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Faculty Senate Minutes - June 3, 2011

USM Faculty Senate

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The University of Southern Mississippi
Faculty Senate
Ogletree House – Poynter Room
Minutes for the Closing of the May Meeting on June 3, 2011

Members Present and Represented (by proxy): M.A. Adams, H. Annulis, J. Bass (Pandey), D. Beckett, J. Brannock (Howell), A. Branton, B. Burgess, C. Chatham, R. Conville, A. Davis, J. Ding, L. Downey, D. Fletcher, A. Haley, T. Hartsell, S. Hauer, N. Howell, M. Lux, K. Masters (Chatham), D. Masterson (Conville), C. McCormick (Downey), S. Oshrin, R. Pandey, S. Piland (Downey), C. Rakocinski (Redalje), D. Redalje, T. Rehner, S. Reischman, K. Shelley, J.H. Shin, D. Tingstrom.

Members Absent: D. Bristol, J. Burnett, S. Clark, D. Daves, B. George, C. Goggin, D. Lunsford, C. Meyers, A. Sevier, J. Wolfe, A. Young.

1.0 Call to order

According to the constitution, the election of officers should take place at the May meeting; thus that meeting was not formally adjourned but recessed to be concluded in June. Then followed the June meeting itself.

Faculty Senate President Davis called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and moved directly to the election of officers.

2.0 Election of Officers

Nominees for President-elect were Sen. David Beckett and Sen. Mary Ann Adams. After the nominees addressed the Senate, Sen. Adams was chosen President-elect by secret ballot.

Pres. Davis requested nominations for Secretary-elect. Sen. Ann Branton had previously been nominated. Sen. Oshrin nominated Sen. Laura Downey. Motion to close nominations by Sen. Haley. Seconded. Motion carried. After the nominees addressed the Senate, Sen. Downey was chosen Secretary-elect by secret ballot.

3.0 Remarks of the outgoing President

President Davis thanked senators for their contributions to the Faculty Senate and summarized the highlights of her year as President.

4.0 Adjournment of the May 2011 meeting

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carried.

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Members Absent: D. Lunsford, C. Meyers, A. Sevier.

1.0 Call to order of the 2011-2012 Senate

Pres. Rehner called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Sen. Howell resigned as Secretary of the Faculty Senate due to her retirement from the University. She will work with the Senate officers through the month of June in order to transition responsibilities. Secretary-elect Downey assumed the office of Secretary.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Pres. Rehner suggested that the agenda item Senate Faculty Awards be moved ahead to follow Approval of Agenda. Motion to approve amended agenda by Sen. Oshrin. Seconded. Motion carried.

3.0 Senate Faculty Awards

Sen. Beckett discussed the awards process, and Provost Lyman and Pres. Rehner assisted in presenting plaques and monetary awards to these recipients:

- Community Service Award Steve Coleman, School of Mass Communication and Journalism
- Mentoring Award Phyllis Jestice, Chair of History Department
- Junior Faculty Teaching Award Julie Reid, Department of Anthropology and Sociology
- Junior Faculty Research Award Derek Patton, School of Polymers.

4.0 Recognition of outgoing officers / welcome of new senators

Pres. Rehner thanked outgoing Pres. Davis for her Senate work and noted particularly the re-establishment of the Senate sub-committees. Secretary Howell thanked outgoing Secretary Brannock for her work as Secretary and as chair of the Awards Committee. Pres. Rehner presented gift bags for these outgoing officers.

Pres. Rehner thanked outgoing senators for their efforts on behalf of the University, indicated that their contributions have been significant, and stated that they will be missed.

5.0 Remarks from administration

Pres. Rehner stated that President Saunders sent regrets that she was unable to attend this meeting.

Provost Lyman's discussion focused primarily on an item recently approved by IHL and administrative expansion.

At the May IHL meeting, Southern Miss received permission to plan for an undergraduate ABET-accredited Engineering program in Polymer Science and Engineering, with a proviso that Southern Miss not go back for 10 years to request more Engineering programs.

Provost Lyman distributed a handout that he had prepared comparing changes in administrative data between 1993 and 2007 at research universities in Mississippi and adjacent states. He cited a Goldwater Institute Policy Report and university Web sites as the sources of his data. He gave Pres. Rehner a copy of the Goldwater Report. Provost Lyman then discussed his analysis and provided insights.

