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## Faculty Senate Minutes - May 4, 2012

USM Faculty Senate

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**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Faculty Senate**  
**Trent Lott Center**  
**May 4, 2012**

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

**Absent:** J. Anderson, K. Dillon, L. Nored.

**Guests:** K. Greene, D. Beckett, J. May, M. Forester, M. Hall, S. Judd, T. Laird.

- 1.0 Call to order  
President Rehner called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.
- 2.0 Approval of agenda  
President Rehner provided a modified agenda. President Rehner called for approval of the modified agenda. Senator Davis motioned and Senator Lux seconded the motion. All approved the modified agenda.
- 3.0 Approval of minutes  
President Rehner asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2012 meeting. Senator Lux motioned and Senator Adams seconded the motion. All approved of the minutes as circulated.
- 4.0 Officer Reports
  - 4.1 President  
Rehner reported that he had invited Dr. Bounds to attend the Senate meeting. Dr. Bounds was unable to attend. President Rehner highlighted several of Dr. Saunders' accomplishments during her time as President of USM.

The firm that will direct the presidential search should be named in June. The next president is expected to be selected and sitting by January 2013. An advisory committee—including university and community representatives—will participate in the presidential search. It is unclear at this time how members will be selected. There will also be a committee of IHL board members.

President Rehner encouraged senators to demand that the next president have academic credentials. At the May meeting, IHL will review the recommendation to name Dr. Wiesenburg as Provost.

Senator Sirola asked for more information about Dr. Aubrey Lucas. Senators recounted Dr. Aubrey Lucas' many accomplishments at USM.

Dr. Rehner presented a resolution on behalf of the Executive Committee. The resolution commended Dr. Martha Saunders for her service and commitment to the institution. Senator Oshrin recommended sending the resolution to the IHL board. Senator Oshrin moved to suspend the rules of order so that senators could vote on the

resolution at the meeting. Senator Conville seconded the motion. All were in favor of suspending the rules of order.

Senators discussed wording of the resolution—particularly statements regarding Dr. Saunders’ commitment to tenure. Senator Smith motioned to remove the word tenure from the list of ideals supported by Dr. Saunders. Senator Branton seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Senator Flynn suggested that the Executive Committee include “Dr.” before the name of Martha Saunders.

Thirty-four senators voted in favor of the resolution. One senator opposed the resolution. The resolution will be forwarded to Dr. Saunders and IHL.

4.2 President-elect

President-elect Adams reported that the senate has sufficient funds until June. Senator Adams expects that the senate will receive \$4,108 at the beginning of the fiscal year. The VPAA search concluded with a second interview this week. The search committee will meet again on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

4.3 Secretary

No report

4.4 Secretary-elect

No report

5.0 Remarks from Administration

5.1 “Interim” Provost Wiesenburg

Dr. Wiesenburg reported that Drs. Aubrey Lucas and Martha Saunders will meet with the Executive Cabinet Monday morning. Dr. Saunders will also be on campus for the College of Business groundbreaking ceremony on May 10, 2012 and graduation ceremonies May 11-12, 2012.

Senator Piland asked for an update on the search for an Athletic Director. Dr. Wiesenburg was unable to provide an update.

Senator Story asked for information regarding to whom Dr. Frances Lucas would report. Dr. Wiesenburg stated that Dr. Lucas will report to Dr. Bounds on human resource issues.

Senator Conville asked whether there is an audit being conducted on the athletic program. Dr. Wiesenburg reported that he does not know of an official audit underway but acknowledged that he is not always informed about such efforts.

Senator Odom reminded Dr. Wiesenburg that the Faculty Handbook Committee had been considering the emeritus policy. Senator Odom requested that Dr. Wiesenburg talk with administration at Ole Miss on their emeritus policy. Dr. Wiesenburg agreed to speak with the Provost of Ole Miss.

Senator Zelner asked Dr. Wiesenburg whether the recent changes in administration would affect the budget. Dr. Wiesenburg reported that the budget was just approved by the legislature for the IHL. Dr. Wiesenburg also reported that IHL will meet May 7, 2012 to approve tuition increase rates.

Senator Oshrin asked for an update on the change from “interim” provost and VPR to Provost. Dr. Wiesenburg reported that the IHL will review this, as well as a change of Dr. Gordon Cannon from AVPR to Vice Provost for Research, at the May meeting.

