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Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes

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USM Gulf Coast Faculty Council

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Gulf Coast Faculty Council
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2014
Hardy Hall Room 214 @ 1:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Proxies:

Ex-Officio: Desmond Fletcher (not in attendance)

Guest: None

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

- Called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Pat Smith.

II. Approval of Agenda

- Correction - we discussed VP-President-Elect and Secretary-Elect in the April meeting.
- Casey will present her research about the status of the GCFC within the University.
- Patsy moved to approve corrected agenda; Casey seconded. Agenda approved.

III. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

- Add attendees to the minutes
- Correct minutes - Planned resolution: each College should have at least one Coast faculty member on the CAC, and the UAC should have at least two Coast faculty members. If this does not occur, the Provost should make appointments.
- Approved as corrected.

IV. Officers Reports

President

- Pat expressed gratitude about his retirement reception yesterday and the presentation of a bench to be placed at the Administration Building Plaza area in his honor.

- Acknowledged the work of Sheila White who helped get the GCFC represented on the graduation platform. Every symbolic function where the GCFC is represented legitimizes this organization.
- Comment - Academic Dean's Leadership Team (ADLT) has been discussing commencement on the Coast. Pat recommended that the GCFC President (Casey) should become involved with the ADLT.
- Pat attended the President's meeting this week. It was affirmed that the master's in computer science will be brought back. It is in the Provost's hands at this point.
- Faculty Senate Report - Reviewed budget in Faculty Senate meeting. Pat noted that administrators said they are saving administrative costs by the University reorganization even though we have ended up with \$500,000 more in salary costs. Since 2010, \$2.9 million of F and A money from GCRL grants is going into the E and G budget. Dr. Vinzant believes this is excessive, so they plan to slowly move the money back to the campus. Pat questioned the statement that Coast revenue does not pay for administrators. It was clarified that this is not correct.
Vice-President, President-Elect
- Casey met with Dr. Bennett before the general faculty meeting with Dr. Bennett. She discussed the computer science program with him. She tried to explain the relationships between the faculty on the Coast and how when one department is threatened, all departments feel threatened. To date, Dr. Yenduri and Dr. Parker have not met with Dr. Wiesenburg. President Bennett expressed concern about morale in general. Casey told him that it would have been better if he had delivered the reorganization news himself at the time of the change. Casey expressed that the Chairs need to be more involved with and knowledgeable about Coast operations. President Bennett said he hopes people are ready to move forward. He said the University is in a financial crisis. Casey encouraged the President to communicate with faculty about the problems, including tenure and promotion, so the faculty can help solve problems. Some faculty talked with the President about T and P issues during individual meetings. Casey told President Bennett we need to clarify the role of the Associate Deans. Other notes - Casey would like to have a longer GCFC meeting later this summer to decide on an agenda for next year. It is amazing that we are still having the same issues of clarifying the legitimacy of the GCFC after so many discussions at FS. Next year we need to develop a procedure for mentorship of tenure-track faculty. Casey will try to navigate how we can have a presence with the ADLT group. David talked with the President during an individual meeting about the Associate Deans and the Associate Provost on the Coast not having any authority. Comment - the new organizational plan was put forward without details being worked out.
Secretary
- Presentation of Friendship Oak sapling in honor of Pat Smith. The tree will be planted at the CoN building.
Secretary-Elect

- No report.
- President Pat Smith turned over the meeting to the incoming President, Casey Maugh, and presented her with an historic shovel. He asked that the shovel remain with each GCFC President to be used whenever new ground is broken.

V. Committee Reports

A. Elections Committee –

- Nomination of Vice President-Elect and Secretary-Elect - done during the April meeting.
- David will send a new ballot for faculty in Colleges that need to elect new GCFC members.
- Pat is an elected FS member as well as an ex-officio member as FC President. He is retiring so there is another FS position open. Marie Leonard and Lee Follett were in a run-off for FS membership, so both of them will be new senators. We have six senators from the GC . The chair of the GCFC is an ex-officio member unless the GCFC President is an elected senate member.

B. Student Life Committee

- No report

C. Library Committee

- No report

D. Faculty Social and Welfare Committee

- No report

E. Faculty Senate

- Pat covered this earlier

VI. Old or Unfinished Business

A. C.S. Masters Program.

- Suggestion that we send another note of concern to Dr. Wiesenburg. Casey will also follow up with Dr. Vinzant. Question about the main issue that halted the program - Answer - it was an issue of faculty capacity.

B. Resolution regarding Coast Representation on CACs and UAC

- We want every CAC to have at least one GC member. If a GC representative is not elected, the Provost must appoint someone. Also, we want to assure that at least two GC members are on the UAC.
- Need to write a resolution. Should we send it to the FS for their support or directly to the Provost? Pat suggested that we send it to the Provost and then get support from the FS.
- Consideration for resolution - GC units should elect one CAC member in each College. We also need a resolution about T and P standards within each

Department to correctly outline differences between the Coast and Hattiesburg.

- Added agenda item: Resolution for GCFC standing - need to advocate that this be put on the next FS agenda. In June 2011, Mary Lutz raised the issue that the GCFC would like to be recognized with legitimate status like the FS. This wasn't followed up. However, the FC President has been given ex-officio status on the FS. A resolution needs to be pursued with the FS by the GC senators.

VII. New Business

A. Dr. Smith's resignation effective May 14

- Pat Smith submitted his resignation from the GCFC effective May 14, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. Motion by Patsy and seconded by Heidi to accept his resignation. No discussion. Motion approved.

B. Action Items from President Bennett's round of meetings April 11-May7.

- Issue that instructors and clinical faculty be given multi-year contracts. This was previously deferred until President Bennett arrived and could make a decision. The President said he is open to this. This needs to be raised by Faculty Senators with the Handbook Committee.
- What is the intention of replacing Lynn Estes's and Sheila White's positions? The President said this is an issue for Doug Vinzant.
- Senior members of the GC faculty should be on the Associate Provost Search Committee or should chair this committee.
- Casey said we should try to get Doug Vinzant to come to an upcoming meeting, maybe the summer retreat. Ken said Dr. Vinzant would like to hear about how we can bring in more revenue. Ken suggested we should also invite the new administrator of international programs.

VIII. Next Council meeting – Summer Term (Note: Faculty Senate will meet on May 30)

- Will meet in August.

IX. Adjournment

- By Casey Maugh at 3:40 p.m.