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Faculty Senate Minutes - December 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
December 4, 2015**

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

Members Absent: B. Harbaugh, C. McCormick, J. Olmi, K. Rhinehart, B. Tinnon

Guests (Hattiesburg): Joe Powell, Karen Reidenback

1.0 The meeting was called to order by Pres. Anderson at 2:03pm

2.0 The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

3.0 The October Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4.0 Administration

4.1 Provost Dr. Moser

4.1.1 Academic Affairs Forum is scheduled for Gulf Park on January 14 at 3pm, Hardy Hall Ballroom and for Hattiesburg on January 15 at 3pm, Trent Lott Center.

4.1.2 Enrollment update - increase in applications for spring 2016 (26% increase in-state, 46% out-of-state). Spring 2016 enrollment is highest number ever for spring (578 new students, 39% increase over fall 2015); 1,597 yet to be advised, 2,000 advised but not registered; of about 3,600 not registered, 1,463 have a balance blocking registration.

4.1.3 Recruitment (71% of recruitment staff are new)

Dean of Admissions search will take about a year.

Hobsons CRM (Customer Relationship Manager) approved; will replace four databases with one unified database with more functionality

Alumni recruitment

More campus events planned

Financial aid packaging for students.

4.2 CFO Dr. Vinzant

4.2.1 The top priority is to provide high-quality education and research programs to qualified Mississippi residents (USM 81% resident, 19% non-resident). USM will continue to admit qualified Mississippi residents but the number of students graduating from high school in the state is declining.

USM could be one of the top 10 best values in public research institutions across the country and is attracting an increasing number of students – but there is a need for long-term price re-structuring. The non-resident rate is about twice resident rate but the reality is that USM discounts that down to about 15% more than resident rate. The proposed strategy is to publish more accurate non-resident rates that will attract students from Texas,

Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Florida. While the Mississippi market (high school graduates) is declining slightly, Florida and Texas are increasing. By pegging the non-resident rate at \$9,750 instead of \$16,204 (then discounting it), USM will be rated in top 10 “best value” lists.

The goal is to replace the students lost between fall 2011 and fall 2015 with students from out of state. Ole Miss quadrupled non-resident enrollment over the past four years, mostly from Texas.

Three schools in Mississippi charge no out-of-state rates. USM will be the first among research universities to lower out-of-state rates – residential rates of other public research universities are about \$11,000 to \$16,000 per year, so \$9,750 non-resident rate will open up new markets.

4.2.2 Houston and Dallas are two out-of-state markets with the largest concentrations of USM alumni. Hobsons CRM will allow targeted emails and communications. Pricing will get students to the door/ enrollment, faculty, quality of USM will get them through the door.

Fall 2017 will be the roll-out of new approach with new price structure for undergrads and grads.

One senator asked about housing.

Dr. Vinzant responded that we have capacity now in many places. The total tuition, room and board, \$15,000, is very competitive for public research institutions. There may be additional fees for international students perhaps by program. Decision-making will be based on market analysis.

One senator noted that faculty needs to be part of this process such as resident facilities on the coast.

Dr. Vinzant responded that about 30 years ago, there was an informal understanding with other universities not to put residence halls on the coast, but now USM is looking at options for residence halls and is in the process of doing a thorough investigation.

5.0 Senate Officer Reports

5.1 President Anderson

- 5.1.1 USM Foundation is working on a \$4 million endowment from a Study-Abroad alum in return for naming the International Building
- 5.1.2 Linda Rasmussen reported that the ACA (Affordable Care Act) CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) is moving to 26 Week Rule (www.irs.gov/irb/2014-9_IRB/ar05.html).
- 5.1.3 ACA compliance 70%; next year must reach 95%.
- 5.1.4 Fair Labor Standards Act changes coming – exempt employee must make \$50,000 or more; regulations currently being written with changes implemented next year (www.dol.gov/whd/overtime/nprm2015/factsheet.htm).
- 5.1.5 Gender identity issues – none currently but USM should be prepared by developing policies in committees such as Diversity Committee.
- 5.1.6 Met with President Bennett on format of Faculty Senate presentations – should be more informal questions and answers. Pres. Anderson said she was willing to collect questions to moderate conversations with Pres. Bennett, Provost, and CFO and only present brief, major points.

5.2 President-Elect Holt – no report

5.3 Secretary Welsh – no report

5.4 Secretary Elect Booth – no report

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Senate Committees

6.1.1 Bylaws

Sen. Odom reported that proposed changes to by-laws was distributed and Faculty Senate will vote on the revisions at the next meeting in February.

