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Faculty Senate Minutes - March 30, 2012

USM Faculty Senate

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The University of Southern Mississippi
Faculty Senate
Trent Lott Center
March 30, 2012

Members Present and Represented (by proxy): M.A. Adams, L. Agler, A. Branton, R. Buchanan, D. Conville, D. Daves, K. Davis, J. Ding, D. Douglas, L. Downey, M. Dugan (A. Sevier), M. Elasri, D. Fletcher (L. Nored), S. Reischman Fletcher (L. Downey), L. Flynn (A. Sevier), A. Haley (T. Zelner), T. Hartsell, L. Iglesias, D. Lunsford, M. Lux, D. Masterson, C. Meyers, M. Naquin, L. Nored, W. Odom, S. Piland, R. Press, T. Rehner, A. Sevier, K. Shelley, J. H. Shin (C. Jenkins), C. Sirola, P. Smith, L. Story, D. Tingstrom, J. Wiggert, T. Zelner.

Absent: J. Anderson, K. Dillon, C. McCormick, S. Oshrin

Guests: M. Forster, K. Greene, J. May, M. Mays, B. Powell, K. Reidenbach

- 1.0 Call to order
President Rehner called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.
- 2.0 Approval of agenda
President Rehner asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Masterson motioned and Senator Oshrin seconded the motion. President Rehner made an addition to the agenda--- AAUP report under 8.3. All approved the agenda with the addition proposed by President Rehner.
- 3.0 Approval of minutes
President Rehner asked for a motion to approve the March 2, 2012 meeting minutes. Senator Oshrin provided a motion and Senator Masterson seconded the motion. All approved the minutes as distributed.
- 4.0 Remarks from Administration
 - 4.1 Interim Provost Wiesenburg
Dr. Wiesenburg responded to questions submitted prior to the meeting. (Attached)

Dr. Wiesenburg reported that the process used to collect textbook information this year will not be used again. A system will be established that gives USM faculty and textbook liaisons the ability to enter textbook information into a web-based interface controlled by USM. USM will submit textbook information to Barnes and Nobles after missing or unclear information is collected from departments. Barnes and Nobles will still have ordering capability in accordance with their contract with USM.

Dr. Wiesenburg reported that recommendations for Tenure and Promotion have been forwarded to the President.

Candidates for the Vice President for Administrative Affairs position has been narrowed to four or five individuals. Interviews will take place during April.

Dr. Wiesenburg reported that administration is working to close the gap between current E&G salaries & CUPA averages for new faculty. The President has made two commitments: 1) to hire new faculty at the market rate and 2) to craft a solution for increasing salaries of current faculty to CUPA average.

A budget summit will be held April 9th.

A new ad hoc committee has been created for mid-range space planning—Hattiesburg Space Planning Committee. Faculty will be appointed to this committee by the Faculty Senate and deans.

Dr. Wiesenburg stated that there is a process for asking for an exception to using the same textbook for all sections of a course. A record of requests will be maintained in the Provost's Office. All exceptions requested last time were allowed.

Kate Greene, USM AAUP President, commented that IHL does not require a common text, only recommends it.

Dr. Wiesenburg reported that the Textbook Committee is being modified to include a faculty member from every college.

5.0 Resolution regarding Russ Willis

Dr. Rehner presented a resolution to Mr. Russ Willis in appreciation for his service to USM. Mr. Willis thanked the Senate.

6.0 Officer Reports

6.1 President

President Rehner reported that the Professional Development: New Faculty Mentoring Program resolution had been approved. President Rehner suggested that the Research and Scholarship Committee meet with Dr. Gordon Cannon.

The Provost will establish an Academic Leadership Council that would include representation from Faculty Senate, Council of Chairs, and other governance bodies. The Council would meet monthly.

President Rehner and Senator Nored have been invited to a meeting with the Strategic Enrollment Action Team.

As the Provost has mentioned, strategic initiatives will be driven by enrollment growth.

Senators discussed issues with being required to order textbooks before students register for classes, as well as problems with being required to make textbook decisions for fall semester in March. President Rehner will correspond with Dr. Anita Davis, Chair of the Textbook Committee, about these issues.

6.2 President-elect

The Senate will spend all of the current funds by June 1, 2012. Faculty Senate Awards were funded.

6.3 Secretary

No report

6.4 Secretary-elect

No report

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Resolution for travel

Administrators approved the resolution on Teaching, Service, and Travel. Funds will be effective July 1, 2012. Funds will be dispersed through each college.

