

The University of Southern Mississippi
The Aquila Digital Community

Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes

Gulf Coast Faculty Council

4-2-2021

Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes - April 2, 2021

USM Gulf Coast Faculty Council

Follow this and additional works at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/gulfcoastfacultycouncilminutes>

USM Gulf Coast Faculty Council
April 2, 2021
10 A.M. Zoom

1.0 Call to order – 9:00 a.m.

Present: Rebecca Powell, Justin Easterday Ken Zantow, Kalyn Lamey, David Holt, Joby Bass, Tom Rishel, Damon Franke, Bridgette Davis, Lin Agler, Vincenzo Mistretta, Wei Wu

2.0 Approval of the agenda: No official approval was given

3.0 Program: Rewriting GCFC Membership Bylaw (Division 2: Article 1, Section 212)

3.1 Current Bylaw:

Each of the following academic divisions of the University shall be entitled to elect at least 1 representative to the Council: College of Arts and Sciences; College of Business and Economic Development; College of Education and Human Sciences; College of Nursing and Health Professions; and University Libraries. Full-time faculty members from Stennis Space Center, and from the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory shall also be entitled to elect at least 1 representative each to the Council. Any one of the above-named academic divisions and sites with at least 15 but not more than 29 full-time Gulf Coast faculty is entitled to elect 2 representatives to the Council. Any one of the above-named academic divisions and sites with 30 or more full-time Gulf Coast faculty members is entitled to elect 3 representatives to the Council.

Two additional at-large members of the Council shall be elected by the entire Gulf Coast full-time faculty assigned to the academic divisions and sites described above.

3.2 Discussion on rewriting the Membership Bylaw:

As part of this new Reorganization plan, we, the current representatives need to begin to think about the next 3-5 years for the GCFC. As we transition to the new organization structure, we will have teaching Gulf Coast faculty, who will be in a school that is not currently listed in today's bylaws. One concern is for the faculty members who have their administrative offices solely in Hattiesburg. Those faculty will be in a unique situation because they will need some representation so their concerns can be voiced or heard.

A possible route to provide that type of representation is to use the At-Large option, but we currently do not know any numbers of who will be on the coast, which campus they will be teaching at, and if they will be placed on the "magical mystical online college." If this college does exist, we do need to include all online faculty representation on GCFC (Note: All representatives agreed GCFC should also represent the online faculty). To correctly word the future Membership Bylaw, it was decided GCFC will represent the online faculty, who have physical offices on the coast.

To reinforce the unknown numbers, both the College of Education and Human Sciences (CoEHS) and the *College of Nursing and Health Professions* have not received any updates or directions from their Deans. Both are still currently on the coast and Dr. Agler mentioned the CoEHS is recruiting students for the

2021-2022 academic year. The decision of the Deans may deal with Dr. Shannon Campbell because she asked for GCFC representation on the CLT (Coast Leadership Team) again. David Holt has agreed to be our representative and will report back to the council.

If the At-Large option does not best capture the online faculty, another route is to have them considered as dual affiliations, which is a process that is already being established for other reasons. To successfully work the online faculty into the bylaws and to include faculty during any future organization changes, membership may need to be represented by the college, not the school. With this type of membership, we do need to consider the best faculty to representative ratio. To help with the ratio, GCFC does include representatives from the Faculty Senate. With the upcoming elections, we could run as we normally would and if needed rely on using emergency representatives to keep a correct ratio balance. This route would reduce the number of times the Membership Bylaw would need to be rewritten.

At this time, we will not rewrite the Membership Bylaw, however, it will be updated next year when we know the correct names of the colleges. The goal for the GCFC is to be a representative body that is reactive instead of proactive.

Now with Dr. Campbell's involvement, it maybe possible that we will see some movement in April because she wants GCFC representation on the CLT to assist with creating new programs that will be presented to Provost Moser. It was suggested we change the name to CLOT, several representatives supported this suggestion.

4.0 Officer reports

4.1 Present: Currently working with Dr. Campbell to add language to add the GCFC as an advisory body.

4.2 Secretary: General statement that GCFC Aquila page now provides past minutes and can expand to also show our constitution and bylaws.

5.0 Old business: Topic was not discussed

6.0 New business: Topic was not discussed

8.0 Announcements: Tom is defending his dissertation and will be walking during this upcoming commencement (Saturday, May 8th, 2021). This announcement did bring up that the number of audience members is too low for what the Mississippi Coast Coliseum (which has 3, 400 more seats than the Green Coliseum) can hold. According to the Mississippi Coast Coliseum, they could hold 6 audience members instead of the announced 3. Rebecca will bring this fact to the correct person (Special Note: This is the first in-person commencement to take place since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic).

9.0 Adjourn – 10:39 a.m., a Doodle Poll will be sent out to determine the next meeting date and time.