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Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes

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9-19-2014

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USM Gulf Coast Faculty Council

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Dr. Steve Miller was the guest speaker. The members of the Council introduced themselves.

Dr. Miller gave a little background about himself and his work with Southern Miss. He stated that he wants to be an ally for the faculty.

Question: Who reports to Dr. Miller?

Answer: Student affairs, physical plant. (Dr. Miller remarked that there were 'lots of dotted lines'.)

Question: What about the Bear Bayou?

Answer: Bids on restoring it are being submitted. David Holt gave a brief description of how the Bayou could be restored.

Question: What is the latest information on facilities?

Answer: 1. Fitness center is almost finished and should be open by the middle of October at the latest. Equipment is currently being installed. Faculty and staff can pay \$15 per month to use the facilities. Students would just need to swipe their ID card to enter. 2. The Health/wellness building should be ready soon after the fitness center, but the rest of the semester is needed to begin the pilot program to work out the best way to run it and what equipment is needed. There was a question about the type of medical technicians that will be on staff. Mental health assistance is being looked into as well. We also have to make sure that students know exactly what the purpose and scope of the clinic will be (will not be a full-service clinic such as in Hattiesburg). 3. The School of Social Work should be operational sometime in October.

We are moving forward with resurfacing the tennis courts and improving lighting and other improvements. Maybe it could be expanded at some point (basketball?)

There is continued work on improving the main entrance to the campus. There have been some problems with having the main sign at the center of the front of the campus, but the main entrance to the east. The same firm that designed entrance in Hattiesburg is working on a design for the Gulf Coast.

A project to finish the second floor of the Nursing Building is underway. Signage for the building is also needed (interior signage for the Science Building is also lacking).

Question was asked about whether the Beach Park entrance (north part of campus) could be improved.

New directional and building signs are being planned. This project should begin by the end of the year, possibly as soon as November.

David Holt mentioned that more sidewalks are needed. This could be considered an ADA issue. More signage is also needed to indicate that the 'field' near the Science Building is available for parking.

Events: There will be homecoming tailgating at Gulf Coast on the front lawn with a big screen for the game. The game will also be shown in the Hardy Hall ballroom. There will be outside vendors (Domino's, Coca Cola, snowballs, etc.) People can bring their own grills and food. There will be a raffle of a signed football (Brett Favre?). There may also be a Black and Gold 'bouncy house'.

Casey mentioned that Director of Student Affairs and an administrative assistant will soon be hired, as well as a full-time Career Services person.

There is no real news on filling the position of Gulf Coast Associate Provost. The president has spoken to Dr. Weisenburg and there should be some information about this issue soon.

The enrollment numbers for fall were briefly discussed. Reports are that the Coast enrollment is up by around 3%, but other sources dispute this number.

President-elect report, David Holt: Planning on hiring an associate provost for student retention and success. Senate Executive Committee report--discussed the issues of recruitment of international students, specifically in the computer science program, contumacious conduct and the handling of sexual harassment complaints on campus.

Secretary: No report

Marie Leonard mentioned the party to introduce new faculty and distributed invitations. Each Council member is asked to distribute them to faculty in their department.

On Monday, September 22, 2014, the President of SACS will be here. The Faculty Council is invited to meet with her. The meeting will be at the University Club at 1:15pm. She will be looking at how this campus functions. The question that needs to be asked is 'what about site-based accreditation?'

There was no time to discuss priority survey or Tenure & Promotion mentorship during the meeting. These issues will be discussed at a later meeting.