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Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

Gulf Coast Faculty Council
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2014
FEC Room 101 @ 1:30 p.m.

I. 1:30 p.m. Call to Order and Roster Sign-in

- 1:35 p.m. called to order by Pat Smith.
- Welcome Bob Press, incoming FS President.

II. Approval of Agenda

- Approved as presented.

III. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

- Motion to approve by Patsy and seconded by Casey. Minutes approved as submitted.

IV. Officers Reports

President

- Commendation presented to Dr. Lucas at the Founders Day Ceremony.
- Voted at the last FC meeting to forward a letter of inquiry about suspended master's program in computer science (CS). This was done by Pat Smith (see attached). Pat talked with both the President and Dr. Wiesenburg about this issue. Dr. Biesiot responded to the inquiry (see attached). Dr. Biesiot's response indicates a strong student enrollment and strong faculty involvement with the program. It seems that the Chair is being engaged in the process to move the program forward. Comment - we need to assure that this issue stays on the front burner. Pat agreed. There is an issue of concern about outside (contract) recruiters for the program, but Dr. Biesiot's letter shows that issues are being worked out. A plan is being prepared by Dr. Yenduri and Dr. Parker. Comment - the FC inquiry has been a good thing to push a resolution forward. We need to assure that the University system can properly handle a large number of applicants without having to shut down a program. Comment - we do not seem to have a good metric for when to add faculty based on student enrollment. Comment - have suggested that Dr. Wiesenburg meet directly with the CS program faculty.

Vice-President, President-Elect

- We are trying to organize binders of FC records and find a place to house this information. We also are trying to find documentation about the status of the GCFC within the University. We know that FS recognized the GCFC as having ex officio status. We need this because some faculty are not being given service credit for FC service. Also, efforts are underway to combine the GC Student Government Association (SGA) with the HB SGA. We don't want the same thing to happen to the GCFC. Casey is still on the Strategic Planning Committee. There will be a Student Success Implementation Team (SSIT), and Casey is on this committee. Bill Powell and Kristi Motter are co-chairs of the committee.

Secretary

- Submit questions to be presented at the meeting with the President today.

Secretary-Elect - no report.

V. Committee Reports

A. Elections Committee – Nomination of Vice President-Elect and Secretary Elect

- Pat presented a short history of how and when the GCFC was formed. It was born out of an issue that needed to be addressed. Over time, this body has helped draw attention to important problems and issues. Pat said that this group is critical during this time of reorganization to pass resolutions and keep our needs in front of administration. We need tenured faculty to take roles as FC President and Secretary. Comment - maybe we do not need to vote until FS elections are held. Response - it will be best to have the elected officers come from the existing FC. We need to address tenure and promotion issues on the GC and other faculty-specific issues in the next year rather than the type of issues we have confronted this year. Comment - the officers should be chosen from the GP campus so that they will be close to the majority of issues and be close to people here. Nominations are open.
- David Holt was nominated for President by Don; Patsy was nominated by Ken. First vote 7/7 1 abstention. Second round David elected.
- Peter self nominated for Secretary; Allisa nominated by Patsy. Allisa elected.

B. Student Life Committee - no report

C. Library Committee - no report

D. Faculty Social and Welfare Committee - no report

E. Faculty Senate - no report

VI. Old or Unfinished or Unfinished Business

- A. C.S. Masters Program - see above

VII. New Business

A. President Bennett's Meeting Agenda

- We hope Dr. Bennett will answer questions today that we submitted to him earlier. Karen will present questions today.

B. Resolution regarding Coast Representation on CACs and UAC

- In the spirit of the one University philosophy, we want to look at the GC almost like a department to assure representation by faculty from the Coast.
- Concerns that tenure and promotion decisions are not consistent from Department to Department.
- Comment - each faculty member has designated responsibilities - at the Department and College levels do people look at responsibilities in the appropriate way? It is expected that people with an enormous teaching load meet the same criteria as others who do not have the same responsibilities. General discussion of ideas to help GC faculty who have been given different expectations than HB faculty. We may want to create a mentoring team. Faculty have been given verbal assurances that they are okay, and these verbal assurances are not upheld during the T and P process. Ken moved that we develop a resolution saying that at least one of the two UAC members from each College are from the Coast. Comment - we may need to assure that each Department outlines percentage of work expectations on annual evaluations. Pat, Casey, Karen, and Heidi will work on a resolution before our May 8th meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting May 8

IX. Adjournment at 2:50 for President Bennett's Meeting