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Faculty Senate Minutes

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes - July 2011

Faculty Senators

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

July 20, 2011
3:00pm --HAHN Auditorium
MINUTES

Present: E. Adams, T. Smith, Spector, Carr, Connors, Fisher, Guzy, Jackson, Moore, Shaw, Langan, Davidson-Shivers, Ferguson, Norrell, M. Adams, Britton, Finley, Nero, Martinko, Rachek, Rusyniak, Retzlaff-Roberts, Brown, Meyer, Minchew, Walls

Excused: Keasler

Unexcused: Gubler-Hanna, Dardeau, Hillman, Husain, Johnson, Lunceford, Marin, Marshall, Pickett, Powers, Roddy, Shelley-Tremblay, Madden, D. Turnipseed, Feinstein, Bru, Kingman, Byrd, P. Turnipseed, Donovan, Bosarge, Green, Grishko, Kaulfers, Rizk, Quiett

1. Call to order at 3:02pm with quorum.
 2. Approval of agenda for July 20, 2011. S. Fisher made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by H. Brown. Agenda was unanimously approved.
 3. Old Business.
 - Minutes from April 20, 2011 unavailable for review. Approval of minutes from April tabled until September meeting.
 - Old business addressed as part of President's report for 2011-12.
 4. New Business.
 - The agenda covers most of the topics of discussion for today.
- a. President's Report—T. Meyer

T. Meyer presented and discussed a draft of President's Goals for 2011-12, pointing out that the Senate Executive Committee had reviewed the goals at their last meeting and voiced approval. T. Meyer discussed the following goals:

- Senate Faculty Rules/By-Laws:
Develop and codify the rules and by-laws necessary to permit the conduct, continuity, and efficiency of Faculty Senate proceedings in accordance with the new Faculty Senate Constitution.

T. Meyer stated the Faculty Senate By-laws should be available from the ad hoc Bylaws Committee around August 1.

- Faculty to the Front:

Continue to raise the profile of the Faculty Senate as a relevant, engaged, and productive participant in the shared governance of the University and continue to “focus on faculty”, highlighting the contribution(s) of the body of faculty as a primary determinant of quality and success in University matters, academically, economically, and administratively.

T. Meyer suggested some faculty see the Faculty Senate as ineffective or irrelevant and having a lack of credibility. T. Meyer suggested having awards from individual Colleges might be a way to counteract this thinking.

- University Anti-Harassment Policy:

Work to secure a campus where harassment of any kind, whether it be political, religious, racial, gender, sexual orientation, or academic is intolerable both from and authoritarian as well as a peer perspective.

T. Meyer stated this is already being worked on within the Faculty Senate although it was previously tabled by the 2010-11 Faculty Senate. T. Meyer suggested looking at where faculty stand on this.

- Wages and Benefits:

Develop and maintain mechanism for ongoing Faculty Senate assessment of current state of parity with similar reference institutions.

T. Meyer discussed that faculty have not had a salary increase in several years and that changes have occurred within the USA Hospital System that raise concerns for faculty benefits. T. Meyer discussed that although revenue streams in USA hospitals and clinics are different, we do know that state appropriations are directed at beginning of year.

- Faculty Input/Involvement in Campus Environmental Decisions:

Establish new University “Landscape” Committee as a way of insuring the benefit of expert consultation from faculty resources in decisions with potential for significant impact on the campus environment.

T. Meyer discussed concern that lack of faculty input into environmental decisions allows for adverse events to occur (i.e., cutting of mountain laurels at the ravine rebuild worksite near library and the draining of the swamp where faculty were not consulted prior). T. Meyer suggested having faculty experts serve as consultants for campus environmental/improvement projects.

- Expand and enhance Faculty Senate relationship with the SGA:

Explore avenues to enhance student/faculty relationships through ongoing interaction between Faculty Senate and SGA.

T. Meyer suggested encouragement of improved faculty/student relationships so that students see faculty for who they are vs. what they do.

T. Meyer asked for input/comments. G. Davidson-Shivers questioned inclusion of governance as a goal. T. Meyer discussed past year’s passage of “shared governance” constitution to affect positive change between administration and faculty. T. Meyer also stated that, as a result, decision-making would be shared from henceforth.

T. Martinko stated College of Medicine faculty were already at the bottom of a slippery slope and have already been cut back related to benefits. Staff who are teaching and part of the faculty (i.e., a physician on staff who is teaching) have had a reduction in benefits including no set vacation days, no paid society/organization memberships, no paid meetings. T. Martinko stated standards for other institutions are being taken away at USA. T. Martinko also stated the administration is not listening to people at the ground level (for example, on Fat Tuesday of Mardi Gras, patients don't come in because they can't get through but administration insists on being open while losing money).

T. Martinko suggested the option was to continue on with state TRS or switch over to a new plan. This poses a risk for not attracting new faculty to USA.

T. Meyer verified College of Medicine faculty were still working for the University and not just for the hospital system. T. Martinko affirmed. T. Meyer charged the Wages & Benefits committee to work on this during the upcoming year.

P. Carr suggested part of the larger issue is that at one point faculty could use Faculty Development monies to pay for memberships but now ethics laws prevent that due to possible violations. P. Carr discussed with the Constitution being new that it will require a lot of work. P. Carr supported involvement on committees because that is how our Faculty Senate has a voice.

