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Faculty Senate Minutes - December 2, 2011

USM Faculty Senate

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The University of Southern Mississippi
Faculty Senate
Trent Lott Center
Dec 2, 2011

Members Present and Represented (by proxy): M.A. Adams, L. Agler, J. Anderson (L. Story), A. Branton, R. Buchanan (D. Fletcher), D. Conville, D. Daves, K. Davis, J. Ding, D. Douglas (S. Piland), M. Dugan, M. Elasri (L. Nored), D. Fletcher, S. Reischman Fletcher, L. Flynn (M. Dugan), A. Haley, T. Hartsell, L. Iglesias, E. King (M. Dugan), D. Lunsford (M. Naquin), M. Lux, D. Masterson (S. Piland), C. McCormick (D. Fletcher), C. Meyers, M. Naquin, L. Nored, W. Odom, S. Oshrin, S. Piland, R. Press, T. Rehner, A. Sevier (M. Dugan), K. Shelley, J. H. Shin, C. Sirola, P. Smith, L. Story, D. Tingstrom, J. Wiggert, T. Zelner (A. Branton).

Guests: M. Forester, J. May, S. Judd, K. Reidenbach, B. Powell

1.0 Call to order

President Rehner called the meeting to order at 2:06.

2.0 Approval of agenda

President Rehner asked for a motion to approve of the agenda. Senator Daves motioned. Senator Naquin seconded. President Rehner added Classroom Conduct Committee under New Business. All approved.

3.0 Approval of minutes

President Rehner asked for a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Senator Tingstrom motioned. Senator Lux seconded. All approved.

4.0 Officer Reports

4.1 President

President Rehner provided a brief account of events surrounding the resignation of Dr. Lyman and the placement of Mr. Homer Coffman and Mr. Mike Herndon on administrative leave. Investigations are on-going by the IHL and USM. Senator Oshrin asked Senator Rehner to invite President Saunders to meet with the Faculty Senate at a special called meeting during the coming week.

President Rehner provided an update on meetings about the Gulf Coast Guidelines. On November 7th, a listening session with departmental chairs, representatives from the Coast, the former Provost, and the President took place. The Provost provided revised Gulf Coast Guidelines. On November 14, the deans, Dr. Lansford, and five departmental chairs met to discuss how to move forward. At this point, there are two position papers, the revised Gulf Coast Guidelines and guidelines proposed by the Council of Chairs, that need to be reconciled. President Rehner recommended a new working group to move forward so that there is adequate buy-in for those who have to implement the policy.

Senator Smith stated that it seems as though the Council of Chairs has divorced itself from the faculty members on the Coast who raised concerns. Senator Naquin pointed out that the guidelines started from faculty on the Coast. Senator Naquin recommends that the Council of Chairs talk to Coast faculty.

The Senate put forth a resolution for the Interim Provost to establish a small committee with appropriate representation from the Council of Chairs and Coast faculty to reconcile the two

position statements. It was recommended that the issue be brought to end without delay. The Senate passed the resolution. This committee will not be an ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate.

Senator Rehner reported that President Saunders accepted the Resolution on Teaching, Service, and Travel (passed at the November Faculty Senate meeting). The President asked the Interim Provost to collaborate with deans to develop a plan for funding travel between the Coast and Hattiesburg.

The Luckyday Foundation has made a \$4 million gift commitment to be used for construction of new student housing.

4.2 President-elect
No report

4.3 Secretary
No report

4.4 Secretary-elect
No report

5.0 Remarks from Administration (2:30pm)

5.1 Interim Provost Wiesenburg

Interim Provost Wiesenburg responded to questions that President Rehner submitted to him prior to the Faculty Senate meeting.

Dr. Wiesenburg has agreed to serve as Interim Provost for the remainder of the academic year. Dr. Wiesenburg sees his job is to help faculty get their job done. In collaboration with the Faculty Senate, he is interested in crafting solutions to currently identified issues.

Dr. Wiesenburg has received recommendations from the Personnel Allocation Committee (PAC). Dr. Wiesenburg and deans are working through the PAC's recommendations. Dr. Wiesenburg is looking for additional funds to supplement the 16 positions reviewed by the PAC. Dr. Wiesenburg is likely to support the PAC's recommendation. If additional funds are found, the PAC will not be responsible for determining how the money should be allocated across colleges. The proposal made by the School of Nursing will be reviewed by Academic Council and Graduate Council in the coming weeks. Dr. Wiesenburg will discuss his recommendations with the President early next week. If the President approves Dr. Wiesenburg's recommendation, the colleges will be notified that faculty searches can begin.

Dr. Wiesenburg confirmed that all 16 positions under review are tenure-track. Dr. Wiesenburg reiterated that at a comprehensive university, teaching, research, and service is the role of the faculty.

