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## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes - September 2005

Faculty Senators

*University of South Alabama*

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA  
FACULTY SENATE  
2005-2006

September 21, 2005  
University Library, Rm. 110  
3:00 p.m.

Approved MINUTES

The meeting began at 3:04 p.m. with Chair Doug Haywick presiding.

A quorum was declared.

Present: Brenda Beverly, Robert Moore, Donna Wooster, Kristy Britt, Nicole Amare, Cynthia Crumb, Nicole Flynn, Doug Haywick, Zoya Khan, Susan McCready, Barry Nowlin, Federico Perez-Pineda, Vasiliy Prokhorov, Tom Hain, Harold Pardue, Stephen Bru, Daphne Hubbard, John Kovaleski, Irene McIntosh, Vaughn Millner, Susan Santoli, Martin Parker, Nicholas Sylvester, Dennis Guion, Jie Li, Jan Sauer, Barbara Burckhart, Curtis Harris, Natasha Delcoure, Ed Harrison, Deborah Spake, James Swofford, Ehab Molokhia, Richard Whitehurst, Kevin Olden, Frank Pettyjohn, Craig Sherman, Thomas Williams, Alice Godfrey, Cindy Morgan, Irene Rattie, Rebecca Ryan

Excused: Bill Pruitt, Robert Coleman, Genevieve Dardeau, Elliot Lauderdale, Melissa Costello, Judy King, Kathy Porter, Randall Powell, April DuPree

Unexcused: Matt Ames, Steve Brick, James Davis, Scott Douglas, Arnold Luterman, Elizabeth Mancini, Gary Carnahan

Guests: Ellie Day, SGA President; Steve Morris (Past-Chair)

The Minutes of the July 20th meeting were approved with a minor correction.

### **Chair's Report**

Doug began the Chair's Report by providing an overview of the University's response to Hurricane Katrina. Doug reported he had written a letter of thanks to Keith Ayers for his communication efforts with faculty regarding the University's hurricane procedures. Doug also thanked faculty for their support of one another and of students during and following Hurricane Katrina. Most of the University escaped major damage with the exception of recreation center. There is a USA disaster plan and a committee is evaluating its success.

Doug noted the Executive Committee's September meeting activity with President Moulton (September 14, 2005) and the University Foundation (September 19, 2005). Some members of the Executive Committee also attended a Board of Trustees meeting (August 31, 2005). The meeting with President Moulton covered the University's disaster plan and evaluation of its

success. An inquiry from Doug as to whether there was a system established to check on faculty following a major disaster revealed the administration's belief that such an effort is best accomplished on an individual basis. As a follow-up, Doug encouraged senators to reach out to one another in the future. Asa Green and Maxie Roberts with the University Foundation invited the faculty senate officers to a meeting and lunch. Discussion centered on general issues and timber (a copy of the Foundation's timber investment report is in the senate's records).

Doug reported that President Moulton intends to proceed with raises. This was in response to some doubt expressed by the administration as to whether the University would delay raises because of Hurricane Katrina and unforeseeable drains on University funding. Faculty raises will appear in paychecks November 1 and will be calculated by merit, reference adjustment (external) and equity adjustment (internal). External (reference adjustment) raises were calculated by looking at peer institutions and comparing salaries per academic field and rank to University salaries (a copy of the External Salary Adjustment Protocol is on the Faculty Senate web site – <http://www.usouthal.edu/usa/fsenate/index.html>). Bringing University faculty salaries to the norm will cost the University \$500,000 over a period of 3 years.

Doug reported that there is a faculty senator assigned to every University committee. Each University committee has one year slot assigned to a faculty senator for a period of one year.

**Guest Speaker:** Ellie Day (SGA President)

Ellie thanked the faculty for their donations of self, time and resources following Hurricane Katrina. She presented her stance on the following:

Drop date policy. She is not supportive of the last day drop date.

Academic forgiveness policy. Students are developing a committee to research this issue. She intends to return to the faculty senate to discuss their results.

Payment policy. She intends to challenge the academic payment policy requirement that payments be made prior to students returning to school.

New recreation center. She supports a new center versus repairing the old. She also asked faculty senators to support this initiative .

Ellie issued an invitation to senators to attend Midnight Madness in the Mitchell Center on October 14, 2005.

A question was raised as to Ellie's position regarding students' preference regarding the withdrawal policy (9 weeks versus 12 weeks). Ellie supported holding students to a higher standard and indicated she preferred the 9 week option.

**Old Business**

Doug asked senators for their opinions about whether the faculty senate should submit edited or verbatim comments to the web site. Various options were discussed and it was clarified that a senators should also decide what version (edited vs. unedited comments) the administration should receive. Most senators agreed that the faculty senate should (a) summarize the survey comments for the web site and (b) provide an executive summary to the administration as well as non-edited comments. Raw data would be available to both faculty and administration.

**New Business.** None.

### **Standing Committees:**

Academic Policy: John Kovaleski's committee met and plans to approach Deans and Department Chairs to determine their level of mentoring in College and Departments to help determine the committee's future course of action.

Academic Handbook and Faculty Handbook : Donna Wooster stated the new version of the handbook is published on the University web site. There was only minor editing in the handbook. She asked senators to submit to her any interest in revising the subsequent handbook.

Environmental Quality Committee: Barry Nowlin reported the committee had met and intended to educate faculty and students about the unique qualities of the campus environment. The committee also intends to create awareness of the University's biking and walking trail. In addition, the committee is working with Mobile United to coordinate community communication about biking trails. In addition, the committee will work to establish a campus clean-up day and coordinate this effort with Earth Day.

Evaluation: Deborah Spake is planning to contact faculty by email about how survey results are used.

Planning and Development: Nicole Flynn reported that the University Club social was very successful and raised about \$250 for the University Club development fund.

Salary and Fringe Benefits: Susan McCready reported the committee will be meeting.

Technology Utilization: Jan Sauer reported that the committee will be working on the web page.

### **Caucus Leader Reports**

Allied Health: Bob reported that Beverly received the Teaching Award.

Arts and Sciences: No report.

CIS: No report.

College of Education. No report.

Continuing Education. No report.

Engineering: Martin Parker reported that both departments of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering are looking for a chair. Martin also followed up on retention efforts by asking the Dean about his plan.

Library: Dennis Guion noted that the Library is helping displaced academes from Louisiana and Mississippi by providing borrowing privileges with no charge and by giving them a place to work. In addition, faculty are invited to bring textbooks to put on reserve for students who had books damaged or lost because of Hurricane Katrina.

College of Medicine: No report.

Business: No report.

Nursing: Irene Rattie reported that faculty will videotape lectures and students can watch the videos. She will report on the success of this initiative.

Final comments: Doug reported that President Moulton offered tickets to faculty senators for box seats to a basketball game with Troy State in January.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 19th