

Fall 9-6-2013

## Faculty Senate Minutes - September 6, 2013

USM Faculty Senate

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### Recommended Citation

USM Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate Minutes - September 6, 2013" (2013). *Faculty Senate Minutes*. 159.  
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**The University of Southern Mississippi**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Trent Lott Center Rooms 101/102**  
**September 6, 2013**

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

Members Present and Represented (by proxy): J. Anderson, L. Angler, T. Barry, A. Beck, D. Booth, R. Buchanan, G. Chen, S. Cloud, D. Daves, K. Davis, K. Dillon, D. Douglas, M. Dugan (Story), M. Elasri, D. Fletcher, A. Haley, B. Hayden, D. Holt, S. Hrostowski, L. Iglesias, J. Lambers, M. Lux, C. Meyers, M. Miller, E. Molaison (Barry), M. Naquin, L. Nored, W. Odom, J. Olmi, S. Piland, R. Press, S. Reischman-Fletcher, T. Robinson, K. Shelly, C. Sirola, J. Smith, L. Story, C. Tardy, T. Welsh, J. Wiggert, J. White, K. Zantow (Smith), T. Zelner

Members Absent: K. Goodwin, J. Wiggins

1.0 Call to order 2:03

2.0 Approval of agenda

Sen Davis moved to approve. Sen Haley second. All approved.

3.0 Approval of minutes (May-June Minutes, Retreat Notes)

Sen Naquin made a motion to approve minutes. Sen Lambers second. All approved.

Sen Olmi made a motion to approve the retreat notes; Sen Smith second. All approved.

4.0 Officer Reports

4.1 President

Mary Ann Adams has been approved as the ombudsman.

Deborah Booth will represent Faculty Senate on the University Assessment Committee.

We hope that Dr. Bennett will speak to the coast issues being discussed at the Summit Monday, strategic planning, accountability, and a timeline.

4.2 President-Elect

Welcome new senators.

We may want to promote a meeting once a year with faculty in our college to discuss any issues.

We want to express appreciation for the faculty on the coast, and we are appreciate the efforts by administration to find a solution.

4.3 Secretary

Website is being updated. Please send all correction or changes to Secretary Story.

4.4 Secretary-Elect

The Suggestion Drop-box is up and running. The link can be found on the Faculty Senate website. Notification is being sent out on the University communications emails. We have already received two suggestions.

5.0 Introduction of Guest Speakers

## 5.1 Dr. Bennett

The Faculty Senate Retreat was productive. The time with faculty was appreciated.

The fall semester is well underway and students are engaged in student life. All the faculty that assisted with Move In Day are appreciated.

We hope to have the fall enrollment numbers next week. The student body is improving. The average student ACT for the new class is 23.

The Gulf Park campus is back full functioning since Hurricane Katrina.

Last weekend we hosted the home opener. Though we did not win, we had a positive outpouring.

18 million research grant was renewed for an additional 5 years in the College of Science and Technology. Sen Elasri will be working on this grant that will address a wide range of health related topics.

We have 23 construction projects currently underway for a total of \$137 million. Projects include tornado repair and the College of Business.

Sept 17 we will have groundbreaking for the Century Park South. Housed in the Century Park South will be the Lucky Day Hall. The Lucky Day Foundation have contributed 4 million. Also the Moffett Student Health Center will be housed there.

The new pedestrian pathway is open between the International Building and Joseph Green Hall. The pathway was dedicated to Gwen Armstrong and Raylawni Branch, the first African American students. Student government association initiated the naming of the pathway.

Monday's summit is planned as a conversation around the Gulf Park campus. Since the announcement of the Sept 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, dialogue has increased regarding the Gulf Park campus. Issues that prevent us from reaching our full potential need to be resolved. I am committed to getting it right. There is no support in the state for a separate university. We have to come together as one university. Three or four conversations may be necessary after the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We need to have multiple voices weighing in on the issue. We have to put aside our opinions, historical relations, etc so that we can move forward in a way that is best for the University.

We are working on a couple things moving forward regarding the SACs reaffirmation. Once those are resolved strategic planning will begin.

President Fletcher asked if the meetings regarding the coast are indeed beginning strategic planning. Dr. Bennett stated that these meetings are not a firm strategic plan, but more of a beginning to look at the future.

President-elect Press voiced concerned about how we can make structural decisions without understanding the purpose of the coast. Dr. Bennett stated that we need to get everyone in the room to understand the issues and opposing responses to them. He went on to state that he cares about the coast and how to make the relationship better support the University.

Sen Naquin noted that she is appreciative of Dr. Bennett bringing everyone together. She noted that we have had these discussions before, but nothing has been done with plans that

were made. Sen Smith expressed appreciation that the Faculty Council was being included in the discussion.

Sen Miller asked if there has been clarity in the Tenure and Promotion process between campus. Dr. Bennett stated that the Tenure and Promotion process is outlined in the faculty handbook. He reported that he remains vigilant on any issues as they arise.

## 5.2 Dr. Wiesenburg

The teaching forums are being held on both campuses, and we had great response. The focus has been teaching strategies (e.g., organization, retention).

We have two searches, Assistant Provost for International Programs and Dean of Libraries, and a third, Dean of Science and Technology, getting ready to start.

Faculty searches are about to start next week. The office of the provost has put together a toolkit and a workshop for search committees.

