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## Faculty Senate Minutes - March 1, 2013

USM Faculty Senate

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**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Gulf Park Campus**  
**Hardy Hall Room 315**  
**March 1, 2013**

**Minutes**

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

**Absent:** M. Elasri, M. Miller, W. Odom, A. Sevier

**Guests:** B. Powell, J. May, M. desNeigesLéonard

**Business Meeting 2:00 p.m.**

1.0 Call to order: 2:11 PM (After some Senators returned from a tour of the new buildings)

2.0 Approval of agenda: Approved

3.0 Approval of February minutes: Approved

4.0 Officer Reports

4.1 President

Senator Adams had the opportunity to meet with incoming President Bennett to discuss past recommendations from Faculty Senate including adding Faculty Senate President to the Cabinet. Dr. Bennett is currently on a fact/information gathering effort at this time. Senator Haley inquired about the Chief Financial Officer position and if this was a top priority in light of the new budgetary formula being discussed. Senator Adams stated that Dr. Bennett stated that getting a Chief Financial Officer on board was at the top of his list of things to be done immediately, and in fact, a search committee has already been put together to interview candidates. Also there were questions concerning what the new budgetary formula will look like? Other senators commented that even though the formula is still being negotiated, if academic completion in the designated 4 or 6 years is part of the formula, then USM will possibly suffer based on the fact that we serve a student body who are likely to be first generation college students and often require greater financial support than other students. Also, since the Coast serves mostly non-traditional students, these students often don't finish on a traditional time line. The issue was raised from a Senator as to why, based on the information Dr. Bounds shared at the last called Senate meeting, IHL allowed USM to get in our current financial position. Senator Adams stated that Dr. Wiesenburg is checking into some of the statistics presented from IHL so that the Senate will have a clearer picture of where we stand in relation to our sister Universities. Dr. Adams will continue to work with Dr. Bennett and Dr. Wiesenburg to get accurate data as to where we stand financially as an institution and how we plan to move forward based on this information. Both Dr. Bennett and Dr. Wiesenburg will be at the next Faculty Senate meeting, so hopefully we will continue this discussion then. Senator Masterson stated that we should be

proud that we are giving value added by accepting 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students because we do it well and this needs to be taken into account. Senator Daves suggested that the alternative is to just pass our students to meet graduation rates like the public school system does. While we are perhaps not that unique from the community college students the university offers the research element. Senator Haley indicated that this may not be enough to justify additional funding. Senator Daves said the fact remains that ACT scores and GPA impact student acceptance. Standards are increasing while at the same time, there is pressure to increase graduation rates, especially if the new formula is primarily based on student credit hours and graduation rates. Senator Adams stated that the library consultant report has been distributed to Faculty Senators. See attached. Senator Haley asked if the YBP approval plan has been stopped yet. Senator Branton assured Senate that the approval plan had been stopped for the present and further stated that overall the consultant's comments were 80% on target. Comments about librarian productivity and reference service hours were unjustified as evidenced in librarian self-evaluations and annual reviews by the DPC and over the 30-year record of evening reference services provided by professional librarians. Again, Senator Adams stated that President Bennett regrets that he is not able to be with Faculty Senate today but plans to attend the April meeting. His first working day is April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Senator Dick Conville will undergo open heart surgery on Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>. We all wish him well and a speedy recovery. Senator Adams will send us updates as she is aware of them.

#### 4.2 President Elect

Senator Fletcher reported on attending the CIOA meeting in Tampa, Florida and he brought attention to the changes in NCAA policy regarding decentralizing control of academic standards, giving more power to each individual conference.

#### 4.3 Secretary

No report.

#### 4.4 Secretary Elect

No report.

### 5.0 Welcome from Dr. Frances Lucas

Dr. Lucas gave a warm welcome to all Senators after giving a guided tour of the newly opened facilities on the Gulf Park Campus. She also gave an update on the total Gulf Park facilities, which faculties have been able to move into their new offices and how administration has now been physically centralized.

