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The University of Southern Mississippi
Faculty Senate
Draft/Unapproved Minutes for the meetings of May 7, 2010 (partial) and June 4, 2010
216 Cochran, Hattiesburg campus

Conclusion of May 7, 2010 meeting

Members Present and Represented (by proxy): H. Annulis (Lunsford), J. Bass (Mark Miller), D. Beckett, J. Brannock, B. Burgess, J. Burnett, A. Davis, D. Davis (Burgess), J. Evans, D. Fletcher, B. George (Burgess), C. Goggin, T. Gould, A. Haley, S. Hauer, N. Howell, S. Howell, T. Lipscomb, D. Lunsford, M. Lux, C. McCormick (Evans), J. Meyer (Brannock), S. Oshrin, R. Pandy (Evans), C. Rakocinski (Brannock), D. Redalje, T. Rehner, S. Reischman(Fletcher) , K. Rushing (Rehner), J.H. Shin (Brannock), B. Spencer, D. Tingstrom (Lipscomb), T. Welsh (Brannock), J. Wolfe, A. Young

Members Absent: D. Bristol, D. Daves, A. Haley, M. Klinedinst, J. McGuire, C. Meyers, S. Rouse, J. Wolfe, A. Young

Visitors: Mary Ann Adams, Taralyn Hartsell, Jiu Ding, Douglas Masterson, Martha Saunders, Bill Powell, Dianne Coleman, Karen Reidenbach

1.0 Call to order

Pres. Evans called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

2.0 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved for the remainder of the May meeting.

3.0 Approval of the minutes

Minutes for the first part of the May 7, 2010 meeting were approved by voice vote. A section was added for a report from the elections committee.

4.0 Report from the Elections Committee

Due to the omission of a candidate from the ballot for Education/Psychology, another round of elections was conducted. The newly elected members from Education/Psychology are Mary Adams (Child and Family Studies), Taralynn Hartsell (Technology Education), and Daniel Tingstrom (Psychology).

5.0 Election of Officers

5.1 Office of the President-Elect

Sen. Rehner and Sen. Branton were nominated for President-Elect. Sen. Branton declined the nomination. Sen. Rehner was elected President-Elect for 2010-2011.

5.2 Office of the Secretary-Elect

Sen. Haley, Sen. Nancy Howell, and Sen. Tingstrom nominated for secretary-elect. Sen. Tingstrom declined the nomination. Sen. Howell elected as Secretary-Elect for 2010-2011.

6.0 Adjournment of May Meeting

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes for June 4, 2010 Meeting

Members Present and Represented (by proxy): M.A. Adams, H. Annulis (Lunsford), J. Bass (Mark Miller), D. Beckett, J. Brannock, A. Branton, B. Burgess, J. Burnett, C. Chatham, S. Clark, A. Davis, J. Ding, L. Downey, J. Evans, D. Fletcher, B. George (Burgess), C. Goggin, A. Haley, T. Hartsell, S. Hauer, N. Howell, T. Lipscomb, D. Lunsford, M. Lux, K. Masters, D. Masterson, C. McCormick (Evans), S. Oshrin, R. Pandey (Evans), C. Rakocinski (Brannock), D. Redalje, T. Rehner, S. Reischman (Fletcher), K. Rushing (Rehner), A. Sevier, J.H. Shin (Brannock), D. Tingstrom (Lipscomb),

Members Absent: D. Bristol, R. Conville, D. Daves, C. Meyers, J. Wolfe, A. Young

7.0 Call to order the 2010-2011 Senate

Meeting called to order.

8. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

9.0 Faculty Senate/University President Awards

Sen. Beckett and Dr. Saunders presented the Faculty Senate/University President Awards. The recipients were Deanne Nuwer (Community Service Award), Max Grivno (Jr. Faculty Research Award), Luis Iglesias (Jr. Faculty Teaching Award), and Kyna Shelley (Mentoring Award).