Dr. Wiesenburg reported that the Chair of Psychology has been advised to notify Dr. Lyman of his teaching duties for fall semester 2012.

Senator Conville asked if there are ways that we can try to assure that the presidential search process has integrity and will not be distorted by local influences.

Dr. Wiesenburg reiterated that faculty will serve on the advisory committee.

Senator Smith stated that it might be worth communicating that USM has a history of vocal advisory committees in USM president searches. He advised communicating that the process that was applied in the last several searches at USM is a process that should be replicated.

Senators opposed a hasty presidential search and strongly supported a more deliberative process that would allow for identification of the best candidate with academic credentials.

## 6.0 Old Business

### 6.1 Classroom Conduct Committee

Dr. Michael Mays stated that the Committee is trying to include as many suggestions as possible in the Classroom Conduct policy. Dr. Mays requested that any final comments or suggestions be submitted to him by the week of May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Committee has decided that the full-length final document will be available on the Provost’s web-page. The Committee intends for more pertinent information to be extracted out and included in respective handbooks. The policy will be submitted to the Executive Cabinet for adoption at the beginning of June 2012.

### 6.2 Strategic Enrollment Action Team

President Rehner and Senator Nored met with the Strategic Enrollment Action Team.

### 6.3 Resolution

President Rehner presented Dr. Saunders with the resolution regarding the Faculty Senate President as a member of the Executive Committee. Dr. Saunders promised a response. President Rehner will ask the Provost for a response.

At the March 30, 2012 meeting, Dr. Greene presented a resolution on behalf of the USM AAUP. Senator Smith motioned that the senate endorse the resolution. Senator Douglas seconded. Two senators opposed endorsing the resolution. The motion to endorse the resolution passed.

## 7.0 New Business

### 7.1 Resolutions

Senator Press presented a resolution for the Faculty Senate President to conduct an investigation into events behind the resignation of Dr. Saunders. Senators voiced concern with this resolution. President Rehner suggested that individuals spend their effort informing and getting involved with the president’s search.

Dean Forster suggested that senators join AAUP. President Rehner will invite Dr. Bounds to a future meeting.

- 7.2 Nominations for 2012-2013 senate officers  
Senator Oshrin nominated Senator Story for secretary-elect. Senator Story accepted the nomination and will be the Secretary-elect 2012-2013. Senator Flynn nominated Senator Shelley as President-elect. Senator Shelley declined. Senator Piland nominated Senator Conville as President-elect. Senator Conville declined. President-elect Adams nominated Senator Fletcher as President-elect. Senator Fletcher will serve as President-elect 2012-2013.
- 7.3 Senate's response to President Saunders' resignation  
The senate's response was previously discussed in the President's remarks.
- 7.4 Other  
President Rehner recognized Senator Downey for her service as FS Secretary for 2011-2012.
- 8.0 Committee Reports
- 8.1 Academic and Governance  
At the January 2012 meeting, the Academic and Governance Committee presented a recommendation regarding multi-year contracts for clinical/research faculty. The Committee presented a revised recommendation that incorporated suggestions from senators.
- Senator Naquin recommends a similar recommendation for instructors. The Committee is willing to discuss the issue and welcomed Senator Naquin to join the Committee.
- Senators voted on whether to accept the multi-year contract recommendation. Two senators opposed the recommendation. The recommendation will be shared with Dr. Wiesenburg.
- 8.2 Budget  
No report
- 8.3 Constitution and Bylaws  
Senator Naquin continues to investigate how the Faculty Council on the Gulf Coast relates to the Faculty Senate.
- 8.4 Elections  
No report
- 8.5 Evaluation and Assessment  
Senator Oshrin reported that the evaluations are completed. Results should be distributed to chairs, deans, Dr. Wiesenburg, and Dr. Frances Lucas by the auditor's office.
- 8.6 Research and Scholarship  
Senators Masterson and Zelner met with Drs. Wiesenburg and Cannon. Both were very supportive of the resolution regarding faculty mentorship. Wiesenburg and Cannon recommended that a task force be organized and make recommendations for developing the mentoring program (i.e. responsibilities of mentors and mentees). Senators Brannon, Wiggert, Shelley, Piland, and Davis volunteered to join the task force.
- 8.7 University Awards

The Committee will meet May 9, 2012.