Dr. Lucas stated that the President and the Provost are in Jackson working on the possible implementation of the new formula for university budget allocation. Dr. Lucas believes the restructuring of this formula is critical to USM and she has concerns about the reward criteria. Her fear is that the new formula will likely reward the "haves" in the state. She pointed out, that many of our student body, especially on the coast, have challenges not generally experienced elsewhere. Most are not going to fit a formula that is based on an 18 year old going straight thru college and graduating within four years.

Dr. Lucas also state a primary goal of the Gulf Park Campus is to provide facilities to support a student achieving an academic degree on the Gulf coast campus without leaving the Gulf Coast. IVN and teleconferencing will enable us to do this.

Dr. Lucas stated that it has been a difficult year for the Gulf Coast faculty that applied for tenure. Part of this is that most of these faculty came on board during the aftermath of Katrina, when faculty were impacted thru the loss of personal property as well as a loss of lab and facility space to do professional development and research. It is more difficult to achieve tenure when so many responsibilities are delegated to so few faculty. Dr. Lucas also stated the Coast campus is looking for a method of supporting our junior faculty so that they can be successful on the tenure playing field. We are open to new ideas.

Senator Press noted that mentoring by teleconferencing a cohort in like disciplines to support each other may serve this purpose. Senator Haley expressed that a faculty exchange to share expertise between campuses that are unique to each was very useful. Senator Lux shared that she was pleased that more faculty award applications from GC faculty were received this year. Dr. Lucas further stated that the new Gulf Park campus facilities will benefit coast faculty as well as Hattiesburg faculty. There is great potential for growth for the GC programs. Expansion of the port at Gulf Port, an excellent K-12 education system all across the coastal counties, and new human services programming I support a bright future for USM's Gulf Park Campus.

Senator Branton asked about the possibility of residential life on the Gulf Park campus. Dr Lucas indicated that there were restrictions against ever creating a residential facility at Long Beach, but that Ocean Springs GCRL was in need of new and improved residential facilities for the summer graduate programs in Marine and Coastal Sciences. Students are primarily non-traditional or out of state and international. Cross Creek may also be part of that future if growth requires more space. Dr. Lucas is heading up a task force to understand just what do the citizens of the coast need and how can USM respond to those needs. Some hard and tough decisions have to be made about the direction of our future because we are at a critical time, when growth on the coast is at its peak, and we need to be a player in that future development.

#### 6.0 Remarks from Dr. Rodney Bennett

Dr. Bennett will attend the April Faculty Senate meeting.

#### 7.0 Remarks from Dr. Denis Wiesenburg, Provost

Due to budgetary meetings in Jackson with the IHL, Dr. Wiesenburg was unable to attend the Faculty Senate meeting. He will attend the April meeting.

#### 8.0 Old Business

- 8.1 Update on Presidential timeline: President Bennett has a contract and will start on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 8.2 USM Financial Summary: May need a resolution to IHL asking for more detail concerning the financial information Dr. Bounds gave at his Senate visit.
- 8.3 PERS Proposed Changes: Appears to be dead at this time.
- 8.4 Evaluation of Administrators: Evaluation committee reported they are still working on the annual administrative evaluations and are making some progress in hopes that the Provost will be able to use them in annual evaluations this year.
- 8.5 Faculty Consulting Policy: Recommendations have been given to the Provost's office and the policy is still under review.

## 9.0 New Business

- 9.1 Update on Faculty Needing Assistance after the Tornado: The Faculty Senate meeting to address immediate needs of faculty was well attended and it was good to get information out quickly about the damage and status of those buildings affected by the tornado on campus.
- 9.2 Scholarly Misconduct Document: We need someone from Faculty Senate to meet with the committee. Please let President Adams know if you are interested.
- 9.3 International Programs Task Force: Senator Odom has been appointed.
- 9.4 Retention Steering Committee: VP Bill Powell is spearheading this committee. Senator Masterson asked if the discussion included representatives from student organization to which VP Powell responded he was seeking student engagement from the whole community. Senator Haley has been appointed from Faculty Senate.
- 9.5 Coalition for Inter Collegiate Athletics: President-Elect Fletcher reported that the NCAA is deregulating a lot of academic guidelines, shifting oversight back to conferences and institutions. At the COIA conference in Tampa, which Desmond was attending – circulated a document showing new role for Faculty Senate to provide oversight, reporting back to NCAA and perhaps conference level, working with athletic department to provide guidelines for fair play, enforcing competitive equity to a local, values-based system involving faculty to a greater degree. It is a work in progress. Senator Haley expressed the need for an academic integrity committee for all students. President Adams noted that our athletes face specific challenges: ie, being on the road a lot.

