

9-4-2015

Faculty Senate Minutes - September 4, 2015

USM Faculty Senate

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**The University of Southern Mississippi
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
Cook Library 123 – IVN Hardy Hall 219
September 4, 2015**

Members Present and Represented (by proxy): M. Alford, J. Anderson, D. Booth, J. Brown, D. Capper, K. Cochran, M. Coyne, K. Davis (M. Alford), B. Green, K. Greene, M. Grivno, C. Handley, B. Harbaugh, B. Hayden, F. Heitmuller, L. Hill, D. Holt, S. Hrostowski, J. Lambers, P. Linden, H. Lyn (D. Holt), M. McLelland, C. Miller, S. Milroy, E. Molaison, L. Neelis, W. Odom, J. Olmi, L. Rackoff, S. Reischman-Fletcher, S. Rouse, K. Shelley, C. Tardy, A. Thompson, B. Tinnon, M. Van Norden, T. Welsh, J. White (S. Reischman-Fletcher), K. Zantow

Members Absent: R. Griffitt, C. McCormick, K. Rehner, K. Rhinehart, C. Sirola

Guests: Bill Powell, Karen Reidenback, Tamara Hurst, Amy Miller, Tom Rishel

1.0 The meeting was called to order by Pres. Anderson at 2:05pm

2.0 The agenda was adopted by Pres. Anderson with no objection.

3.0 The June Minutes were approved by Pres. Anderson with no objection after one correction was noted – 4.2.2 should state under/over 24K instead of 21K

4.0 Remarks from Interim Provost Steve Moser

Dr. Moser presented some preliminary enrollment figures but noted that official enrollment would be determined next week and it is expected to be close to what it was last fall. All other universities in the state were down except Old Miss and State. GPA and ACT of incoming USM students are both at 10 year high.

USM plan to identify key markets for various programs, including international programs, for a more strategic marketing strategy.

To a question about the push for online courses, Dr. Moser responded that there was a push to bring GEC courses online. Those courses available through the Virtual Community College were accepted by USM, so it makes economic sense to offer those courses taught at USM online.

5.0 Presentation from Associate Provost for Academic Excellence Amy Miller

Dr. Miller has three main areas of responsibility:

1. Faculty Development
 - a. New Faculty Orientation
 - b. Faculty First Year Experience
 - c. Teaching Forums
 - d. Summer Grants for the Improvement of Instruction
 - e. Faculty Development Grants through LEC
 - f. Advising Workshops/Best Practices
2. Academic Policies and Processes
 - a. Grade Appeals
 - b. Administrative Withdrawals
 - c. Student Complaints

- d. Academic Standing Policies and Analysis of Trends
 - e. Graduation Application Policies
 - f. Coordination of College ACAs
 - g. Classroom Space/Design
3. Student Success
- a. Orientation
 - b. Summer Jump Program
 - c. Golden Eagle Welcome Week (GEWW)
 - d. Supplemental Instruction
 - e. Peer-Assisted Learning
 - f. Student Support Program, Writing Center, Speaking Center
 - g. Retention Scholarships
 - h. Data Analysis for Retention
 - i. Clearinghouse/Hub for Student Success Programs

Dr Miller reports to the Provost and LEC, the Registrar Greg Pierce, and New Student and Retention Programs (Shea Kidd Houze) report directly to her as well as the Peoplesoft Trainer (Marlissa Northrop), Writing Center, Speaking Center, Student Support Services and McNair Scholars Program.

Her office is on the 2nd floor of McLemore Hall. The focus is on SPOT:

- Success
- Persistence
- Orientation
- Transition

The goals are for students to feel connected, challenged, supported. The #1 predictor of student success is connection to faculty.

Resources related to student success for students and faculty are available at: usm.edu/success – also a search box that effectively searches USM Web site.

6.0 Senate Officer Reports

6.1 President

Pres. Anderson reported that she will post the final Teaching Track Report on the listserv and it will be voted on in October.

The comments re: Aramark are appreciated; the Provost and CFO are in conversation with them, there have been some improvements, but please keep the comments coming. Increase in food costs began the conversation but then it broadened to include quality issues.

Sen. Hrostowski, Chair of the Welfare and Environment Committee sent a draft resolution for employee assistance with mental health services, legal services, and pet services to Pres. Anderson who presented it to the Exec. Cabinet and Pres. Bennett will present to IHL.

Two resolutions were passed to honor Dr. Joe Paul and Dr. Denis Weisenburg.

