

Fall 11-1-2013

Faculty Senate Minutes - November 1, 2013

USM Faculty Senate

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The University of Southern Mississippi
Faculty Senate Meeting
Trent Lott Center Rooms 101/102
November 1, 2013

Business Meeting 2:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: M. Elasri, K. Goodwin,

- 1.0 Call to order – 2:05 pm
- 2.0 Approval of agenda Sen Smith; Sen Lambers 2nd
- 3.0 Approval of October Minutes Sen Lambers; Sen Tardy
- 4.0 Officer Reports
 - 4.1 President
 - Dual Campus Committee update. Next meeting Nov 7th
 - QEP topic selection committee and Leadership committee: Audit assignments have been passed out. Pres. Fletcher is responsible for academic governance and academic freedom. Pres. Fletcher asked for volunteers to help with this task. Information will be sent out on the listserv. Julie Howdelshell will give more information.
 - No report on the COIA
 - 4.2 President-Elect:
 - Marketing/recruiting. There is a gap at present between what the Administration is doing and what faculty are doing. The Administration is hiring four new recruiters, one of which may be for the international programs and we hope it is. The President does not want to ask faculty to do recruiting but welcomes efforts along those lines. However it is not clear what help is going to be offered from the Administration on recruiting and what coordination there will be. We hope the Administration can clarify that since recruitment is important to USM's success, especially under current IHL funding formula.
 - Assistant Provost for International Programs. The search committee has made its recommendations yesterday. The idea is to expand international programs and recruitment of international students.
 - Communications. Jennifer has been working on a number of communication channels between faculty and Senate. One respondent to the Senate e-box says they feel out of touch with the Senate and welcomes the new channel of communication. We are looking at an open faculty dialogue board for Senate-related issues.
 - Meetings with faculty. Senators from each College are organizing an annual meeting this month with their faculty. Two colleges have just held their

meetings today and others are scheduling soon. We will collect the ideas; refer them to committee or the full Senate as appropriate.

4.3 Secretary

- Listserv issues

4.4 Secretary-Elect

5.0 Introduction of Guest Speakers

5.1 Dr. Wiesenburg, Provost :

- Student evaluation of teaching – the Student Senate has suggested a mid-semester mini-review that would provide feedback to the instructor during the semester in addition to the end-of-course evaluations. This suggestion will be referred to the Committee on Evaluation and Teaching. Sen Haley asked if we could revise the process to something more flexible. Provost Wiesenburg stated the portfolio method may be something we use in the future. President-elect Press asked would if the portfolio would be done in addition to the student evaluations. Provost Wiesenburg replied yess, SACS requires it.
- A committee is working on an Academic Integrity Policy that will be provided for review before the end of the semester.
- Enrollment is the key to success – need an enhanced marketing and recruitment plan that involves faculty, departments, and colleges in addition to the enrollment management staff in Student Affairs. Sen Cloud noted that the College recommended that we create a population niche, but concerned about grade inflation to increase retention. Provost Wiesenburg stated we do not want to see grade inflation. We want to maintain rigor.
- Student success (retention) requires a commitment from all of us – and we will need to improve our advising model, especially for undeclared students. The draft report of the Student Success Committee will be out this month. Some colleges are already rolling out initiatives. Pres. Fletcher asked how are students identified as “at risk”? How do we know any of these initiatives are working? Provost Wiesenburg stated that we hope faculty are identifying at risk students and implementing strategies (eg., tutoring, intrusive advising). Bill Powell stated that a study is ongoing utilizing a model (GPA, SES, etc) to identify at risk students. Faculty were asked for feedback. Sen Haley stated Committee trying to put efforts in the place where they have the greatest likelihood for success. Sen. Piland asked what percentage of students are considered at risk? Provost Wiesenburg answered 50% of students have a 6 year graduation rate and 50% of students take MAT 99. Financial aid is another important variable. There will be a two day wordshop in New Orleans in February on retention.
- We must continue to recruit and retain quality faculty – to build quality programs. Working on developing a faculty hiring toolkit and starting searches earlier.
- In choosing a university students consider – quality programs, college life, and cost. Must have quality faculty. Raising current faculty and hiring faculty at the COPA average is still a priority.
- Dr. Vinzant is developing a long-range financial plan, that 1) sets tuition to be competitive with our peers, 2) anticipates trends and invests in them, 3) plans for the unknown, and 4) is evaluated and revised as needed. President-elect Press noted that an increase in student numbers may increase need for resources. Provost Wiesenburg stated that we have several programs that are below capacity. We need to get everyone up to capacity. We may need to increase resources to programs that are exceeding capacity. We also need to recruit more transfer students. Sen Daves asked if we will go through decisions to cut programs next year? Provost Wiesenburg replied hopefully reserves will be enough to absorb any short falls.

