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Faculty Senate Minutes--September 4, 2020

USM Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 4th, 2020, 2:00p.m.
Via Teams

Call to Order

President Lillian Hill welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was followed by self-introductions of the new Senators.

Roll Call

Members present include: Michael Davis, Shahid Karim, Tom Rishel, Wes Johnson, Lindsey Conlin-Maxwell, Jae-Hwa Shin, Damon Franke, Emily Stanbeck, Brian LaPierre, Mary Funk, Jeremy Scott, Richard Perry, Timothy Tesh, Jennifer Courts, Leffi Cewe-Malloy, Louis Rackoff, Joanne Burnette, Robert Press, Nell Adkins, Shinhua Liu, John Miller, Michelle Jeanfreau, Lillian Hill, Alisa Lowrey, Gary Krebs, Catharine Bomhold, Tammy Greer, Tamara Hurst, Susan Mayfield-Johnson, Bonnie Harbaugh, Kimberly Ward, Robert Leaf, Denis Wiesenburg, Jennifer Brannock, Lin Agler, Patsy Anderson, Kalyn Lamey, Whitney Martin, Sharon Rouse.

Members who were not in attendance include: Sergei Nazarenko, Lisa Green, Jacob Breland, Joe Olmi

Quorum: A quorum (22) was established and recognized. (39 members present).

Voting Membership Present: Though we have no actionable voting items, $\frac{2}{3}$ membership for voting on Bylaws and Resolutions (29) was established. (39 members were present).

Adoption of Agenda

A motion to accept the agenda was made. The motion was seconded. The motion to accept the agenda was approved by the majority of the members.

Agenda of the Minutes (May)

A motion to accept the minutes as is was made. The motion was seconded. The motion to accept the May meeting minutes was approved by the majority of the members.

Program

The Executive Committee invited Senators and any guests to discuss any concerns regarding COVID-19. There was much discussion to include the following: cleaning protocols and filters in buildings, lack of faculty input in decision making, questions regarding reporting of known positive cases, feel under-prepared to return to classes, questions about the CARES money, football games, mask requirements and enforcements, inconsistent communication from Directors/Deans, and PPE.

President Hill and President-Elect LaPierre reported they would meet with higher administration to address the faculty concerns and report back to Faculty Senate.

Officer Reports

President – no report

President-Elect- Has been in discussions with USM General Counsel regarding whether or not a) faculty could be notified if a student tests positive in their class and b) whether or not the faculty could notify the class if they were aware of a student who tested positive and if they could anonymously alert their class. It was reported that the General Counsel reiterated the fact that Moffitt Health Center is covered by HIPAA and that their policy supersedes university policy.

Secretary- We are working to refine Teams meeting link. We are also awaiting university approval/training to access the website to update the meeting times as well as Faculty Senators. Thank you for your patience.

Secretary-Elect- no report

Committee Reports

Each prior committee chair/member reported on the duties of each committee. Faculty Senators were encouraged to sign up for one committee.

Academics- no report

Administrative Evaluation- no report

Awards- no report

Bylaws- no report

Elections- no report

Finance- no report

Faculty Handbook Advisory – Due to COVID-19, several items were on hold from approval.

However, all has been approved, with the exception of the following which is still awaiting approval: 1) Notice statement which states the Faculty Handbook supersedes the Employee Handbook 2) Prizm name change. It was also reported that the University Handbook Committee now sends all documents/submissions/revisions to the Provost, instead of the President.

Additionally, it was reported that the UHC is attempting to remove 3.11 (Contractual Obligations) from the Faculty Handbook.

Governance- no report

Gulf Coast- no report

University Relations and Communications- no report

Welfare and Environment- no report

Outside Committee Reports/Other University Advisory Committees' Reports-None

Consent Items -None

Unfinished Business- No unfinished business.

New Business- No new business.

Good of the Order

“Today, the Faculty Senate honors and recognizes the life and legacy of Ms. Evelyn Gandy, what would have been her 100th birthday. She is a Hattiesburg native, distinguished USM alumna, public servant, and a fearless advocate for Mississippi. She was also the first woman elected state-wide treasurer and the first woman insurance commissioner.”

Announcements

AAUP is currently hosting a membership drive. If anyone is interested, they can contact Thomas O'Brien or Denis Weisenburg for more information.