Faculty Senate Minutes - September 6, 2019

USM Faculty Senate

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The University of Southern Mississippi  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Friday, September 6, 2019, 2:00 p.m.  
Scianna Hall 1048 (Hattiesburg)  
IVN to North Academic Building 101 (Gulf Park) and  
Stennis Building 1020, Room 118


Absent: Damon Franke, Gopinath Subramanian, John Lambert, David Lee, Westley (Lee) Follett

1.0 Organizational Items

1.1 Call to Order  The meeting was called to order by Susan Hrostowski at 2:13.

1.2 Roll Call

1.3 Recognition of Quorum (23)

1.4 Recognition of ⅔ membership for voting on Bylaws and Resolutions (31)

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

- Susan Hrostowski added an action item to appoint Jeremy Scott as the Faculty Senate representative on the University Faculty Handbook Committee.
- Approved unanimously by voice vote.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.1 May, 2019: May minutes were approved at the June meeting. June minutes will be disseminated prior to October meeting for approval.

4.0 Officer Reports

4.1 President

Executive Cabinet Retreat, Convocation, Cabinet meetings
- Provost expects enrollment to be flat or slightly down, partly due to the payment policy. However, cash flow is good because of same. Administration is working with students who are having difficulty making the down payment.
Allyson Easterwood says we have collected over $10 million more than this time last year due to the change in payment policy. 87% of students were able to comply immediately. Revenue and enrollment may drop until people get used to new policy. In the past, we have had to write off $2.8 million per year in unpaid accounts.

- Senate members expressed concerns about students who have left the institution because of this new policy.

- Communities of Excellence are the next step in Vision 2020. Cross-disciplinary collaborations that address issues such as blue economy, security, resilience, the arts, community health. Provost is still working on the development of a resource allocation formula.

- President Bennett addressed the need for compensation adjustments to alleviate compression and inversion. Depends on the financial state of the university, which is good right now.

- Faculty First Week and the block party.

- According to 7.3.5 of the Faculty Senate bylaws, the president may appoint a parliamentarian from or outside of the Senate to advise him or her on interpretations of parliamentary procedure. I hereby appoint Dr. Sharon Rouse as Senate Parliamentarian for the 2019-2020 academic year.

4.2 President-Elect: No report
4.3 Secretary: No report
4.4 Secretary-Elect: No report

5.0 Decision / Action Items

- Action item added: Appoint Jeremy Scott as the Faculty Senate representative on the University Faculty Handbook Committee. All in favor by show of hands.

6.0 Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Bylaws: No report
6.2 Elections

- Hamett (Quincy) Brown was elected to replace Scott Milroy.

6.3 Handbook
6.4 Faculty Handbook
6.5 Academics: No report
6.6 Administrative Evaluations: No report
6.7 Awards: No report
6.8 Finance: No report
6.9 Governance: No report
6.10 Gulf Coast: No report
6.11 University Relations and Communication: No report
6.12 Welfare and Environment: No report

7.0 Outside Committee Reports
8.0 Reports from Other University Advisory Bodies
9.0 Consent Items
10.0 Unfinished Business
   10.1 None
11.0 New Business
   11.1 None
12.0 Good of the Order
   • Non-attendance at Faculty Senate meetings should be addressed.
   • Senate members expressed concerns regarding the raise allocation from last spring. Others indicated that the terms of the raise were determined by legislation so complaints should be taken to their representatives.
   • Senators expressed concerns regarding how low graduate stipends are.
   • Senators expressed concerns regarding management skills of faculty in administrative roles and administrative staff.
   • SOARFIN will be down during parts of October. For more information contact the Office of the Controller.

13.0 Announcements
   14.1 Next Senate Meeting October 11, 2019

14.0 Adjourn