10.0 Remarks from the administration

10.1 President Saunders

The budget for FY 2011 is being created and will go to the IHL in the near future. The bad news is that funding has gone down \$12 million from last year. The good news is that the University planned for this. The University had the foresight to plan almost exactly for this reduction. The situation would have been worse if the University had not planned for this decrease

The University is unaware what impact increased enrollment and the tuition hike will have on the budget. There is hope that a little extra money will surface with these increases. There will be many

conversations about how to use the money. One suggestion is to find a way to offset the increased costs to employees for retirement match and other things. More discussion will be forthcoming if the extra money is available.

Dr. Saunders is looking forward to the UPC updates. She thanked all of those who worked hard on the reports and on the process.

The construction of the residence halls on 4th Street are ahead of schedule. The complex will open in the fall with over 900 beds.

Bob Pierce is working on an initiative-based fund raising model for maximizing the resources of the Foundation. There are a limited number of development officers and a long list of projects that are half done. Pierce plans on setting priorities to move through the list. There is a need to be more focused and organized in order to maximize university resources to make more money for USM. Since becoming Acting VP for University Advancement, Pierce has saved over \$400,000. Endowments are down which prohibits scholarships from being awarded. Pierce has proposed using the surplus to fund these scholarships. He is also working on building a cash reserve to assist in hard economic times.

Jimmy Buffet is donating four boats to GCRL. They are being constructed to the specifications of GCRL to assist with wildlife recovery. The boats should arrive very soon. The university is very thankful for his help.

The University graduated over 70 student athletes this year which is a source of pride that we have such a high graduation rate for athletes. Athletics is outsourcing licensing to an outside licensing group. This will make it easier to find USM merchandise in Hattiesburg.

Vice President for Research Denis Wiesenberg started on June 1 and has been busy. His research on oil spills will be beneficial for the Gulf Coast and USM. There is a response team on the Gulf Coast researching the oil spill. Several USM faculty members have been active in the recovery.

Investigations are ongoing regarding the actions of the research foundation. There has been no update from the state auditors.

Fall enrollment shows another record freshman class. ACT scores have also increased for these freshmen.

CUSA board of directors will be meeting soon discussing conference realignment. It is unknown what Notre Dame is doing, but we are positioning ourselves to play at the highest level. Decisions about conference expansions are made by the presidents, presidents are looking for a conference that is a match to the athletics program that also compliments academics.

The University has written a grant and have found a grant using federal money distributed through MDOT for strategic fencing to help direct pedestrian traffic (especially on 4th Street). This will entail wrought iron and brick fencing around the university that direct traffic, as well as define the boundaries of the campus. No USM money will be spent on this.

Sen. Hauer asked if there's any way that we can ask SACS to reduce assessment requirements from the university. He stated that it costs more than it benefits. Dr. Saunders stated that there is a lot of discussion about this and that Sen. Hauer should submit ideas to her.

Sen. Goggin asked about updates to the buildings in the front of the Gulf Park Campus. Dr. Saunders stated that we are in the final stages of preparation. We have settled with FEMA. Mississippi Department of Archives and History is allowing us to remove the administration building, and we have agreed not to build anything on that spot. The project should be finished by 2012.

Sen. Rehner asked about the movement on campus where units provide services for a fee. He was wondering how departments can afford to do this with ever decreasing budgets. Dr. Saunders stated that she may look into having a small pool of money to assist smaller programs with these fees. Sen. Haley suggested that if there are going to be more fees for departments, there needs to be some sort of oversight of the fees to make certain that the fees are reasonable. Dr. Saunders stated that there will probably be a reduced number of services offered on campus.

11.0 Officers' reports

11.1 Remarks from President Jeff Evans

Sen. Evans thanked the Faculty Senate for their work. Faculty Senate members serve on numerous committees as the faculty voice in addition to their other duties. This past year, the Senate was instrumental in establishing the UPC. He thanked the outgoing senators and welcomed the 13 new senators urging them to get involved in the Senate. He also thanked President Saunders and Provost Lyman for their efforts to openly communicate with the Senate.

The efforts of the UPC are ongoing. Administrative Services is partially finished with their works. Academic Administration reports were due on June 4. The Academic Priorities subcommittee is in the process of rating the initiative reports.

