, Wilson, Audia, Bolton, Rachek, Noland, Varner, Scalici

Call to order - K. West 3:02 with quorum

Approval of minutes: September meeting – **motion made; 2d; approved**

Approval of revised agenda – motion made; 2d approved

President's Report

- Institutional Priority Town Halls / Strategic Plan

Good turnout and good feedback at the Town Halls. Feedback will go to the committee (University Committee on Planning, Assessment & Finance – K. West and S. Fisher are members). Committee formulated action items and metrics. The committee wanted feedback and have received a lot from faculty, clinical faculty, and staff. Many participants in the Town Halls requested an action item on faculty. Faculty is interwoven in all five priorities, but if strategic plan is guiding where resources go, the officers thought that faculty should be specifically enunciated in the plan. Next meeting is November 3. Ellen Harrington has written a nice text to use as justification for including a specific item on faculty. Officers would like to present Ellen's suggestions for modification of essential activities of the University found in the preamble to the Strategic Plan. The essential activity section includes a bullet point list of things that are important to the University and its strategic objectives but do not "fit" within a specific priority. We would like the Senate to consider adding "improving faculty engagement and morale" to the "essential activities" of the University. Angela Coleman suggested slight modification: "engaging faculty and recognizing their efforts to advance the university's priorities."

K. West asked the members present to consider a "Sense of the Senate" to authorize the officers to pursue language specifying faculty in the essential activities section of the strategic plan. Friendly amendment to adopt Angela Coleman's suggested language: "engaging faculty and recognizing their efforts to advance the university's priorities." K West indicated that the wording is not the important part because that would be changed. A "Sense of the Senate" resolution would serve to

authorize K. West to S Fisher to say at the next strategic plan meeting that faculty should be specifically included. Looking for sense of the Senate. Discussion ensued on language of the motion, particularly meaning of “morale”

Ellen Buckner – motion – Sense of the Senate - That specific reference to faculty/faculty resources be added to the essential activities in the strategic plan.

Motion 2d and approved.

- Upward & Onward Campaign

This is a really interesting campaign, but we have received negative feedback regarding the monetary breakdown for the \$150 million to be raised. Please help faculty understand we are starting with \$72 million, mostly from Abe Mitchell. If you look at the percentage breakdown of the remainder (what is going to be raised), the percentages are not that off from the breakdowns one would expect. Reiterating Josh Cogswell’s statement from last meeting – need help from faculty particularly in informing alumni about the campaign and options alumni have for involvement (e.g., Class of 19__ scholarship). **Josh would like to come to department meetings on request to talk about the campaign and role of faculty.**

- Dean’s Evaluation Process

Committee formed and charged with 360 degree review of the deans. Engineering evaluated last year. Senate had some input on committee composition. Phil Carr met with the engineering caucus to discuss thoughts on process. The officers have since met with Angela Coleman and she has been very receptive to feedback. One example is dean feedback. When administration was asked about feedback, we were told no because it was a personnel review. So we’ve suggested that part of the process would be review of the state of the college with action items to which the dean would respond.

Dean Steadman, without prompting, did give faculty responses to some of the items in his evaluation.

The officers are trying to work with Angela Coleman to tweak the process, particularly some type of feedback to the college so participants know something has happened.

When the Executive Committee met with Tony during the Presidential interview process, we spent 10 or so minutes talking about evaluation and he was an advocate for meaningful evaluations of administrators with a feedback loop.

Q: Is there a schedule on line on who is next? A: Johnson said he knows who will be evaluated next but the dean does not know yet; so he did not tell us.

Q: Why 5 year period? A: My guess is a negotiated truce. Central Florida uses 3 years, I think. Some units do yearly survey of the deans and that survey will continue. But the comprehensive review will be every 5. Our hope is that the annual survey will become data used in the 5 year process.

Another big point was the makeup of the committee. Queried whether it was optimal to have a dean chairing evaluation of another dean.

Announcements

- Mid-term grades – availability – K. West

K. West told the Senate at its last meeting that midterm grades would be available for advising and they weren't. K. West has been in multiple meetings about this. During various meetings, the officers asked for the formal registration date to be shifted so advisers would have the grades for advising, and they still weren't there. K. West has sent message to Kelly Osterbind about it. Students can see it but advisors cannot. The Executive Committee will continue to push for adviser access.