Search for Asst Provost for International programs in a different role; search committee met for the first time 63 applicants for that; job is more than managing international students; 1/3 of the job will be recruiting international students to USM.

Restarting search for dean of libraries. Steve Moser is heading the search.

A third search – will be established for the Dean of COST within the next month.

Tenure and Promotion documents are due this month, and effort on publications must be included now. We may want to put an ad hoc committee together to see if we want other documentation changes.

The Student Success Committee is working on recommendations to be brought forward by Thanksgiving.

With the new buildings under construction, older buildings will be available. Space planning committees are working on requests. Southern Hall may be renovated into a Student Welcome Center. Trying to work ahead during construction of new buildings so old building transition will be seamless.

Starting a Provost Newsletter, probably twice a semester. Send suggestions on items that should be included.

Once a month 2 hours will be set aside for 10 min meetings for anyone to have an opportunity to voice any concerns.

Sen Lambers asked could impact factor replace % of acceptance if it is unavailable. Dr. Weisenburg stated that efforts should be made to obtain the acceptance rate.

Sen Tardy noted that we are making assumptions that acceptance rate is a measure of quality. Dr. Weisenburg stated the peer committees, chairs, and deans should include quality in their write-up.

Sen Haley stated that the president has repeatedly said that he wants to strengthen the university's relationship with the community college and asked if the provost could speak to that. Dr. Weisenburg stated that not many conversations have occurred yet, but evidence suggests that community college students will be a major source of enrollment growth. We

want to increase our presence at the community colleges. We also want to increase our recruitment of children of alumni (legacy students) and out of state students. Bill Powell noted that the articulation agreement is being reformatted to facilitate transfer students. Sen Hrostowski noted social work has been successful working on such programs.

Sen Cloud asked what the provost contributed the increase in ACT. Dr. Weisenburg stated that the number may not hold because the last enrollment numbers have not been released. Those students tend to have lower ACT. We are analyzing the enrollment data more so we can retool what we are doing.

Sen Daves asked if there were any plans on marketing changes. Dr. Weisenburg stated that Dr. Bennett is starting to convene some groups to look at this issue.

Sen Davis stated that decreases in out-of-state tuition waivers have affected recruitment in College of Arts and Letters. Dr. Weisenburg noted that there are provisions approved by IHL for new students.

Sen. Barry noted some faculty are concerned about how to estimate effort on all projects. Dr. Weisenburg stated that it is just a best estimate. Sen Barry stated that not knowing how much work other authors did makes it a challenge. Dr. Weisenburg stated that it is not necessarily a labor estimate but an intellectual property estimate.

Sen Wiggert asked if the IVN software update is underway. Dr. Weisenburg stated that some updates have been made and will continue to be made as funds are available. Course fees will be down because student credit hours are down, affecting our budget. No new faculty will be approved because of it. Dr. Vinzant is looking at ways to absorb the shortfall.

## 6.0 Old Business

### 6.1 Faculty Senate Committees

#### 6.1.1 Establish Initial Committee Charges for 2013-2014

#### 6.1.2 Finalize Faculty Senate Committee Membership

##### 6.1.2.1 Academic and Governance

Sen Sirola stated that the committee needs 2-3 other members. Sen Smith volunteered. They will identify another member.

##### 6.1.2.2 Administrative Evaluation

Sens White and Shelly are on the committee. Administration evaluations need to go out earlier. Sens Booth and Barry volunteered to assist.

##### 6.1.2.3 Awards

Sens Nored, Lux, White, and Chen will be on this committee. May need to recruit non-senators to serve.

##### 6.1.2.4 Budget

Sen Zantow is researching some of the budget process. Sens Barry, Miller, and Olmi are also on this committee.

##### 6.1.2.5 Bylaws

Sens Press and Zelner will serve.

##### 6.1.2.6 Elections

Sens Zelner, Chen, and Holt will serve.

6.1.2.7 Handbook

Sens Dugan, Davis, Odom, and Lambers will serve.

6.1.2.8 Research and Scholarship

Sens Piland, Davis, Wiggert, Dillion, Buchannan, and Wiggins volunteered to serve.

6.1.2.9 Student Life

Sens Olmi is chair. Faculty Council on coast is looking at starting a student life committee. Sen Olmi will recruit members and notify secretary.

6.1.2.10 Teaching and Service

Sens Naquin, Iglesia, Cloud, Booth, Zelner, and Hayden will be serving.

6.1.2.11 University Relations

Sens Daves, Reichmann-Fletcher, Beck, and Booth will serve. Sen Daves has already initiated contact with legislators and looked at marketing strategies.

6.1.2.12 University Welfare and Environmental Concerns

Sens Haley, Hrostowski, Douglas, Tardy, and Agler will serve.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Reports from Faculty Senate Committees

None

7.2 Reports from Representatives of External Committees

Sen Barry stated several senators are serving on the QEP Topic Selection Taskforce. The group has started meeting.

Sen Smith stated the Faculty Council appreciates President Fletcher's interaction with the coast issue.

Sen Naquin stated that suggestions to the online teaching guidelines were given to Sherri Rawls and now it is with the Provost's Office.

8.0 Adjourn

Sen Cloud made a motion we adjourn. Sen Hrostowski second. All in favor.