Sen. Tingstrom indicated that administrative expansion would be less of an issue if salaries were comparable. Sen. Hauer voiced concern that we do not know who we are. Sen. Haley questioned where the growth is happening and asked if it is aligned with the University's mission.

Provost Lyman suggested that the Web site IPEDS (The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/> is full of data and encouraged senators to review it; he stated his belief that tremendous growth has occurred in terms of staff that handle students.

Pres. Rehner stated that an item previously discussed at Faculty Senate was access for Gulf Coast students to Health Services. Provost Lyman stated that he is not involved with the Gulf Coast just now; but from his recollection of this item, it seemed the Faculty Senate was more interested than were the Gulf Coast students.

Discussion evolved to "what is the identity of the Gulf Coast?" as well as "what is the identity of the Hattiesburg campus?" and "what programs should we market?"

Pres. Rehner stated that at the last meeting, the Faculty Senate endorsed program participation in the University Assessment process. Historically, some programs have not embraced the program assessment process; some of the same programs submitted minimal, if any, reports for the UPC process. He stated that the Administration needs to look at this.

Provost Lyman indicated that he plans to work with the deans to determine how the 20 to 22 retirement positions can be reallocated in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Provost Lyman stated that there is tremendous demand for programs offered by the School of Mass Communication but that there has not been much enthusiasm among faculty to support that demand. Pres. Rehner stated that the UPC process involved reviewing materials submitted by the programs, ranking, and then prioritizing. According to Rehner, the UPC process was not a popularity contest. The UPC reviewed materials submitted and made recommendations based upon the UPC's analysis of a set of criteria.

Sen. Oshrin thanked Provost Lyman for preparing the document he distributed. Lyman encouraged senators to review the numbers and charts in the Goldwater Report.

Sen. Branton asked Provost Lyman about his recent trip to Linyi University in China. Lyman stated that Linyi has sent eight to ten faculty members to various departments at Southern Miss and that Linyi has indicated an interest in developing a more formal exchange relationship with Southern Miss.

Sen. Ding provided a historical background of the relationship between Southern Miss and Linyi. He stated that quality of education is a big issue in China.

Provost Lyman closed his discussion with a reminder that College Hall is closing on July 1 for renovations.

6.0 Officers' Reports

6.1 President

Pres. Rehner welcomed incoming senator Zelner. Other senators will be seated following completion of subsequent rounds of Faculty Senate elections. He then discussed his goals for this year, what it means to be Faculty Senate President, and what the Senate stands for.

One of the jobs of senators is to get and share information. This process is much like assembling the pieces of a mosaic – laying on a table the pieces that we know and figuring out what is going on. Is this an emerging trend or a trend that is short-sighted?

All senators need to be active senators; Rehner invited all senators to participate in Senate dialogue. He also encouraged senators to speak about the Senate in their colleges and departments and to encourage a willingness to serve.

He stated a need for the Senate to believe in shared governance and to have a voice in the process. He also indicated that sub-committees facilitate spreading out Senate work and provide opportunities for dialogue.

Rehner will look for a Senate meeting place that can be set up in galley format and will include room for guests and enough technology to communicate with the Coast.

He enumerated these specific goals:

- 1) gather and share information
- 2) increase the influence and effectiveness of the Senate
- 3) strengthen and protect the structures of shared governance
- 4) push the notion of strategic planning
- 5) advocate for faculty (defending tenure lines, encouraging the freedom of faculty to speak, etc.)

Pres. Rehner stated that he is excited about the year and requested input from all regarding how to move forward.

6.2 President – Elect

No report.

6.3 Secretary

No report.

6.4 Secretary - Elect

The office was vacant at this point in the meeting.

7.0 Old Business

Pres. Rehner asked if there were “old-business” items to add to the list below.

7.1 2010/2011

- 7.1.1 Suspension of faculty members (protocol)
- 7.1.2 A singular faculty list for elections
- 7.1.3 Administrative evaluations
- 7.1.4 Smoke free campus

7.2 2009/2010

- 7.2.1 Access to health services for GC
- 7.2.2 Collegiality workshop

Sen. Beckett added the issue of filling vacant positions in the library and what the President and Provost think about tenure-track status for librarians. Sen. Branton added the resolution regarding filling general academic faculty positions with tenure-track faculty. Sen. Adams included the budget resolution that strategic planning be tied to budget decision making. Sen. Fletcher stated that results of administrative evaluations should be out next week.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Senates “Benevolence” Flex account

Pres. Rehner reported that the Senate checking account at the Credit Union may have \$25 in it. He stated a need for some discretionary funds and suggested several ways to acquire these funds. Sen. Beckett indicated a preference that each Senator contribute \$5 or \$10 at a given faculty meeting. Sen. Lux suggested bringing money to the Senate Retreat so that funds would be available when the Senate needs them.