6.1.2 Academic

Sen. Heitmuller presented a summary of activities since last Faculty Senate meeting in November.

6.1.2.1 Minimum Faculty Membership per Degree Program

Concern -- Publicly-funded institution offering (i.e. advertising) degrees with very few faculty (relative to comparable institutions) and, therefore, perspectives.

Concern – Inability to offer required courses in a timely manner to the extent that graduation is unnecessarily postponed.

Office of the Provost – Program analytics are presently being assembled, which will likely reveal shortfalls of faculty for particular programs.

Are concerns warranted? Solicitation for Faculty Senate feedback.

6.1.2.2 Plagiarism Definition

“Plagiarism is scholarly theft and it is defined as the unacknowledged use of secondary sources. More specifically, any written or oral presentation in which the writer or speaker does not distinguish clearly between original and borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Because students, as scholars, must make frequent use of the concepts and facts developed by other scholars, plagiarism is not the mere use of another’s facts and ideas. However, it is plagiarism when students present the work of other scholars as if it were their own work. Plagiarism is committed in a number of ways: 1) Reproducing another author’s writing as if it were one’s own; 2) Paraphrasing another author’s work without citing the original; 3) Borrowing from another author’s ideas, even though those ideas are reworded, without giving credit; 4) Copying another author’s organization without giving credit. Plagiarism is a serious offense. An act of plagiarism may lead to a failing grade on the paper and in the course, as well as sanctions that may be imposed by the student judicial system.”

A brief review of plagiarism definitions available from other institutions of higher learning reveals that details are lacking from the definition above, including:

- Mississippi State University (English) – i) includes “groups” and “organizations” in addition to singular authors; ii) includes “data”; iii) includes warning to avoid changing every 3rd or 4th word or verb tense; iv) includes an example to distinguish “common knowledge” from more specific information.
- Mississippi State University (Student Honor Code) – i) includes “processes” and “images”; ii) includes failure to cite information from the Internet, databases, or other electronic resources; iii) includes a section *on multiple submissions* that is separate from the definition of plagiarism
- The University of Mississippi (Academic Conduct and Discipline) – i) includes a warning against maintaining the content and/or structure despite changing words; ii) includes a warning against heavily borrowing form another without “substantial addition” of original ideas or comments

- The University of Alabama (Student Handbook) – i) lumps plagiarism under the general category of academic misconduct, which includes students who intentionally help another student commit a dishonest act; ii) includes “pictures”, “figures”, “works”, and “computer program or output”
- Louisiana State University (Academic Integrity) – i) includes “computer code” and “music”; ii) gives tips and links to create a bibliography; iii) distinguishes intentional from negligent plagiarism; iv) includes both published and unpublished sources
- Florida State University (Academic Honor Policy) – i) includes “ghostwriting” or “pay-for-paper” services
- The University of Texas at Austin (Dean of Students) – i) includes “oral presentations”, “art”, and “other forms of expression”; ii) includes papers or works from other students; iii) includes both final submissions and drafts submitted to an instructor or professor; iv) includes required quotation marks for verbatim prose; v) very good information at deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_plagiarism.php

6.1.3 Governance

Sen. Rehner reported that faculty workload/overload review is in process and they were gathering information from the colleges.

6.1.4 Finance

Sen. Zantow reported they discussed the tuition issue and having a study done on the coast.

6.1.5 University Relations – no report

6.1.6 Handbook

Sen. Davis reported on a second vote relate to a resolution on scholarly misconduct.

6.1.7 Welfare and Environmental – no report

6.1.8 Administrative Evaluations – no report

6.1.9 Awards

Sen. Thompson reported the Committee received applications for teaching, service, librarianship and they plan to establish criteria for Faculty Senate scholarships.

6.1.10 Elections – no report.

6.2 External Committees

6.2.1 Gulf Coast Faculty Council

Pres.-Elect Holt requested that GCFC documents, including a resolution by GCFC Pres.-Elect Lyn, be posted to the Faculty Senate Web site and archive.

7.0 Old Business – none

8.0 New Business

8.1 QEP Endorsement

Sen. Brown moved to endorse QEP and Sen. Sirola seconded.

During discussion, a senator asked about duplication of effort in creating a new position for QEP.

Dr. Bill Powell responded that only one position was created to help students find practicums, field experiences, work/study, and internships.

The QEP Endorsement vote was one opposed, the remainder in favor so the motion was approved.

9.0 The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm by Pres. Anderson with no objection.

Respectfully submitted by
Teresa S. Welsh, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary