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THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.
GULF COAST

Gulf Coast Faculty Council

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2014

Hardy Hall, Room 214 @ 1:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order and Roster Sign-In
 - Called to order by Pat Smith at 1:37 p.m.
- II. Approval of Agenda
 - Peter Dean asked to add a discussion about where the GCFC fits within the University's new organizational structure.
 - Agenda approved.
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - December 13, 2013 and February 21, 2014 minutes approved without changes.
- IV. Officers Reports
 - a. President
 - Executive Council met for the last time the Thursday before Spring break. One of the questions for the President that Pat received from staff is staffs' concern about how to coordinate activities when all bosses except the student activities group are located in Hattiesburg. The President called Pat about the questions he collected and asked him to meet with him in Hattiesburg. Pat took 38 questions to the President before Spring break.
 - One question – How will activities be coordinated on the GC within administrative units? Answer – no one has thought about this yet. Pat believes this question will now be considered. Theoretically, the Associate Provost should have some role in coordinating but most coordination is still unclear.
 - Are you going to insist that the GC go to the HB schedule? Dr. Bennett included Dr. Wiesenburg in the meeting. Dr. W. did reassure that there will be no quick change. He does see the benefit of having our commuter campus have two-day per week classes. This may change if growth occurs on the Coast.
 - Question about the Learning Commons – Dr. Wiesenburg has no intention to make sudden changes, but administration is uncertain about details. They are looking at evolution rather than revolution. The Deans' and Provost's office are ironing out the issue.
 - Staff members are concerned about paperwork flow. Will paperwork have to flow through HB? Processes will stay local as much as they can.
 - Questions about booking of classrooms – it isn't feasible to totally rely on computer programs. The thinking is that Dr. Wiesenburg likes what we are doing locally in regard to classroom scheduling. He actually likes our method better than the one used in HB.
 - Questions related to budgeting, HR paperwork, and insurance issues – we are about to need to conduct a big inventory on the Coast because of hurricane vulnerability. We are concerned about how we will conduct such a big inventory. The President is referring this to Dr. Vinzant.

- Contracts at Keesler and the Navy Base – Navy Base contract has expired and Keesler contract is about to expire. Dr. Wiesenburg needs to handle this. It will be on the front burner. Pat stated that Dr. Lansford might have copies of contracts.
- Parking management – Pat believes there has been a resolution about this since his meeting with Dr. Bennett and Dr. Wiesenburg. Dr. Lucas recently said that parking will be handled locally.
- Campus security – Will have police officer in charge on GC, but our police report to HB security. Campus police here will have authority to make arrests and write tickets here without having to call in the Long Beach police.
- Pat's overall feeling from the President is that he is not out to get us – he has a good attitude toward the GC - he has a full platter – it seems that administrators believe the reorganization is not too significant because the tenure and promotion process is unchanged. The big operation has not been given much thought. Our GCFC seeking answers seems to be helping administration organize things. The structure will not change in the near future, so we need to make things work.
- Dr. Vinzant was scheduled to come to the Council meeting today. Dr. Vinzant wants to deal with details so he wanted to wait to talk with us, but he agreed to come today. However, another meeting prevented this. Dr. Vinzant said administration is still working on processes. Pat had a long discussion with him on the phone.
- Question – previous 30 years - % of funds generated on the Coast and spent here – has historically been a problem that we don't know our budget from year-to-year. Dr. Vinzant said he wants to base the budget on the past 10 years. Attitudinally, he says that he does not want the GC to have big variations. He said he wants predictability, but he does not know the % at this time. Aim is stability.
- Prioritizing – wants to involve people at GCRL and GP in generating priorities, including new construction. Vinzant said he is trying to put together a group to address bond money. He realizes that GCRL and GP has been an afterthought with bond money.
- No answers regarding how academic budgets will be done – same about faculty lines.
- Budget allocation decisions – will anyone on the GC be involved with budget allocations? He said “yes,” but he does not know the process. Pat heard that Dr. Vinzant wants Dr. Lucas involved with budget allocation decisions.
- i-Tech – no news other than reporting structure.
- Student organizations – still considering this issue.
- Paperwork flow for travel – still considering this issue.
- Annual budget process – IHL is requesting a lot of information at this time so not a lot of process thought has been done.
- Filling Dr. Estes's soon to be vacant position – no news.
- Pat asked for no major changes in budget for the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Question from Council member – Will Dr. Vinzant's visit to a council meeting be rescheduled? Pat said Dr. Bennett is scheduled to come to the campus at 3:00 p.m. on April 11, our next scheduled meeting day. He will bring Deans, have an opening statement, and then take questions. We want a big attendance at this meeting. We need to continue to show that we care about our campus. If not, this might affect perceptions about the value of considering our requests and needs.
- Concerns expressed that faculty may be afraid to ask pointed questions or express feelings at the April 11 meeting with the President and Deans.
- Ken presented information received at the last Faculty Senate meeting about the 21 investments in recruitment and enrollment that were funded by the University. Total

estimate is that 896 new students will be recruited based on these investments.

Comments – faculty members were not consulted about proposals submitted.

Comment – have heard that the turnaround time for the proposals was short. Pat said this money is coming out of reserves.