Q: Why did students who dropped have to have a grade entered? A: We will point that out because WD should be an option or pre-populated.

Q: Can athletics start getting this so we don't have to do separate forms for athletics? A: Once advisors have it, there is a potential for other uses, but athletics is asking for information not in the mid term grade report.

Q: Students get one grade for midterm but drop date is several weeks later and grade could be much higher/lower? A: The mid term date is for financial aid; drop date is separate. Professors need to let students know that mid term grade is a snap shot; Sakai gradebook is what is up to date. Could also be a syllabus issue or announcement on Sakai course pages.

M. Campbell – if you are using midterm grade in Sakai gradebook – if you use categories, even a single grade in a category, Sakai will use that grade for full category. K West – we had talked to administration about being able to roll grades directly from Sakai into Banner but to do that the issues have to be worked out first. Matt has been talking to Jeff Davidson about the gradebook calculation.

- Maymester – Financial Aid/Study Abroad – K. West

Last month someone raised question about Maymester issues. Additional inquiries were made about impact on 12 month faculty – will it count as a summer course or as overload. The Executive Committee has asked Johnson to formulate policy; hopefully by next month K. West will have some answers.

- Syllabus Policy Revisions – Doug Marshall

Back when I was president, I wanted to champion major syllabus reform to get rid of all the “stuff.” Brought up the issue with the PIC, which created a whole new committee. The idea is to have a webpage that has all the policies (disruption, disability service, dishonesty) on a single web page and faculty will include the link to those policies. We have toyed with a page on USA online that would require students to click on policy page. Hoping that soon we will have a way to make a shorter syllabus. One caveat – while messing with the syllabus template, Angela Coleman would like to change “course goals/objectives” to “course learning outcomes” that could be used down the road for assessment. “They” want a “Sense of the Senate” on these changes.

Sense of Senate 1 – compiling standard policies onto one page that is linked on that is linked on syllabi – 2d – approved

Sense of Senate 2 – syllabus template changed to include “outcomes” instead of “objectives” subject to constraints of individual disciplines – discussion held, most negative. No vote taken.

- Search Updates – Dean Education, Dean Allied Health, VPFA, VP MA

Education – Phil Smith – 37 credentials reviewed. Will interview 11 at Battle House next week. One has bowed out. Hope to get 3-4 to campus with recommendation before Thanksgiving.

AHP – supposed to see by November. Battle House in 1st of December with interviews in January.

VPMA – M. Gillespie – “in progress”. Hopefully we will go through CVs in December or January.

VPFA – K. West – Scott Weldon has been appointed. We invited him to come this month but conflicted with athletics council meeting. He is coming in November. He wants to meet with us. He understands the need for change and wants faculty to know what is going on. Steve Simmons had a timeline for converting areas to real budgeting. Plan was to do academic affairs last. Scott wants to start with academic affairs.

- Homecoming Update – B. Gillis

November 7. Do not know game time yet. Looking for volunteers for half hour or so. Have Naman’s catering.

- Faculty Senate Awards – B. Gillis – awards will be given after November meeting with reception.

Semoon and Youngshin Chang Humanitarian Award

Committee Selection: Ms. Shawna Mayo-Yokey

Director of Rape Crisis Center

Outstanding Research Partner -

Committee Selection: (Mobile County Public School System)

Martha Peek, Superintendent, MCPSS

Outstanding Teaching Partner

Committee Selection: Infirmary Health System (IHS)

Karen Smith Colicchio, Director

Outstanding Community Partner

Committee Selection: Mob. Co. Recycling Center operated by Goodwill Easter Seals

Sara Boccardo, Director of Sustainability

*Awards will be given at a reception after the November Faculty Senate meeting.

- Mobile Botanical Gardens – Gayle Davidson-Shivers – plant sale this weekend. Friday and Saturday. Profits go to support the botanical garden. Can buy bulbs online as well.
- Active Shooter Training Availability – K. West
University police contact to arrange training – Keith West.
Dale Smith raised this question. Keith West does training upon request. He uses a video and it is really well done. Helps you think through what to do. Takes between 45 minutes to one hour.
- October Fandango - E. Buckner – thanks to Sam Fisher for helping. Mentors and mentees.
Thank those with displays.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Special Business

Nominations & Elections for Chair of Evaluation Committee

Phil Carr was evaluation chair has taken on role of Past President. Need a new evaluation committee chair. Laura Moore has been nominated. She was chair of that committee before.