6.2 President-Elect

Pres.-Elect Holt challenged Senators to get on a committee and make a difference. During the past year, there were six resolutions passed (strategic enrollment plan, budget revision process, sabbatical process, gender equity in pay, salary compression, respect for diversity) two recommendations (summer salary, program analytics), and two recommendations to honor individuals (Paul, Wiesenburg).

6.3 Secretary

Once they are approved, minutes as well as resolutions and recommendations are posted on the Faculty Senate Web site (www.usm.edu/faculty-senate/) and in the Faculty Senate e-archive (http://aquila.usm.edu/faculty_senate/).

6.4 Secretary-Elect – No report.

7.0 Request for Senate Consent for Senate Appointments

Pres. Anderson asked if there were any objections to the following appointments to filled resigned senators' seats:

7.1 Alan Thompson

7.2 Kate Cochran

7.3 Jorge Brown

Since there were no objections, Pres. Anderson welcomed Sen. Thompson, Sen. Cochran, and Sen. Brown to Faculty Senate.

We are still collecting feedback on one additional nominee from the Coast, Dr. Tom Rishel, and we will confirm him next month.

8.0 Request for Senate Consent to form Academics Committee and Governance Committee

Sen. Anderson asked if there were any objections to the formation of two new committees, Academics and Governance. Since no objections were expressed, these committees were approved by unanimous voice vote.

9.0 Request for Senate Consent to Form a Special Committee

Pres. Anderson asked if there were any objections to formation of a Special Committee on the State Flag. Since no objections were expressed, Pres. Anderson said that she and Pres.-Elect Holt would serve as ex-officio members of the committee and would study the by-laws and relevant documentation. This issue is on the agenda at the President's Council meeting. Should Pres. Bennett release a statement about the flag? Should Faculty Senate form a Special Committee to study the state flag? Senators who wish to voice an opinion can submit comments anonymously using the online form at: <http://www.usm.edu/faculty-senate>

10.0 Committee Reports

10.1 Academics

Sen. Heitmuller presented a report on faculty teaching evaluations. In spring 2016 semester, a second teaching evaluation will be required, either teaching portfolio or peer-review. The committee is seeking information on peer-review of teaching and on portfolio content to develop a best-practices document for evaluation of teaching.

The report on teaching-track faculty by the University Committee on Evaluation of Teaching will be distributed for faculty review. The guidelines are flexible to allow units options.

Definition of plagiarism needs more specificity.

10.2 Governance – No report.

10.3 Finance

Sen. Zantow reported the Finance Committee will meet with Dr. Vinzant on third Monday of each month at 10:30am. The committee recommended program analytics and the

Interim Provost is in the process of purchasing new software with capability for various types of program analytics.

10.4 University Relations

Sen. Miller met with Ms. House Rep. Toby Barker who said the wording for Initiative 42 on funding MAEP is vague and may need judicial rulings.

Pres. Anderson and Sen. Miller will meet with House Rep. Herb Frierson to discuss the issue. Pres. Anderson will also call a closed session to discuss this issue with Rep. Barker coordinating the session. Staff Council Rep. Reidenbach requested to attend the session and was granted permission.

10.5 Bylaws

Sen. Odom reported the committee was working on a list of recommendations to be presented in the spring.

10.6 Handbook

Sen. Alford reported the committee would be meeting on Thursday and will report back at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

10.7 Welfare

Sen. Hrostowski reported that they would follow up on due process for faculty. The two newest buildings, Trent Lott Center and Scianna Hall, have no recycling bins so this issue should be brought up at President's Council.

10.8 Administrative Evaluations

Sen. Shelley reported that the committee was working to get a lists compiled for the evaluations.

10.9 Awards

Sen. Thompson reported the committee is proposing changes for the Grand Marshall nomination and selection and will communicate with Allison Gillespie about that issue. A member is needed to represent each college so they will first look within Faculty Senate then look outside Faculty Senate.

10.10 Elections – None

11.0 Old Business – None

12.0 New Business

12.1 Pres. Anderson noted that Sen. Grivno has been appointed as Faculty Senate representative to serve on the Center for Undergraduate Research.

Pres. Anderson reminded Senators that Soledad O'Brien would be speaking at 7pm in Bennett Auditorium on "Celebrating 50 Years of Progress: Desegregation of The University of Southern Mississippi".

13.0 Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 4:37pm by unanimous voice vote.