- Comment – one Council member said she learned at her Department meeting that the financial situation among State Universities is not as bad as originally thought. The IHL was given more money.
 - Comment – Recruitment will be controlled out of HB, and this is unacceptable. Is there anything Coast people can do to change this? Pat's impression is that the top down approach will be used, but we can continue to coach people in the process and maybe things will change if this plan does not work. Ann Billings will report to Kristi Motter, so Ann will be able to provide an historical perspective on what has not worked in the past.
 - Comment – with GC Executive Committee being disbanded, we need some mechanism for Coast people to communicate about what is happening. Comment – we cannot function well in silos. Comment – if communication must go up to HB, it will take forever to receive decisions. We want to be team players, but people on the Coast will stop having interest in things if communication doesn't freely flow.
- b. Vice-President, President-Elect - None
 - c. Secretary - None
 - d. Secretary-Elect - None

V. Committee Reports

- a. Election Committee
 - Waiting on FS elections before we hold GCFC elections.
 - David Holt is working on the eligible members list.
- b. Student Life Committee
 - No report
- c. Library Committee
 - Guests from the library present at the Council meeting but no report.
- d. Faculty Social and Welfare Committee
 - No report
- e. Faculty Senate
 - See above about recruitment initiatives.
 - Dr. Wiesenburg discussed split votes for tenure and promotion. Comment – Dr. Wiesenburg has remanded some of the candidates with split votes.
 - Council discussion: At the FS meeting, the student success report and historically difficult classes were discussed. We already tend to engage students a lot on the Coast. The aim is to alert students if they are registering for a challenging course. A Council member raised the issue about a withdrawal passing and withdrawal failing committee being initiated. No definite information is available at this point. Discussion – Services offered at the Writing and Speaking Center and Learning Commons. Do tutors at the Center proofread papers for students? Casey said that tutors first look to help students with the quality of their papers before offering proofreading services. Tutors do not correct students' papers for them, but they do help with proofreading after students work on the quality of their papers. Each tutor has a specialty designation.

VI. Old or Unfinished Business

- a. Resolution of Commendation for Dr. Lucas for leading the campus during Katrina-related construction:
 - Still have incomplete projects at GCRL. Still working with FEMA.
 - At our last meeting we agreed that we want a resolution of commendation for Dr. Lucas since we are finishing up projects on the Gulf Park campus. Pat distributed a draft commendation and discussed it. Pat also distributed an amendment for paragraph 2. Patsy motioned to amend the document. Marlene seconded. Motion to re-order paragraphs – invert order of second and third paragraphs. Approved. Motion to consider changing wording of what is now paragraph 3; seconded. Discussion ensued. The amendment of the amendment was approved. Motion by Marlene and seconded by Patsy that amended amendment of paragraph 3 was approved. The resolution as amended was voted on and approved. The new wording follows: "Moreover, this Council applauds Dr. Lucas for innovative efforts in student recruitment and retention which produced a record enrollment of 3,199 students at USM Gulf Coast at a time when ruined campus facilities offered little curb appeal to potential students. Specifically, Dr. Lucas supported outreach initiatives, which have quadrupled international student enrollments in one program and a seven-fold increase of applications in another for the Fall of 2014. We take special note of her success in shepherding an increase in campus student organizations from three to 41 in number during her tenure."
- b. Handbook – Status of Gulf Coast Faculty Council
 - Pat said spring of 1997 was the first commencement ceremony on GC campus. Have had various combinations of people on the platform. The FS President joined the platform during Dr. Thames' administration. Dr. Saunders asked for Coast specific changes. The GCFC President was added to the platform rather than the FS President. This change raised a concern that the GCFC is not in the Faculty Handbook. We need a resolution to add the FC to the Handbook. This year at commencement our platform probably will look like the platform in Hattiesburg.
- c. Associate Dean and Associate Provost Job Descriptions
 - Casey reported – she talked with Associate Deans to get input about their responsibilities. Some of our ADs are not on board with being in the office from 8am – 5pm although the Provost said this will be required. Casey talked with the Provost about working on the job description, and he told her that Allison already has written it. Casey plans to continue working on the job description and submit it to the Provost. GC Associate Deans seem to be expected to function differently from HB Associate Deans in terms of being in their offices daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Comment – when the Provost met with one College on the Coast he indicated that the ADs may be in advisory roles and will teach two classes per semester.

VII. New Business

- a. Graduate Program in Computer Science
 - Pat reported – The question was asked: What is the nature of the reason why this program is being eliminated?

The notion is that there will be a pause in the program so that international student recruitment can be considered. The program generates over \$1,000,000 on the campus. There has been no specific information about possible Federal concerns. There have been questions about capacity – Pat was told that the budget issues for capacity are workable because of revenue generated. The Space Committee addressed APEC concerns related to the need for a computer lab by dedicating a lab to this program.

Question – What is the role for the new international program Associate Provost?
Unsure at this point. Comment – We have a poor support structure for international students on the Coast campus. We do not have dormitories or public transportation.
Comment – There are a large number of international students at Stennis, but the NASA clearance is a hindrance. Otherwise, they have navigated other problems. Discussion among Council members – What is the actual problem with having the international students in the computer science program? Some people heard that the program is understaffed with faculty as well as students presenting a security clearance issue. Generally, Council members are unclear about the actual problem. Pat suggested we may need a resolution about this issue or maybe we need to launch an inquiry to receive clarification. Comments – An inquiry needs to be tied to recruitment initiatives and the consequences of shutting down the program. Motion to write a letter of inquiry; seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. Next Meeting – April 11 @ 1:30 p.m.

- Adjourned @ 3:51 p.m.