Nominations

- Laura Moore – A&S
- Others - none

Motion to close nominations. 2d.

Election

Approved by voice vote

Guest: Trey Davis, SGA Representative. Higher ed day is February 25. Want to get as many students as possible in Montgomery.

Motion to adjourn. 4:01.

Fandango immediately following meeting.

Caucus Reports

College of Allied Health Professionals – E. Kennedy

The COAHP Caucus had a regularly scheduled meeting with Dean Talbott on Oct 16, 2015. A topic of discussion included the creation of additional tenure faculty tracts. The question had arisen as more faculty are receiving post-graduate research degrees in programs that have traditionally not established tenure academic tracks. The justification is that tenure tracks for faculty with post-professional degrees would serve to promote the mission for academic excellence at USA; along with recruitment and retention of valuable faculty. Other topics included scheduling to address the needs of 12 month faculty, interdisciplinary service learning opportunities, and the establishment of centralized management of clinical contracts through the Dean's office. Searches continue for Dean and Chair of BMD. The search for the Chair of OT is in the final stages. Dr. Charles Newell, Radiology, is retiring in June with a search for this position to be scheduled. Congratulations to Dr. Diane Abercrombie for receiving continuation funding to support Year 4 of "Physician Assistant Training in Primary Care".

Mitchell College of Business – T. Noland

The Mitchell College of Business recently installed 12 Bloomberg Terminals. The **Bloomberg Terminal** is a [computer](#) system provided by [Bloomberg L.P.](#) that enables professionals in finance and other industries to access the *Bloomberg Professional* service through which users can monitor and analyze real-time financial [market data](#) and place trades on the [electronic trading platform](#).

College of Engineering – S. Yazdani

The College of Engineering hired Dr. Sumit Arora as an Instructor for the College.

Dr. Bret Webb, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering was recently awarded a certification for of D.CE (Diplomat of Coast Engineering).

There are currently multiple faculty position openings in the College of Engineering. There are also chair position openings in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering.

- The School of Computing hosted a new faculty get together/social to welcome new faculty members last month.
- Captain West from the USA Police Department hosted an active shooter training for SoC and College of Engineering faculty in Shelby Hall on October 8th. There was a good turnout for the presentation with many questions from the faculty regarding procedures and response for such events.
- As of this fall, SoC has 7 undergraduate students participating in its Computing Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) program. The program provides stipends to support part time research work for students alongside mentoring faculty to help further faculty research goals.
- SoC has been active in promoting undergraduate recruiting for its graduate program with several activities this semester. The faculty has participated in targeted classroom presentations and information seminars. Research faculty in Computer Science have provided overview briefings of their interest areas and the SoC graduate director has provided information briefs on how to apply for graduate school along with opportunities for scholarships and graduate assistant programs.
- SoC continues to host tail gates events for JAG football: the SoC alumnae provide consistent support and participation in these events and are well attended by faculty and staff.
- Dr. Todd McDonald gave a briefing to the USA SGA this month regarding the status of the JagTran Tracker application. The project involves software and devices to allow anyone on campus to track current locations of JagTran buses and stops on a browser-based map. The project has been predominantly furthered by students over the past three years as part of course project and senior capstone projects part of the SoC curriculum. The application is currently in beta testing this semester with Computer Services and Transportation support and has potential to be released for full campus use in the spring. The USA mobile app will allow access to the tracker when it is fully released.
- USA Cyber Scholars program currently has 14 students in various stages of undergraduate and master's degree programs. Cyber Scholars is a full-ride scholarship program funded by the National Science Foundation and is intended to produce highly qualified professionals who will enter the federal cyber work force upon graduation. The program involves academic tracks and research in cyber security, professional development, and recruiting activities for the cohort students.
- The Center for Forensics, Information Technology, Security (CFITS) participated this month with several kickoff meetings for magnate programs part of the Mobile County School System. CFITS director Les Barnett and associated faculty are currently on the advisory board for three local schools (Davidson, Vigor, and Baker) and the CFITS K-12 STEM outreach program continues to bring students from 7 different partner schools to field trips and hands-on-learning activities in Shelby Hall.

Committee Reports

University Committee Reports