

The University of Southern Mississippi
The Aquila Digital Community

Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes

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9-10-2021

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USM Gulf Coast Faculty Council
April 20, 2021
4 P.M. Zoom

1.0 Call to order – 4:01 p.m.

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

2.0 Approval of the agenda

Motion by Kalyn Lamey, Second by Tom Rishel

3.0 Program: none

4.0 Officer reports

4.1 Secretary (Justin Easterday) Minutes and Aquila – All known and approved minutes have been uploaded into Aquila and GCFC Teams.

5.0 Old business

5.1. Spring 2021 Election

Rebecca is still gathering more information to create an accurate count of all faculty members that have an office on the Gulf Coast. Based on the current numbers, CBED (School of Business Things or School of Leadership) and Stennis may need an additional GCFC representative. With the addition of the future Marine Education Center, we may need to also add a site or representative position(s) for those faculty members. For the Spring 2021 election, it was voted to provide an Opt-In option, Rebecca will create a draft form and will email it for group approval before it to be placed on the ballot.

5.2 Faculty Senate Report (Kalyn Lamey)

There were no major announcements that involved GCFC, the main conversation centered on the **Cengage (needs confirmation)** virtual textbook deal and how the \$20.00 per credit hours caused several issues. It appears that **Cengage (needs confirmation)** is not following the initial plan/pitch that was presented to the faculty. The current plan provides the students the option to fully opt-in or opt-out, they pay the \$20.00 per credit hour flat (no “cherry-picking” which courses). It does not matter if the class does not have any listed required materials or if the required materials would cost less. **Cengage’s (needs confirmation)** argument is that the average would end up being less than the total collection of books (supposedly). Several additional issues have also been brought up that demonstrated that **Cengage (needs confirmation)** is not meeting the deal the faculty voted on. With this current plan, it is important to remind the students to do the math to get the best financial value.

The Wellness Committee presented a report from Dr. Bob Press and Ms. Tammy Grier (main researcher) that focused on comparing faculty pay and ranking based on gender (male versus female) and percentage of different faculty athletic groups. From Ms. Tammy Grier's data, it did indicate that in USM's higher ranks, women are being paid "insanely-less" than men, however, at the lower ranks, the women are paid a "smidge more" than males. From the presented information, the Senate requested that Ms. Tammy Grier work with statisticians and break down the information (approximately 10 years of data). In a future meeting, Ms. Tammy Grier will provide another report. With a more detailed report and future actions, it could be possible to even these pay differences. The council will be updated as more details are released.

5.3 Academic Council Rep Report

The March 2021 meeting was mainly a discussion on possible future degree-granting programs. No exact details or numbers were reported mainly because everything was focused on potential programs.

5.4 CLT Report (David Holt)

The team is still in the process of becoming more organized. The next step is to begin to evaluate opportunities along the coast and determine if those potential opportunities/projects match the new organizational pillars.

6.0 New business

6.1 Topic was not discussed

7.0 Announcements

For the May 8th graduation, according to Ms. Shannon Campbell, depending on approval the coast faculty members could receive an e-ticket in their email. This is a possibility due to the number of graduates and size of the Mississippi Coast Coliseum. Although the faculty can attend, they will not be involved in the procession. The current purposed GCFC plan is for faculty to wait in the parking lot and throw the students a tailgate party. The use of streamers/confetti is strongly encouraged.

A possible future discussion is to see about the possibility of offering COVID-19 vaccines at the New Student Orientation.

9.0 Adjourn – 4:56 p.m.

Justin Easterday
GFGC Secretary