Senator Press asked Dr. Wiesenburg to make a statement about the University becoming a premier teaching institution. Dr. Wiesenburg stated that teaching is our primary role and USM has a rich history of being an outstanding teaching institution. Dr. Wiesenburg is going through the budget and looking for ways that money from the

administrative side can be moved to the academic side.

Dr. Wiesenburg will meet with Dr. Frances Lucas and President Saunders to discuss establishing a committee to resolve the Gulf Coast Guidelines.

Dr. Wiesenburg does not think that the granting of emeritus status should be automatic. There needs to be a process that is driven by departmental faculty. The current guidelines are not as stringent as they are at other universities. Clarification is needed in regard to language in current policy (i.e., what “consult” with department chair means.)

Dr. Beckett, Chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee, stated that the policy is currently written as if the request for emeritus status were approved at every level. Currently, there is no provision if the request is not approved at every level. The Committee will address this, as well as clarification about departmental procedures.

Dr. Wiesenburg acknowledged that the rollout of the RCR requirements might have seemed sudden. The University had been out of compliance with national funding agencies for several years. After the online training was in place, the University was notified that face-to-face training is also required. The face-to-face training is currently by invitation only. The Graduate School expects all students to complete RCR training by the end of spring semester 2012. Two-thirds of faculty members have completed the online training.

Dr. Judd pointed out that other universities do not require artists to complete RCR training. To date, Dr. Judd has received no response to questions about the applicability of the training to artists. Dr. Judd is concerned that the RCR training could be a disincentive to attracting graduate students. Dr. Wiesenburg agreed that the policy is evolving and that the policy might be more stringent than it needs to be.

Senator Haley pointed out that University hype (i.e. out of compliance with national funding agencies, severe budget crisis) distract faculty members from their responsibilities of teaching and research. Senator Haley suggested that administrators think and research before they act.

Senator Tingstrom asked whether graduate students are required to complete the online and face-to-face training. Dr. Wiesenburg was unsure whether the face-to-face requirement applied to graduate students. President Rehner clarified that the RCR online training is the only element connected to the degree application. Senator Tingstrom put forth a concern about lack of communication about training requirements.

Senator Lux stated that there has been a threat that faculty will lose graduate faculty status if they do not complete RCR training. Dr. Wiesenburg stated that over time the expectations will increase. In the future, faculty will be required to document on the Internal Approval Form that they have completed RCR training.

6.0 Old Business

6.1 SUAC- Space Utilization

At the request of the Senate, Senator Rehner spoke with President Saunders about space needs. The President discussed the possibility of having space hearings.

6.2 Resolution for travel

President Rehner delivered the Resolution on Teaching, Research, Service and Travel Resolution to the President.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Emeritus

Senator Tingstrom reported that the Faculty Handbook Committee is discussing emeritus status guidelines. There is clear agreement by the Committee that there are issues that need to be addressed in the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Beckett, Chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee, constituted a sub-committee (that includes Senator Tingstrom) to address language in the Faculty Handbook. Senator Lux stated that the problem is that all of the power is held by the departmental chair. Revised language would recommend that all departmental decision be forwarded to the respective dean and Provost.

The Committee has not defined what emeritus status means. The Faculty Handbook Committee will continue to communicate with the Faculty Senate as they work through this issue.

7.2 Classroom Conduct Committee

President Rehner reported that the Classroom Conduct Committee met December 1st. The Committee has been charged with developing a policy by March 2012. The document will be shared with Faculty Senate and other constituents. The policy should be final by fall semester 2012. Dr. Beckett suggested that a representative from the Faculty Handbook Committee be included and recommended that the Classroom Conduct Committee review guidelines from AAUP as the policy is being developed.

8.0 Committee Reports

8.1 Academic and Governance

Dr. Shelley reported that the Academic and Governance Committee is considering the issue of whether clinical faculty should be eligible for tenure. The Committee believes it is important to send the message that non-tenure-track faculty are valuable to the University. As suggested at the last Faculty Senate meeting, multi-year contracts after a probation period might be an option for providing security to clinical faculty. The Committee will disseminate a statement on this issue prior to the next meeting.

8.2 Budget

No report.

Senator Rehner reminded Senators to submit concerns to him about auxiliary services, including Barnes and Nobles Bookstore. Senators discussed issues they experienced with textbook services. Senator Haley pointed out that Barnes and Nobles puts the burden on faculty to provide more information without providing quality services.

Senator Press requested that unused books be donated to the organization Books for Africa. Donated books can be delivered to Senator Press.