T. Meyer stated he would clarify the issues presented.

M. Spector stated there should be a Planning Committee as in the past that committee has suggested positive environmental changes around campus. T. Meyer discussed that when this was brought up, suggestion was made that D. Marshall's committee took care of it.

M. Spector stated as far as College of Medicine, if appointed, the faculty shouldn't be treated any differently from other faculty. T. Martinko stated, it's you don't like it, you leave. G. Rusyniak confirmed attitude from administration. G. also stated there are currently two neurosurgeons taking all the call with no ability to take vacation because both were on call all the time. G. Rusyniak also confirmed no memberships or conferences paid as well as the inability to take the time off to attend.

G. Davidson-Shivers stated on the academic side, a lack of travel/conference monies and an increase in class size were being felt. G. Davidson-Shivers stated, as mentioned previously, adding an additional week to our semester was a governance issue. T. Meyer stated the calendar committee is working on this issue.

b. Faculty Club

The Grand Opening of the Faculty Club is scheduled for August 24, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. T. Meyer stated the Faculty Senate representatives had suggested a grand opening day with only faculty senate members invited and the next day having an open house for the rest of the university because of concern for the number of people in attendance. T. Meyer explained that President Moulton preferred everything on one day. Plans are currently underway to provide tents outside for overflow from interior. Parking is currently under review and the use of the JagTran is being considered.

There will be lots of food, music, and speeches by Faculty Senate President, T. Meyer, President Moulton, and a representative from the construction firm. Faculty Senate members are encouraged to invite faculty peers.

Hours for the Faculty Club have been set for Tuesday-Friday, 3:00-6:30 p.m. Food will be offered and comes with the price of drinks. Input is currently being solicited for types of drinks—domestic or imported beers, but no draft due to a different liquor license being required.

V. Finley asked who to contact about using the facility. T. Meyer explained that the Mitchell Center website would contain a link for requests. Events held after closing will occur in the big room.

c. Homecoming Reunions

The Homecoming Committee is continuing to promote college reunions as class reunions have not been as successful. J. Connors discussed the Deans like the idea and that they are willing to have representatives work on this. J. Connors suggested that Caucus Leaders work with him to have a seat on each of the working committees and that this partnership will be good for promoting student recruitment/development. J. Connors also stated a tentative date for college reunions has been set for Friday, October 14, 2011 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. before the Homecoming Game that weekend.

J. Connors stated another thing to come out of this committee is that everyone probably knows of some traditions from other universities that might be brought to our campus. Everyone is encouraged to have folks provide their ideas to J. Connors using a brief write-up of why they like the tradition and this will be passed along to the Homecoming Committee.

d. University Faculty Grievance Committee Appointments

T. Meyer presented a request from President Moulton to provide for the appointment of three tenured faculty (with rank of Assistant to Professor) to represent the Faculty on the University Faculty Grievance Committee. Two faculty have already been appointed—one from Academic Affairs and one from Health Sciences Divisions—and another is requested from Academic Affairs. T. Meyer asked for a volunteer or nominations from the floor. G. Davidson-Shivers volunteered and was unanimously approved by the Faculty Senate to serve on this committee.

5. Committee Reports

- University Calendar Ad Hoc Committee (Phil Carr)—No report
- Public Relations (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)—No report.
- Cost-Savings Committee—No report.
- Academic Development and Mentoring (Thomas Shaw)—The committee hopes to address greater communication with the university and more involvement in faculty development and mentoring. Mentoring needs continued attention. We also need to assess the current state of faculty development across campus and to build awareness about opportunities that exist.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Marshall)—No report.
- Evaluation (Patsy Turnipseed)—No report.
- Planning and Development (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)—No report.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)— No report.
- Salary and Benefits (Elizabeth Adams)—No report.

- Technology Utilization (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts)—No report. T. Meyer stated emails had been traded with K.Ayers for updates on Faculty Senate website. T.Meyer suggested a collaboration with the Mitchell College of Business Marketing Department might be warranted.

6. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Mike Spector)—No report.
- Arts and Sciences (Laura Moore)- A& S faculty have raised questions regarding consistency of maternity/faculty leave. T.Meyer suggested the concerns be referred to the Salary & Benefits Committee for review.
- Continuing Education ()— No report.
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan)— No report.
- Education (Gayle Davidson-Shivers)— No report.
- Engineering (Francis Donovan)— No report.
- Library (Vera Finley)— No report.
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts)—No report.
- Medicine (?)—No COM faculty has been designated as Caucus Leader. L. Rachek volunteered to serve in this position. Unanimous approval was noted from fellow COM faculty senate representatives. No other report.
- Nursing (Leigh Minchew)—The CON has received 7 grants since May totaling over \$6 Million—2 of which will provide student scholarships while 5 will provide for new program offerings.

7. Announcements/Additional Comments

V. Finley asked why the Faculty Senate minutes were not posted on the FS website. T. Meyer stated we are unable to do so at the moment as this involves having to have the webmaster add them. Discussions have been ongoing with K.Ayers' office to try to get this done and will continue.

V. Finley asked if more members might attend if a meeting notice were sent out. T. Meyer stated meeting notices are sent out to everyone serving on the senate in a timely fashion.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was presented by S. Fisher. H. Brown seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.