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10-1-2011

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – October 2011

Faculty Senators

*University of South Alabama*

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October 19, 2011 3:00 pm --Faculty Club

MINUTES

**Present:** M. Spector, P. Carr, J. Connors, G. Dardeau, S. Fisher, A. Gusy, K. Jackson, B. Lunceford, M. Marin, D. Marshall, L. Moore, H. Roddy, T. Shaw, D. Benko, T. Shaw, D. Feinstein, D. Langan, S. Bru, K Byrd, G. Davidson-Shivers, P. Norrell, M. Adams, V. Finley, M. Nero, L. Rachek, D. Roberts, D. Keasler, T. Meyer, N. Walls, K. Quiett

**Excused:** E. Adams, C. Gubler, T. Smith, A. Hillman, M. Johnson, F. Donovan, R. Britton, A. Kaulfers, E. Madden, D. Turnipseed, H. Brown, L. Minchew, P. Tunripleed

**Unexcused:** Husain, Picket, Powers, Green, Grishko, Rizk, Rusyniak

Call to order at 3:05pm with quorum.

Guest: Major Jason Nowak – ROTC 16 yr vet; MBA 2008; 4 deployments Afghanistan - has been at USA since June 2011; wanted to present a program overview. There are 141 cadets students in program representing a variety of majors including nursing. He states that the focus on leadership in the program and army values and what it means to be an officer. Cadets become officers after completing the 4 year program. They are commissioned at graduation as 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. Graduates have option for active duty or can serve in local National Guard or reserve unit. Major Nowak discussed ways to enroll in the ROTC program. The leadership training course is for experienced cadets. It is a 32-day course over the summer – beginning in Junior year for high caliber cadets. Some scholarships are available –not every cadet has scholarship. He thanked the Senate for support. Major Nowak issued an invitation to his promotion ceremony to take place Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> with reception afterward.

**Approval of minutes/agenda:** Motion for approval by S. Fisher; seconded by J. Connors. **Approved.**

**Chair's report:**

Old Business: Tom Meyer reported that the Senate is making progress on things. New ideas are being presented faster than we can process them. We are excited about the progress.

Revision of the Faculty Senate Bylaws is still a work-in-progress. Meeting was canceled last week but we're rescheduling meeting and hope to have info at next meeting.

University Academic Calendar: Phil Carr reported to the Senate that another calendar committee meeting was held. Conversation began regarding schedule – Harrison discussed problems – calendar appears to start week early but that isn't accurate. Aug. 15 is the start date for new faculty – that's when new contracts start. 2013-14 calendar combines Spring Break with Mardi Gras holiday which also coincides with public school calendar. Tom Meyer pointed out that this combination of holidays only works on an occasional year. Calendar will cycle back around because of progression and recession of dates. –Mike Spector questioned the reasoning behind the extension based on 3 additional days – why isn't start date Aug 1? G. Dardeaux questioned the start date as per the contract date. Contract dates are effective Aug 15<sup>th</sup>. In the past orientation was pro-rated but that's not the case now. Phil Carr noted that Aug 15<sup>th</sup> is non-negotiable hard-stop for setting calendar dates.

Phil Carr request that Senators please send issues and concerns regarding the academic calendar to Phil Carr. G. Davidson-Shivers asked about return date January? Phil Carr noted that the calendar never states when faculty break starts in December. Faculty need to be available for grade grievances, etc. P. Carr asked Dr. Harrison put it into writing as to why we need to be back at Jan. 2nd. He noted that typically, when you turn in grades – you're done – but that's not how it works in all academic units.

Internal Equity – postponed to next meeting due to D. Turnipseed absence.

Search Committee for administrative positions – P.Carr questioned that if faculty thinks this a problem (positions always filled by interim). Suggestion is to form an ad hoc committee to look into this process and make recommendations back to senate body and then we can send it up the line for discussion. G. Dardeaux commented that this appears to be a good idea-noting that she has heard discontent for A&S faculty. Laura Moore made a motion to form an ad hoc committee with P. Carr as chair; motion was seconded by Jim Connors. Vote: approved. Anyone interested in serving on the committee please contact Phil Carr.

P. Carr discussed formation of new University committee: Faculty Development/Mentoring. Currently a council exists and commission is very narrow. It is felt we need a broader perspective. P. Carr handed the idea to Thomas Shaw's Faculty Senate Academic Development/Mentoring committee to review and make recommendation.

Formation of University Landscape Committee is turned over to Doug Marshall (Environmental Quality) for review and recommendation to Senate.

