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Faculty Senate Minutes--March 5, 2021

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 5th, 2021, 2:00p.m.
Via Zoom

Call to Order

President-Elect Brian LaPierre called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll Call

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

Members who were not in attendance include:, Bonnie Harbaugh, Tom Rishel, Raj Kallaru

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

Voting Membership Present: $\frac{2}{3}$ 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.

Approval of the Minutes (February)

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

Program

Dr. Dee Dee Anderson, Dr. Amy Chasteen, and President Rodney Bennett attended and discussed mask requirements to continue on campus for the foreseeable future. Additionally, they reported they are looking at activities outside of the classrooms and the possibilities pending the Governor's new guidance. Faculty were commended for continued support of students and excitement about returning to the Fall was iterated. Questions from the faculty regarding guidelines for vaccinated vs non-vaccinated faculty and students, campus plans for Summer and Fall semesters, reporting guidelines, and mask guidelines were answered by the guests. Dr. Karen Coats attended and discussed Graduate Assistants' stipend and subsidies data and plans. She reported there is a task force currently working to find the best outcome for students and faculty. Dr. Coast reported that the 25% subsidy will be in place this Fall. Questions from faculty regarding incomparable stipends at USM as opposed to other universities, 5 year plans,

support from higher financial administration, and impact on recruitment were answered by Dr. Coats.

Dr. Gordon Cannon attended today and reported on COVID-19's effects on research productivity, research needs, and progress. Questions from the faculty senators were addressed.

Officer Reports

President – No report.

President-Elect- Met with Staff Council and they reported a Staff Compensation Program would be implemented starting July1, 2021. Would like to address faculty counterpart at next meeting.

Secretary- No report.

Secretary-Elect- No report

Committee Reports

Academics- USM Gulf Park Library re-opened.

Administrative Evaluation- Need additional members. Adding a few questions related to COVID.

Awards- Working on spring awards.

Bylaws- No report.

Elections- Beginning to work on elections.

Finance- Met with Allyson Easterwood on 2/15/21 and is supportive of GA stipend and subsidies. Email questions for next upcoming meeting to chair.

Faculty Handbook Advisory- Working on submitting revisions to the University Faculty Handbook Committee re: 1) Directors Periodic Review being added back into the Faculty Handbook 2) Proposed definition of the Ombudsman as it does not currently exist. 3) Needed clarification on faculty evaluation committee options 32 and #3 in the title portions. Additionally, they have been assured that 3.11 will in fact be removed from the Employee Handbook.

Governance- Working on several options to ensure we receive responses from the administration on the resolution (Bylaws change, publishing resolutions in media, inviting press to meetings)

Gulf Coast- Gulf Coast Faculty Council met this morning and discussed how the body's role may evolve during the restructuring.

University Relations and Communications- Reported they would begin exploring a Faculty Senate newsletter to send to all faculty members.

Welfare and Environment- Working on several projects which include: meeting with Human Resources to obtain a more clear picture on faculty and staff diversity, misuse of funds for the Women's Volleyball Center, mental health and environmental concerns are being monitored and advocated for, and SGA is working on several pieces of legislation and holding elections.

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

Consent Items – None.

Unfinished Business- None.

New Business- None.

Good of the Order- Annual plant sale will be occurring this year.

Announcements – None.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made. The motion was seconded. The motion passed by a majority of the Faculty Senate.