8.2 Election of new senators

Sen. Burgess stated that the response rate with electronic balloting has been better than was the response rate with paper ballots used in previous years. She and former Pres. Davis met recently with iTech regarding the elections. Second-round ballots will be available for voting on Monday, June 6; and the system will permit persons to vote between then and July 3. A third-round of balloting, if needed, will occur after that.

Pres. Rehner distributed a Senate Membership list and requested senators to notify him of any discrepancies in the list.

Pres. Rehner called for nominations for the office of Secretary-elect. Sen. Branton was named Secretary-elect by acclamation.

8.3 Meetings for 2011/2012 and location?

Pres. Rehner proposed these meeting dates for the 2011-2012 Faculty Senate:

- Aug 16 retreat
- Sept 2
- Oct 7
- Nov 4
- Dec 2
- Jan 27
- March 2
- March 30
- May 4
- June 1

8.4 Senate Retreat

8.4.1 Preferably: Phillips' Camp

8.4.2 Date: August 16 from 9:30-3:00 or 1:00-5:30

Pres. Rehner suggested that the Senate Retreat occur at the Phillips' Camp on Tuesday, August 16 in either a morning or an afternoon format. He asked senators for their preference and called for a "show-of-hands" vote. The morning format received the most votes.

8.5 Other?

9.0 Committee Reports

9.1 Academic and Governance (Redalje/Shelley)

No report.

9.1.1 Faculty Handbook (Lux)

Sen. Lux stated that the bylaws have been approved by the President. She indicated that some requests for Handbook changes have come from the Research office with a need to set up a Board of Inquiry and a request to streamline the process. She will send info to the Senate via email.

Sen. Lux reported that the Gulf Coast Faculty Council would like to be recognized as a campus body; the Faculty Handbook Committee suggested that this request go to the Committee on Committees. Sen. Chatham stated that the Gulf Coast Faculty Council functions much like the Faculty Senate does, but focuses exclusively on the Coast. Sen. Haley indicated that if the request were sent to him, then he would forward it to the Committee on Committees.

Suggestions offered, questions raised, concerns stated by several senators regarding the request from the Gulf Coast Faculty Council include the following: These issues are specific to the Coast. Consider making a separate committee within the Faculty Senate. Will all the College Councils have special representation on the Senate? The University has evolved a new structure for the Gulf Coast. Do we have “campus” Senates? This is very “murky”. Was the new administrative arrangement on the Gulf Coast intentional or did it “just happen”? This is one of the many unresolved issues involving the Gulf Coast; including budget, tenure and promotion, others.

Pres. Rehner suggested that this item be placed on the agenda for the Senate to discuss. He added that having a dual faculty structure is difficult.

9.2 Budget (Adams)

No report.

9.2.1 University Priorities Committee (Rehner)

No report.

9.3 Constitution, Bylaws, and Elections (Burgess/Annulis)

The status of the elections process is reported above.

9.4 Evaluation and Assessment (Fletcher/Reischman)

No report.

9.5 Materials and Resources (Branton/Lux)

No report.

9.6 Research and Scholarship (Downey/Masterson)

Sen. Downey presented these two items for discussion: including a representative from the Office of Research on the Budget Committee with RCM, and developing a junior faculty mentorship program. Pres. Rehner indicated he will place these two items on the agenda for discussion during the next meetings with the President and/or Provost.

Sen. Downey provided updates on plans for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training during fall semester and discussed a request from Dr. Wiesenburg that the Senate Research and Scholarship Committee serve in an advisory role for deciding who receives travel funds from the Office of Research. Several senators suggested that Sen. Downey and the committee discuss the request further with Dr. Wiesenburg.

9.7 University Awards

Awards were presented earlier in the meeting.

9.8 University Relations (Conville/Sevier)

Sen. Conville stated that one key player important in getting newsworthy information to University Communications is the College representative. He indicated that this will be the committee's focus for the coming year.

9.8.1 Gulf Coast Faculty Council (Lunsford)

No report.

9.9 University Welfare (Burnette/Haley)

No report.

10.0 Other Business

10.1 Other

11.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Sen. Conville. Seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.