5.2 Dr. Julie Howdeshell “QEP 2016” : **See handout**

- We are in the topic selection phase
- Input will be gathered by all USM stakeholders
- Please be thinking about ideas for topics
- Pres. Fletcher: Will we continue to report on the previous QEP. Julie: no
- Pres. Fletcher: Is the approval of the topic by SACS a part of the reaffirmation process? Julie: yes, somewhat. Topic selection has to follow the guidelines (e.g., obtaining broad based input).
- Initiatives have to be student-learning outcomes.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Academic and Governance

Sen. Sirola: No report. Waiting to see what comes out of Dual Campus Meeting next week.

6.2 Administrative Evaluation

Sen. White: We have gotten the faculty list from HR. Hope to have evals out by Dec and the data will be analyzed.

6.3 Awards

Sen Reischman-Fletcher: Met this week regarding the HEADWAE award.

6.4 Budget

Sen. Zantow: Making an appointment with Dr. Vinzant and McGillis.

6.5 Bylaws

Press: No report

6.6 Elections

Sen. Zelner: No report

6.7 GC Faculty Council

Sen. Smith: We have been deeply engaged with the Dual Campus Committee and Subcommittees. Had a GC faculty and staff open forum to gather issues to bring to the Dual Campus Committees (75 people). The thoughts including growing the GC will require more autonomy. Dr. Bennett had another open forum with faculty, staff, and students (105 people). This open forum with the president was the first of its nature in recent time, and GC personnel feel optimistic about the process. Dr. W has said that we have to move toward great centralization or more autonomy. We have not officially endorsed any specific option. The FC has identified 3 possible solutions: 1) campus-based accreditation, 2) have departments delegate some of their functions to departments on the coast, and 3) the coast campus as a multidisciplinary college on the coast. FC has requested that some studies be conducted to see if any options is cost effective. We gave some recommendations to the President in the Spring, and meet with him June regarding the recommendations. The Recommendations were then reaffirmed with the new FC in the fall.

6.8 Handbook

Sen. Dugan: Meeting Nov 5th to address the charges brought forward by Pres. Fletcher. The University Faculty Handbook will be meeting soon as well.

6.9 Research and Scholarship

Sen. Piland: Met and Dr. Cannon attended. Planning on having Dr. Cannon at future meetings. VPR is looking at developing a new incentive plan with Midas phasing out. Looking out how F&As are dispersed. Looking out what the Research and Scholarship Day will look like.

6.10 Student Life

No report

6.11 Teaching and Service

Sen. Iglesias: Online Teaching Policy is posted by the Provost office. We would like a copy of the SGA recommendation for mid-term evals.

6.12 University Relations

Sen. Daves: Nov 20th Legislative Forum. 22 Legislators. We will also be meeting with Dr. Vinzant about having faculty input in marketing efforts. Pres. Fletcher: are

we planning on having questions sent prior to forum and having a monitor for the forum? Sen. Daves: we are open having them sent ahead of time. Sen. Smith suggested we identify 4-5 items to focus our efforts.

6.13 University Welfare and Environmental Concerns

No report

7.0 Old Business

None

8.0 New Business

- Pres. Fletcher asked is someone would be willing to replace Sen. Haley on the Signage and Wayfare Committee. Sen. Sirola volunteered.
- Pres. Fletcher asked that all subcommittees elect a Chair-elect
- Bill Powell our retention numbers are improving since implementing the non-attending roster.

9.0 Adjourn

Sen. Reischann-Fletcher made a motion to adjourn, Sen. Piland 2nd