- 7.2 Classroom Conduct Committee
Dr. Michael Mays reported that the Committee will provide a full document for review the second week of April. On behalf of the Committee, Dr. May requested feedback on the document once it is circulated.
- 7.3 Strategic Enrollment Action Team
President Rehner discussed the Strategic Enrollment Action Team during the President's report.
- 7.4 Guidelines
No report
- 8.0 New Business
 - 8.1 Resolutions
President Rehner reported that the resolutions regarding Faculty Senate representation on the Executive Cabinet and a Dean of Faculties was shared with Academic Council, Graduate Council, and Faculty Council on the Gulf Coast. Senator Masterson provided a report from Academic Council. Senator Lux provided a report from Graduate Council. Senator Naquin provided a report from Faculty Council.

Senator Press suggested that the section of the resolution regarding Faculty Senate representation on the President's Executive Cabinet become a separate resolution and voted on at the current meeting. Senator Press motioned that the Faculty Senate President should be a voting member of the President's Executive Cabinet. Senator Smith seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.
 - 8.2 Nominations for 2013/2014 senate officers
President Rehner reminded Senators that a slate of officers will be needed by the end of the next meeting.
 - 8.3 Other—AAUP report
Kate Greene distributed a USM AAUP Textbook Policy Resolution (attached). In brief, the resolution states that the AAUP opposes the use of a common textbook for multi-section courses as established in the Textbooks and Course Materials Policies and Procedures at USM.

There will be more discussion about the resolution at the next meeting and a vote.

A national AAUP representative will provide a workshop on how to analyze university budgets and chapter development April 13th from 4-6PM in the Hall of Honors.
- 9.0 Committee Reports
 - 9.1 Academic and Governance
No report
 - 9.2 Budget
No report
 - 9.3 Constitution and Bylaws
Senator Naquin will draft a statement about the relationship between Faculty Council on the Coast and Faculty Senate for inclusion in the Constitution and/or Bylaws.

- 9.4 Elections
Round two of elections will take place over the next two weeks.
- 9.5 Evaluation and Assessment
Senators Oshrin and Story are developing a plan for getting evaluation data analyzed.
- 9.6 Research and Scholarship
The Research and Scholarship Committee reviewed a request for travel funds that was submitted to the Vice President for Research.
- 9.7 University Awards
Senator Lux will begin advertising for the awards early next week. Recipients will be selected by the May meeting.
- 9.8 University Relations
No report
- 9.9 University Welfare
No report
- 9.10 Faculty Handbook
The Faculty Handbook Committee met March 26th. Senator Tingstrom will distribute documents from the Committee via e-mail over the next few weeks.

Issues discussed by the Handbook Committee include: 1) clarification on the meaning of “consultation with departmental faculty” as related to hiring new faculty; 2) the policy for granting emeritus status; 3) submission of late materials during the Tenure and Promotion process; 4) eligibility for early promotion; and 5) revision of the scholarly misconduct section, as requested by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- 9.11 Gulf Coast Faculty Council
Senator Naquin reported that the Associate Dean for Arts and Letters attended the last Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council discussed the classroom code of conduct, textbooks, and two resolutions from Faculty Senate. Council elections are currently taking place.
- 10.0 Other Business
- 11.0 Adjournment
President Rehner asked for a motion to adjourn. Senator Smith motioned and Senator Press seconded the motion. All approved.

Issues of Interest to the Senate: March 2, 2012

12.0 Issues for Dr Wiesenburg

- 12.1 As provost you survived the first iteration of the textbook ordering process. What are your impressions given all the feedback (data) that you have received?
- 12.2 Your recommendations for the T&P process have been forwarded to the President. What were your observations about the faculty that applied for tenure and promotion as well as the process?
- 12.3 What do you know about the VPAA search?
- 12.4 What do you think the prospects are for you to secure the funds so that you can cover the gap between E&G salaries & CUPA averages for new faculty?
- 12.5 Other questions?

AAUP-USM

Resolution on Textbook Policy

I. Whereas, the AAUP is charged with protecting academic freedom;

Whereas, the academic freedom of faculty includes “freedom in the classroom when discussing their subject”;

Whereas, academic freedom of faculty includes the freedom to select their own pedagogical methods and purposes;

Whereas, mere statements in official policies that academic freedom is being preserved do not in themselves preserve that freedom;

Whereas, the selection of textbooks is closely related to pedagogical methods and purposes;

Whereas, the requirement of a common text in multi-section courses taught by different instructors can interfere with the faculty’s ability to select their own pedagogical methods and purposes;

II. Whereas, the IHL policy does not require the use of common textbooks;

Whereas, the use of a common text is at best only marginally related to the goal of cost savings, especially since such a text might have to include many more selections than any one instructor would choose;

Whereas, a requirement that all book orders be made several months before the beginning of a semester betrays an ignorance of academic scheduling realities; and

Whereas, departments that choose to use a common text are free to do so;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, AAUP-USM, do oppose the imposition of a common textbook requirement for multi-section courses as established in the Textbooks and Course Materials Policies and Procedures at the University of Southern Mississippi.