11.2 Remarks from the President-elect Anita Davis

Sen. Davis provided the Senate with her cell phone number, so that she may be reached when necessary. She stated that the incoming Senate executive council will be prepared for the challenges over the next year.

11.3 Remarks from the Secretary John Meyer

Sen. Meyer was unable to make the meeting. Sen. Brannock stated that Sen. Meyer was upset about having to miss the meeting, but wanted her to say how he enjoyed serving the Faculty Senate and the faculty as secretary.

11.4 Remarks from Secretary-elect Jennifer Brannock

Sen. Brannock addressed the Senate regarding the format of the minutes. There had been discussion about if the minutes should be abbreviated as suggested in the Faculty Senate by-laws. Sen. Hauer stated that he believed that the minutes should be more detailed to provide a better explanation of the

meetings. Sen. Beckett also stated that the minutes should be more specific. In the past, minutes were more general during times when the university administration would target outspoken senators. Since that is not the case now, he stated that there is no need to limit the minutes.

12.0 Committee Reports – No reports on Faculty Senate subcommittees because committee membership is not decided until the August meeting

12.1 Other committee and liaison reports

12.1.1 Master Planning (Mary Beth Applin)

The committee met last month to discuss the plan. Any proposed changes to the plan need to come before the master planning committee. The president is the only person who can approve the plan. Dean Lance Nail of the College Business wanted to move the construction of the current business building to a location by the Trent Lott Center. The committee requested more information from Dean Nail. Applin stated that with her departure from the university, the Senate will need to appoint a replacement to the committee.

12.1.2 Faculty Handbook Committee (Beckett)

Sen. Beckett stated that he met with Dr. Saunders about proposed changes to the handbook. In the current handbook, there is some confusion regarding the use of the phrase Departmental Personnel Committee (DPC). Several years ago, Jack Hanbury had rewritten the faculty handbook using DPC for evaluation committee and the tenure/promotion committee. DPC should only be used for the evaluation committee. The Faculty Handbook Committee is working on clarifying these errors, and the committee hopes to submit them in the next round of changes.

There is some debate about the role of chairs in tenure/promotion committees. This matter is handled differently by department. Some chairs vote and write independent letters which allows chairs to essentially vote twice. The proposed change will make it where the chairs will not vote as members of the tenure/promotion committee, but will continue to write letters for the tenure/promotion process. This has been approved by the Faculty Handbook Committee.

Sen. Branton asked about the library where some believe that the chair and the dean are the same person. Sen. Beckett stated that this was addressed in the faculty handbook and approved earlier in the year. Deans are prohibited from attending tenure/promotion meetings because they have their own vote later in the process.

Sen. Beckett addressed the debate about associate deans and associate provosts voting in tenure/promotion deliberations. Pat Smith and Sen. Beckett wrote the following proposal on this topic.

New Option – Regarding T&P Voting by Asst./Assoc. Deans and Asst./Assoc. Provosts

Generally Assistant/Associate Deans and Assistant/Associate Provosts are also excluded from sitting as members of departmental 3rd year review, tenure, and promotion committees. Exceptions are allowed for individuals who are of appropriate academic rank and tenure status and who qualify under each of the following circumstances:

1.) They have served a minimum of five years as a “regular” faculty member (non-Assistant/Associate Deans or Assistant/Associate Provosts) in the department in which they will be participating in 3rd year review and/or tenure and promotion considerations.

2) They are invited by a vote of the faculty in their home departments to participate as voting members of that department’s 3rd year review, tenure, and promotion committees. Departments shall vote by secret ballot on whether to issue such invitations in the fall of each year and may renew invitations on a year-to-year basis. If invited to participate in these deliberations Assistant/Associate Deans and Assistant/Associate Provosts may not chair 3rd year review, tenure or promotion committees in their departments.

Sen. Beckett showed the draft to President Saunders who said that it was a workable solution. He is also going to send it to the Council of Chairs, Graduate Council, and the deans to look over before sending it up to President Saunders for official approval.

Sen. Fletcher asked about the associate/assistant deans and associate/assistant provosts serving a minimum of five years as a faculty member. Sen. Beckett stated that this situation prohibits against people hired in as an associate/assistant dean and associate/assistant provost who have no experience or knowledge of the department and departmental faculty.