T. Meyer commented that the drop-in/drop by at the Faculty Club after work is extremely low – events are going well – but after hours are not working. There was discussion on how to ramp up faculty attendance at the club for after hour's events. T. Meyer questioned if we need to form ad hoc committee for special events - at least once a month at the faculty club. Can we challenge colleges to have one day a week where they meet after hours at FC? Research presentations, etc. B. Lunceford asked if there was any issue with scheduling? Those issues are getting addressed. T.Shaw got a meeting scheduled within 1 day so it's working. G.Davidson-Shivers commented that if steady stream begins then we can maybe look at opening at other times during the day. J.Connors- prices for beverages were researched. University paid \$14K for liquor license so we could have club. It is a separate license for this building. Ad Hoc committee was formed to be Chaired by G. Dardeaux Faculty Club Comm/Special events. Interested faculty please contact G. Dardeaux.

University Goal – mentioned at Faculty meeting with Pres. Moulton and it wasn't not well received by administration David Johnson stated that the University already has a strategic plan which will be re-vamped in 2013. T. Meyer commented that possibly the Senate attention needs to be re-worded as a "faculty" goal rather than "University" goal. Topic was turned over to Planning & Development Committee who will research and bring suggestions back to Senate. Please send ideas to Laura Moore.

Annual Faculty Senate Banquet – L.Moore Planning and Development Committee will be meeting Tues. to plan banquet and community awards.

Anti-Harassment Policy: Tabled.

Senate Rep. on Dean's council – T. Meyer noted that this topic was mentioned at lunch meeting with D.Johnson and J.Smith – and it was discussed that this is a level of separation that may be necessary because the reverse may be true - we may not want an Administrator on Faculty Senate Executive Committee. There are senate representatives to all University committees who provide input to dean's council. T. Meyer noted that the suggestion was that this push would not be well received and we should take another look at what is being requested. Shared governance doesn't

suddenly break old attitudes and bad habits. It does however allow us to begin the conversation. P.Carr noted that the Senate has to give Administration “space” to administrate. M.Spector- noted that the Dean’s Council reflects direction of University. Doesn’t that affect faculty & students? Shouldn’t we provide faculty input to Dean’s council? T. Meyer noted that they were receptive to Faculty Senate getting prompt feedback on policy change and decisions. More information sharing was received well. Jim Connors noted for a point of clarification that all decisions made at Dean’s council have to be approved by Academic Policy committee and the Faculty Senate President chairs that committee alternating years.

P. Carr noted that shared governance in the Faculty Senate Constitution is something we need to continue to develop and work on. He suggested that as Senators when we serve on University committees that we need to be a little more astute and listen/share information back to Senate. Maybe we need a boot camp for how to serve on Univ. committee? Possibly we need a shared-governance boot camp – what is it and how do we do it?

#### **Committee reports:**

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Thomas Shaw): No report.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Marshall): The finishing of the Glen Sebastian Nature Trail is underway.
- Evaluation Committee (Patsy Turnipseed)
- Planning and Development (Laura Moore): No report.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher): No report.
- Salary and Benefits (David Turnipseed): No report. But committee will follow-up on research pertaining to internal equity review as compared to others.
- Technology Utilization Committee (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts): Web page updates continue and are progressing.

#### **Caucus reports:**

- Allied Health: Mike Spector –no report
- Arts and Sciences: Laura Moore – faculty met with Dean
- Continuing Education: Stephen Bru – CE has a new Developmental Studies Chair, D. Charlotte Windom.
- CIS: David Langan - Faculty are excited about moving into Shelby Hall
- Education: Gayle Davidson-Shivers - Dean Hayes held the fall COE Faculty Meeting on Sept. 22, 2011. New faculty were introduced by the respective department chairs. Newly elected COE Faculty Council members were also introduced by the chair of Faculty Council. Mobile Area Education Foundation Executive Director, Carolyn Akers presented on the new 80/20 goal for MCPSS, which is to 80 percent of the students by 2020. The COE were invited to collaborate with them and the schools in developing strategies for student success. A reception to welcome new faculty followed the meeting.
- Engineering: No report.
- Library: Vera Finley – No report.
- Mitchell College of Business: Ellen Madden – a Phd has been approved.
- Medicine: Lyudmila Rachek – No report.
- Nursing: Leigh Minchew – report presented by D. Keasler – Alumni Open House held during Homecoming Week was a success.

**Next meeting: November 16, 2012 at 3:00 at the Faculty Club.**

Meeting adjourned 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Diane Keasler, FS Secretary 10/20/11