## 10.0 Committee Reports

- 10.1 **Awards Committee** Chair, Mary Lux reporting.  
The committee has made recommendations and selection will be made before the May meeting. Senators were encouraged to bring greater attention to the awards. Senator Lux expressed appreciation to her committee members. She made the recommendation that we return to having awards presented at the spring convocation to recognize faculty from the colleges. It was suggested that Faculty Senate might consider making a recommendation to the president.
- 10.2 **Academic and Governance** Chair Chris Sirola reporting.  
No report.
- 10.3 **Constitution and Bylaws** Chair Desmond Fletcher reporting.  
A motion was made to accept the combined constitution and bylaws into one document. The motion was unanimously approved. A final copy of the document will be sent to the Committee on Committees.
- 10.4 **Handbook Committee** Chair Dan Tingstrom.  
No report.
- 10.5 **Elections Committee** Co-chairs Taralynn Hartsell and Tisha Zelner reporting. A handout of the new senate representative apportionment tally was given. This review is done every 3 years per the Bylaws and the standard number of senators is about 43 to 45 members. Discussion followed

review of the document. Arts & Letter gained 2 seats. Libraries lost one seat. Five seats to be elected in Spring 2013. Voting is by College, not departments except for Gulf Coast campuses which elect at-large representation rather than by college. It took a lot of work just to get the figures. No more than one representative may come from an academic department. Senators represent colleges, not departments. Currently we have formulae for which no one knows the origin, although we do know that 9.2% of the faculty are represented on Senate. The committee will draft language on the total number of senators needed.

- 10.6 **Evaluation and Assessment** Chair Kyna Shelley reporting.  
See 8.4 Old Business for report. It was noted that the committee is still having difficulty securing a list of faculty to include in the evaluation process.
- 10.7 **Research and Scholarship** Co-chairs Doug Masterson and Scot Piland  
It has been recommended that a Research and Scholarship day be designated to highlight faculty research. Classes would be cancelled to provide time for faculty and students to participate. In discussion it was suggested that perhaps it would serve as another opportunity to give awards at the same time. The recommendation was unanimously supported and will be sent to the president.
- 10.8 **Teaching and Service** Co-chairs Luis Iglesias and Marlene Naquin reporting. The committee will make recommendation for a more collaborative effort with Learning Enhancement to provide workshops on teaching best practices and organize a single day to feature award winning faculty in teaching methods, an idea supported by the Provost.
- 10.9 **University Relations** Chair Richard Conville.  
No report.
- 10.10 **University Welfare** Chair Andrew Haley reporting.  
No report.
- 10.11 **Gulf Coast Council** President Ken Zantow reporting..  
Gulf Coast council continues to address the health needs of students. Concern was expressed for more faculty to serve on the Gulf Coast campus as some faculty feel inadequate attention is given to students by exchange faculty who live in Hattiesburg. In short, there is a need for more faculty on the Gulf Coast campus to meet all the needs of students.
- 11.0 Announcements
- 11.1 VP Bill Powell announced that SACS is reviewing the credentials of adjunct faculty. The fifth year SACS report was completed last year. The ten year review is due in 2015 at which time we will need credential lines for everyone, including instructors, adjunct faculty and TA/graduate students. Instructor of record must match course assigned to teach.. The terminal degrees must match courses taught. If not then there must be a justification why.
- 12.0 Adjourned at 4:55PM.