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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes - March 1998

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate
Approved Minutes
11 March 1998

1 and 2. Call to Order and of Roll

The special meeting was called to order by Suzanne McGill, Chair, at 3:00 p.m. in Library 5. The Secretary called the roll:

Present:

Allison, Ardell, Ballard, Broadus, Daughenbaugh,
Davidson-Shivers, Dilsaver, Engebretson, Evans,
Foster, Frederick, Hain, Hamm, Haywick, Kulkarni,
Labbe, Lally, Langan, LeDoux, Martin, Matthews,
McGill, McIver, Moak, Moore, Rodgers, Sauer, Sweet,
Swint, Sylvestre, Thurston, Tucker, Van Haneghan,
Vinson, Weston, G. Wilson, Zhang

Absent (excused):

Arata, Aucoin, Bell, Brandon, Chrylee,
Cromwell, Donovan, Dorman, Douglass, Fruh, Isom,
Izenburg, Kulkarni, McAfee, Moore, Mulekar, Parker,
Simpson, Vetrosky, C. Wilson, Yeoman

3. Completion of Pending Business

Minutes of the regular meetings of 12 November 1997 and 14 January 1998 were approved.

4. Report from the Chair

Suzanne McGill introduced Gordon Moulton, Vice President for Services and Planning, who reported on the prospects for an increase in state funding for the University. Moulton emphasized that the particulars of his report reflected only the current political situation in Montgomery, which will change many times before the funding for USA is approved. Generally, USA has yet to recover the seven and one-half percent cut from the first year of Governor James' current term in office; funding since then has been level which means, taking inflation into account, funding has decreased. USA currently is operating on a 1.7 million dollar budget deficit, and an additional 3 million dollars in cuts have been spread throughout the O&M (non-medical) budget owing to the funding reduction of the first James year. The Educational Trust Fund split before the James administration was one-third/two-thirds for higher education/K-12; in the James

years, the one-third for higher education has been decreased to 27%. In this election year, James is proposing an eight percent increase in funding for higher education salaries. Complicating the financial picture is the RSA windfall caused by a change in the accounting procedures; Moulton pointed out that the RSA in its newsletter is urging caution about predicting additional windfall amounts in future years. Moulton urged faculty to lobby the state legislators for a funding increase, and said the the Council of Presidents for the public universities in Alabama had gone on record making salaries their top funding priority. McGill thanked Moulton for his report, and he took questions.

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McGill reported that the president informed her that John Filer had resigned as his special assistant.

McGill reported that two SrVPAA candidates were interviewed on campus and the search committee was weighing the options. The VPMA search committee will identify a short list of candidates from its application pool.

McGill expressed concern about the academic quality of courses now being offered via the internet, and raised the issue of transfer credit for courses offered by remote delivery, including correspondence courses.

McGill identified a nominating committee for officers and standing committee chairs for 1998-99: Cindy Thurston, Richard Vinson, David Langan, Pat Rodgers, Phillip Bell, and Jo Ann Broadus, with Pat Rodgers the chair.

5. Reports of Senate standing committees

Evaluation. Tom Hain reported that the annual survey of faculty opinion and evaluation of administrators would be distributed the second week of Spring Quarter.

Planning/Development. Douglas Haywick made no report.

Policy/Handbook. Richard Daughenbaugh reported that his committee members had divided the pages of the handdbook amongst themselves and were reviewing the document for possible changes/corrections relative to semester calendar conversion.

Salaries/Benefits. Phillip Bell reported that the committee met on 4 March 1998 and reviewed the issue of a 10% salary increment for promotions, and is also making an inquiry whether there is a limit to the number of times one can seek promotion if one does not at first succeed. Bell led a discussion of a draft resolution on promotion increments and agreed to take the resolution to the committee again for further discussion. Bell reported that the committee decided that administrative promotion policy was outside its purview, and therefore had nothing to recommend on this issue.

6. Reports of Caucus Leaders

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Communications from the President

6, 7, 8 and 9: None

10. Adjournment

McGill adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Lally, secretary