8.3 Constitution and Bylaws

No report

8.4 Elections

Senators Hartsell and Reischman Fletcher met with the new Human Resources Director,

Dr. Rasmussen. Dr. Rasmussen is aware of the need of an accurate list of faculty for election purposes.

8.5 Evaluation and Assessment

Senators Fletcher and Oshrin met with Jeff May from iTech. Last year, the administrator survey was housed on a College of Science and Technology server. This year, the survey must be moved to one of the iTech servers. iTech's survey fees will be approximately \$1,900. Senator Oshrin recommended that Senator Rehner approach administrators about this issues.

Dr. Beckett reminded the Senate that the Faculty Senate's evaluation of administrators is an official part of the annual evaluation of departmental chairs.

Senator Fletcher asked for any update on the RCM budget model. Dean Forster reported that the RCM Committee is close to sharing recommendations.

8.6 Research and Scholarship

The Research and Scholarship Committee met with Dr. Wiesenburg. A conversation about the IRB process continues.

8.7 University Awards

Senator Lux reported that the Awards Committee had chosen the HEADWAE award, as well as the Excellence in University Service and Excellence in University Librarianship award recipient. The Committee will select the Excellence in University Teaching award recipient December 5th.

Dr. Conville requested that recommendations for the Grand Marshal be submitted to Dr. Easterling.

8.8 University Relations

Senator Conville reported that the Senate partnered with Staff Council to host the legislative forum on November 31st. Six legislators were present. Senator Oshrin encouraged Senators to keep in mind that the next budget cycle will include a loss of stimulus money and in 2014 the Affordable Care Act is supposed to be implemented. This will increase Medicaid costs. There will be a greater need for states to fund care. The largest portion of that support will come from education, including funding from higher education. PERS will not be changed for existing employees—whether you are vested or not.

Senator Adams recommended having the legislative forum once a semester. Senator Conville mentioned that the ADP hosts a breakfast meeting with legislators many Friday mornings. Senator Conville will disseminate a schedule of the ADP breakfast meetings.

8.9 University Welfare

Senator Haley reported that he had met with Jeff May with iTech to discuss concerns raised at the last Faculty Senate meeting. iTech staff has made a commitment to listen and a commitment to increase ease of access in the library. Senator Haley reminded Senators that they had been invited to organize an iTech oversight committee.

Senator Haley reported that he had met with Jodi Ryder, the campus health educator, to discuss concerns the campus smoking policy, including the location of designated

smoking areas. Maps that identify smoking areas have been distributed. Individual concerns with the location of smoking areas should be addressed to Jodi Ryder. Very minor adjustments to the smoking areas might be possible. Enforcement will begin in January.

8.10 Faculty Handbook

Senator Tingstrom will forward e-mails to Faculty Senate with items that the Faculty Handbook Committee voted on and approved at the last meeting. Feedback from constituencies, including Faculty Senate is needed.

8.11 Gulf Coast Faculty Council

Senator Naquin reported that Dr. Lyman—as Provost—attended the last Faculty Council meeting and Dr. Wiesenburg will join the next Faculty Council meeting. The Council conducted a faculty survey about the Gulf Coast Guidelines and satisfaction with communication from departmental chairs and deans. The Council was excited about the aforementioned travel resolution passed. Dean Lansford and Senator Naquin will meet to discuss space and hours of operation of the campus bookstore. Senator Naquin is in discussion with administrators about the purchase of IVN equipment. If purchased, this equipment could be available for Faculty Senate use.

9.0 Other Business

No other business was discussed

10.0 Adjournment

Senator Tingstrom put forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Naquin seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting ended at 5:08.

Issues of Interest to the Senate: November 2011

- 11.0 Issues for Dr Wiesenburg 2:30PM
- 11.1 How do you anticipate that the senate and the other governance bodies at this university will be incorporated into what you do as the provost?
 - 11.2 What is the status of the PAC recommendations and what can you tell us about the outcomes?
 - 11.3 Coming into the provost's position from the Office of the VP for research, what is the balance that you would like to see between teaching and research?
 - 11.4 What might be some of your strategies to get additional resources into academic affairs in order to address such things as faculty needs, salary compression/inversion and technology needs? Additionally, how can the senate strengthen your ideas / position at the executive cabinet level?
 - 11.5 For all practical purposes it is fair to say that the "guidelines for coastal operations" have reached an impasse. In order to move ahead, what do you anticipate to be the next steps that will need to be taken in order to create a "unified" university?
 - 11.6 What is your view on the granting of emeritus status to USM's retirees?
 - 11.7 The RCR deadlines are upon us although there are still some uncertainties about deadlines and lingering concerns about who needs to complete the training. Now that the implementation has been rolled out, what have you learned that could inform where we go with this policy?
 - 11.8 Other questions?