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Letter of Concern to Dr. Grimes Regarding the Large Number of Tenure and Promotion Remands

USM Faculty Senate

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The Faculty Senate

of

The University of Southern Mississippi



May 10, 2007

To: Dr. Jay Grimes, Provost
The University of Southern Mississippi

From: Dr. Myron Henry, Ms. Mary Beth Applin, Dr. Stephen Judd, and Dr. Amy Young, 2006-2007 Faculty Senate Officers

At its May 4 meeting on the Gulf Park Campus of USM, several senators raised the issue of the number of promotion and tenure cases you have apparently remanded back to CACs for additional consideration. Several senators suggested that there were 34 cases for promotion and/or tenure and that you had remanded 10 of those back to the respective College Advisory Councils (CACs). Senators seemed to be fairly sure of these numbers, but they voted unanimously to have the officers of the Senate write to you and ask about the total number of promotion and tenure cases and the total number of cases you remanded back to the CACs. On behalf of the Faculty Senate, we therefore ask you how many total promotion and tenure cases there are this spring and how many you remanded back to CACs for additional consideration. We emphasize that we are asking for totals, not information on specific cases.

Through this same unanimous vote, senators also instructed the Faculty Senate officers to express deep concern if the number of cases you remanded to CACs is consistent with what was reported. In this case, senators wonder why your judgments on promotion and tenure cases are so divergent from those of so many others who have been involved in the process [i.e., faculty in units, faculty at college levels (CACs), faculty at the provost level (UAC), chairs, and deans]. We respectfully ask you to reconsider your position on all cases that you remanded to CACs but especially those that remain strongly supported after being cycled through the process again.

If the information we have is not consistent with the numbers you eventually share with us, then we will pen another letter stating that new information requires a reassessment of our concerns. But at this stage, we feel compelled to adhere to the mandate emanating from a unanimous vote of the Faculty Senate: to write to you expressing concern about the number of cases that you have remanded back to CACs. Thank you for responding to this letter.

Xc: USM Faculty Senators