12.1.3 Gulf Coast Faculty Council (Annulis)

No report

12.1.4 Academic/Graduate Council (Daves)

No report

12.1.5 AAUP

No report

12.1.6 Space Utilization and Allocation Committee

No report

12.1.7 Committee on Committees (Haley)

The Committee on Committees (CoC) will govern the framework for the 50-60 university standing committees. There was talk on the committee of restricting committee members to serving only one 3-year term. This has been extended to two 3-year terms. Other committee limitations include allowing a person to chair only one university committee at a time and members can serve on a maximum of three committees at once. The CoC wants meetings to be more accessible by publishing minutes.

Sen. Beckett pointed out that initially the CoC called the guidelines “suggestions,” but it appears that they are now requirements. Sen. Haley stated that once the bylaws for the committees have been

approved by CoC, there are elements that are requirements and many that can be altered. University committees can petition for exemptions.

Sen. Fletcher asked if the CoC will be the watchdog of committees. He also wondered if committees that meet once a year will be considered equal to committees who meet more frequently. It appears that they will be considered equal.

Sen. Haley stated that there are people on campus who want to get involved but don't know how. With these processes established by the CoC, more people will be able to serve on university committees.

Sen. Oshrin was concerned with limitations for some especially administrators. There are often needs for administrators to be on certain committees due to the nature of their jobs and the direct correlation to the committees. The term limits may place restrictions on people who need to be involved in particular committees. Sen. Haley stated that many administrators think that they are required to attend too many meetings, and these limitations will alleviate some of these obligations.

Sen. Oshrin also suggested that bylaws may not be necessary for smaller committees and that very basic bylaw may be more appropriate.

Sen. Redalje stated that it may be more appropriate for the CoC to make certain university committees have bylaws, but he has reservations about them approving the bylaws. Sen. Haley stated that the CoC would only approve alterations to the bylaws. Future groups may want to control the bylaws, but the current CoC does not. Bill Powell said that the CoC may want to talk to the election groups of faculty senate, academic council, and other groups that have complicated elections. If some people are ineligible for committees due to reaching the limit of three committees, the ballots will need to be altered to reflect this.

Sen. Rehner thought that it may be a good idea to have some people on the committees who are familiar with the history of the university and how the committees work within the university. Sen. Haley brought that to the CoC. The committee responded that fresh additions to committees would be beneficial for committees. Committee members will only have to sit out one term before getting back on committees.

Sen. Fletcher asked if the committees have to bring any changes to the bylaws to the CoC. Sen. Haley said that a report would have to be submitted to the CoC for changes.

13.0 Old Business

No old business

14.0 New Business

Sen. Davis stated that the Senate needs a foundation account for times when we need to give gifts or awards to people. She asked that people may want to donate money to support this fund.

Sen. Rehner stated that the Senate bylaws committee has worked on small changes to the bylaws that relating to the change to electronic voting. The changes will go before the new bylaws committee in the fall.

Sen. Beckett mentioned inconsistencies in the bylaws and constitution. Sen. Davis stated that we plan on addressing these issues.

Sen. Brannock stated that library faculty had brought a concern to her about the revision of the tenure and promotion document for the library. There is debate about the role of deans in relation to the tenure/promotion criteria. Many librarians are also concerned that the library dean's expectations for allocation of effort are too heavy towards the job category which can impact tenure and promotion matters.

Sen. Beckett stated that the criteria for evaluations/tenure & promotion must be written and that they need to come from the unit. Deans cannot dictate the criteria. They can ask anyone to review the criteria. However, when it comes to the document, it must come from the entire unit and voting on the criteria.

Sen. Branton emphasized that the library is in the middle of the process of dealing with the revisions. She states that presently the library is not violating the handbook because the process has not reached the point of calling for a vote on the recommendations.

Sen. Davis spoke about Sen. Evans stepping down as the president of Faculty Senate and retiring from the university. She presented him with a token thanking him for his service to the Faculty Senate.

15.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.