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The University of Southern Mississippi
Faculty Senate Meeting
The Trent Lott Center
February 1, 2013

Minutes

Members Present and Represented (by proxy): M.A. Adams, L. Agler, J. Anderson, A. Beck, A. Branton, R. Carr, S. Cloud, D. Conville, D. Daves, K. Davis, K. Dillon, J. Ding, D. Douglas, M. Dugan, M. Elasri, D. Fletcher (L. Story), L. Flynn (M. Dugan), K. Goodwin, A. Haley, T. Hartsell, S. Hrostowski, L. Iglesias, M. Lux, D. Masterson, C. Meyers, M. Miller, M. Naquin, L. Nored, W. Odom, S. Piland, R. Press, K. Shelley (D. Tingstrom), J. Shin, A. Sevier, C. Sirola, P. Smith, L. Story, D. Tingstrom, J. Wiggins, T. Zelner.

Absent: J. Wiggert

Guests: B. Powell, D. Beckett, D. Sliman, K. Reidenbach

Business Meeting 2:00 p.m.

1.0 Call to order 2:00

FS senators and guests watched IHL webcast announcing Dr. Rodney Bennett, VP for Student Affairs from the University of Georgia, as the USM preferred presidential candidate.

2.0 Approval of agenda Pat Smith 1st; Susan Hrostowski 2nd. Agenda approved.

3.0 Approval of December Minutes L. Iglesias 1st; M. Naquin, 2nd. Minutes approved

4.0 Officer Reports

4.1 President

- Desmond is at COIA in Tampa representing our FS. He is working on reapportionment of faculty representation on Senate.

4.2 President Elect – no report

4.3 Secretary – no report

4.4 Secretary Elect –no report

5.0 Remarks from Interim President Aubrey Lucas

- Dr. Lucas gave the first response to the announcement: “We want to welcome him. If he succeeds, we succeed. This marks a great moment in our history. It is up to us to make us to make him successful.”

6.0 Remarks from Provost Denis Wiesenburg

- Expressed support for the preferred candidate.
- Parking: Faculty have expressed concerns about receiving tickets and warnings for parking in non-faculty/staff zones. Faculty are allowed to park in any faculty designated zones as well as zones designated for students or commuters.
- Faculty Consulting Policy: The USM faculty consultant guidelines were in large part borrowed from Ole Miss for standardization of the policy with other state institutions. Instructor has been added to the policy and other minor changes have been made. Consulting must be approved by department chair and the provost. Consulting without permission is a serious offense. The provost requested input on allowing teaching at other universities/colleges in a variety of scenarios. Faculty senators provided feedback regarding the issue.

- Tenure and Promotion form and document requirements are now on the Provost's website for easy accessible at <http://www.usm.edu/provost/forms>
- Provost plans to improve summer salaries once the new president is in office and before summer session. Taskforce has been formed to look at student retention and success. Would like to have FS representation.
- Taskforce has been formed to look at international programs. Co-chairs Bill Powell and Kristi Motter will review other university strategies in student retention. While GPA and SAT scores, freshman year experience and financing are factors, we need to be able to understand how engaged students are in university life. Would like to have Faculty Senate representation on the taskforce. It was suggested that a student from the international program should be added to the taskforce.
- A search committee chaired by Dean Moser is being organized for the Dean of the Library position.

7.0 Old Business

- 7.1 Discussion of Perimeter Fence** The new fencing in front of the campus was approved in 2010 by the University Planning committee and will match the existing architecture. The University is responsible for ~90K and MDOT remaining ~20%. It will serve as a security measure controlling random foot traffic across Hardy Street. Senator Conville circulated the Master Campus Facility Plan Committee's Planning Principles.
- 7.2 Update on changes in University Libraries** Dr. J Norton has been appointed Interim Dean of University Libraries.

8.0 New Business

- 8.1 Update on Presidential Search Process** IHL announced that Dr. Rodney Bennett is the preferred candidate. Mary Ann has asked IHL to schedule time for FS during the on-site visit.
- 8.2 PERS Proposed Changes** Mary Ann urged senators to contact their representatives to express a desire to reject SB 2709.
- 8.3 Evaluation of Administrators** Mary Ann reported for K. Shelley that we are trying to get the evaluation forms out asap so they can be used in the administrative annual evaluations. Senator Press made a recommendation that FS draft a letter of support for the Provost for the new president. Senator Haley recommended the letter be given when the president is official.
- 8.4 Proposed Faculty Consulting Policy** See the Provost's comments above
- 8.5 Multi Year Contracts for Instructors, Clinical Faculty** Provost wants to wait until the new president is available for this discussion.
- 8.6 Faculty Awards Ceremony** The awards will be given at the May FS meeting. Senator Lux recommended that the awards be given at convocation as in the past. Pat Smith noted that in the past a faculty award recipient was surprised in their classroom by the president who made the announcement. Senator Haley requested the reinstatement of the summer research grants. Senator Story stated that she would bring that request to the University Research Council at the February meeting.

9.0 Committee Reports

- 10.1 Academic and Governance** **Chair Chris Sirola**
Reported the Online Instruction Guidelines would be better suited under Teaching and Service Committee
- 10.2 Constitution and Bylaws** **Desmond Fletcher**

Working on combining the Constitution and Bylaws. Please send any recommendations to FS VPresident Flechter.

10.3 Handbook Committee **Chair Dan Tingstrom**

The minutes for the University Handbook Committee have been circulated to FS. Please feel free to send any questions to Senator Tingstrom. Senator Tingstrom asked for input about an appeal clause for denial for Emeritus Status. Discussion followed and it was recommended that appeals be allowed but a time limit for appeals be placed and reapplication guidelines set.

10.3 Elections **Co-chairs Taralynn Hartsell and Tisha Zelner**

Committee is still working on reapportionment of Senate representation. Elections are planned for end of February.

10.4 Evaluation and Assessment **Chair Kyna Shelley**

No report

10.5 Research and Scholarship **Co-chairs Doug Masterson and Scot Piland**

The committee is currently looking at having a scholar celebration day.

10.6 Teaching and Service **Co-chairs Luis Iglesias and Marlene Naquene**

Committee met with Sheri Rawls about the Online Instruction Guidelines. At this time committee is examining the policy for overlap with other policies particularly the Classroom Conduct policy. It was suggested that Sheri provide a tutorial in addition to other suggestions made to Ms. Rawls. Discussion followed about free access courses offered by large institution for free and what this financial modle has on traditional institutions.

10.7 University Relations **Chair Richard Conville**

Senators were urged to contact their state representatives about State Bill SB2709

10.8 University Welfare **Chair Andrew Haley**

Senator Haley indicated that little activity has been going on the campus road projects during this interim.

10.9 Gulf Coast Council **Marlene Naquin**

Senator Naquin announced that some of the new remodeled buildings on the Long Beach campus have opened with more coming some.

She also brought up an issue of concern to the GC Faculty Council about the lack of student access to university health care which is unavailable to GC campuses in spite of the student fees to cover this service. Senators proposed that a resolution be drawn to support coast student access to health care in a clinic on the Gulf Coast. Other Faculty Council issues were addressed. A resolution was passed to change the Faculty Council organizational make up. Another resolution was passed that would require faculty to be paid from the site from which they are teaching.

10.0 Adjourn 4:50

11.0 March 1, 2013 meeting on the USM Gulf Coast campus at Long Beach.