8.8 University Relations

Senator Conville reported that a legislative forum will be held in the fall. Senator Conville questioned how interested senators were in a reception prior to the legislative forum. Senator Smith recommended that if a reception is held, senators should select the most relevant topics for discussion and stick to those topics.

8.9 University Welfare

No report

8.10 Faculty Handbook

Senator Tingstrom reported that the Faculty Handbook Committee met twice in April. The Committee approved changes to the bylaws and word changes in the section on hiring procedures. The Forward was edited to reflect the current membership. The Committee continues to discuss the periodic review of directors and chairs, the emeritus policy, the policy regarding tenure and promotion “do overs”, and wording related to pursuit of early promotion.

Dr. David Beckett reviewed proposed revisions to the current emeritus policy. Senator Smith asked for clarification on library privileges for retired faculty. Senator Odom and S. Judd (guest) asked for more deliberation on the proposed policy. Senators and guests agreed that the proposed policy is better than the current policy. Twenty-one senators voted in favor of the proposed policy. Ten senators voted against the proposed policy.

8.11 Gulf Coast Faculty Council (Naquin)

Senator Naquin reported the elections were conducted and new members seated.

9.0 Other Business

10.0 Adjournment

The May meeting was recessed until June 1, 2012.

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**Faculty Senate: June 1, 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Session (May Meeting continuation)**

**Members Present and Represented** (by proxy): M.A. Adams, J. Anderson, A. Branton, D. Daves, D. Conville, K. Davis, J. Ding (M. Naquin), D. Douglas (A. Branton), M. Dugan, D. Fletcher, S. Reischman Fletcher, L. Flynn, T. Hartsell, L. Iglesias (A. Branton), D. Lunsford, M. Lux, M. Naquin, W. Odom (K. Greene), S. Oshrin, R. Press (K. Greene), T. Rehner, K. Shelley, A. Sevier, C. Sirola, P. Smith, L. Story, D. Tingstrom, T. Zelner.

**Absent:** L. Agler, R. Buchanan, K. Dillon, M. Elasri, A. Haley, D. Masterson, C. McCormick, C. Meyers, L. Nored, S. Piland, J. H. Shin, J. Wiggert

**Guests:** B. Powell, T. Laird, R. Maddox, E. Kemp, K. Reidenbach

Recommence May meeting: 2:00PM

10.1 Other Business (from May meeting)

10.1.1 Presentation of Resolution to Dr. Saunders

10.1.2 President's Report

- President Rehner summarized the year's achievements during the academic year 2011/2012: made progress in keeping strategic planning as a concern; highlighted tenure as a value; participated in creating a policy on classroom conduct; committee on strategic enrollment now has faculty senate representative, Coast Guidelines were addressed; issue of salary raises to address compression have been an issue of concern; Faculty Senate has been supported by Provost Wiesenburg and many academic deans; endorsed multiyear contracts for clinical faculty; endorsed a mentoring program for faculty; two resolutions in support of Russ Willis and Dr. Saunders were presented; Barnes and Nobles textbook purchasing process was explored and revised; Faculty Senate election process was streamlined; engaged in review of the Faculty Handbook policy on emeritus status and evaluation of chairs; Faculty Senate representatives served on the administrative search committees for VP of Administrative Affairs and influenced the selection of the Athletics Director.
- Year's surprises included the recognition that the university is "ours"...faculty outlast administrators. Changes in administration, positions of president and provost in particular.
- It has been a privilege to serve in being Faculty Senate president. The position is unique, and more enjoyable than expected. Grateful for the opportunity to be senate president and the opportunity to work with the FS executive committee.
- Last words: this is "our" place, we need to take every seat offered, we need to move our influence forward, make the most of the influence that we do have.
- Recognized and thanked the seven senators rotating off of Faculty Senate for their service and challenged the new senators to be active members. Challenged the entire senate to keep their eyes and ears open and be involved when opportunities arise especially in ongoing administrative searches, as we look for a diverse pool in selection process for the new president.

## 11.0 Officers Reports (continued)

### 11.1 President-elect

Mary Anne Adams presented a resolution to President Rehner thanking him for his service to Faculty Senate and all his contributions to the Senate as president and his eight years as a FS senator. Appreciation gifts were presented.

## 12.0 Adjournment of May meeting and 2011/2012 Faculty Senate year.