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Faculty Senate Minutes--May 7, 2021

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 7th, 2021, 2:00p.m.
Via Zoom

Call to Order

President Lilian Hill called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll Call

Members present include: Tammy Greer, Bonnie Harbaugh, Damon Franke, Emily Stanbeck, Brian LaPierre, Jeremy Scott, Jennifer Courts, Leffi Cewe-Mallo, Joanne Burnette, Robert Press, Nell Adkins, Michelle Jeanfreau, Lillian Hill, Alisa Lowrey, Tamara Hurst, Susan Mayfield-Johnson (Proxy- Kimberly Ward), Kimberly Ward, Denis Wiesenburg, Jennifer Brannock, Lin Agler (Proxy- Kalyn Lamey), Kalyn Lamey, Sharon Rouse, Joe Olmi, Lindsey Conlin-Maxwell, Tom Rishel, Mary Funk, Danilo Mezzadri, Raj Kallaru, Robert Leaf, Sergei Nazarenko, Louis Rackoff, Shinhua Liu, Shahid Karim, Michael Davis, Wes Johnson, Patsy Anderson, Jae-Hwa Shin,

Members who were not in attendance include: Stephanie McCoy, Timothy Tesh, John Miller, Catharine Bomhold, Lisa Green, Whitney Martin

Quorum: A quorum (22) was established and recognized. (37 members present).

Voting Membership Present: $\frac{2}{3}$ membership for voting on Bylaws and Resolutions (29) was established. (37 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 (April)

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

Program

Monika Gehlawat delivered an update on Graduate Assistant salary and subsidies, particularly how to encourage and support enrollment of students in the ACA's insurance marketplace. Associate Dean of the Graduate School Mohn delivered an update on the Task Force on Graduate Assistant Benefits and Support. Membership of the committee and ongoing and future work were discussed. Faculty Senators were encouraged to submit questions and/or concerns for the task force via the Mach Form which was shared via the listserv earlier in the week.

Officer Reports

President – President Hill compiled and shared an annual activity and success report of the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate. She will also reach out to the Coast Leadership Team and the Transition

Committee for the School of Coastal Resilience to ask for their minutes to be released and shared with Faculty Senate.

President-Elect- President-Elect LaPierre attended the President's Senior Leadership Team meeting as well as the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting with the Provost. Items discussed were updated COVID-19 policies for Summer and Fall semesters, graduation ceremonies,

Secretary- No report.

Secretary-Elect- No report.

Committee Reports

Academics- Textbook - Met with Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Chasteen to discuss standing issues including: academic integrity concerns, XF remediation plan, and +/- grades.

Administrative Evaluation- 158 complete responses were obtained and data is being analyzed to compile reports. These reports will be sent to administrators after faculty evaluations have been completed.

Awards- No report.

Bylaws- Bylaws have been updated with the language regarding faculty senate vote from April meeting.

Elections- All schools have held elections, except for one who is in the process. The floor was opened for nominations for Faculty Senate President-Elect. Denis Wiesenburg was elected by a vote of 36-0-0 to serve as the President-Elect for the 2021-2022 academic year. The floor was opened for nominations for Faculty Senate Secretary-Elect. Emily Stanbeck was elected by a vote of 36-0-0 to serve as the Secretary-Elect for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Finance- Met with Allyson Easterwood and discussed the CARES money allocation to address faculty and staff salaries, some construction projects, as well as the approved tuition increase for the upcoming academic year.

Faculty Handbook Advisory- The University Handbook Committee considered the Faculty Senate's proposal for a periodic review of directors but chose to table the discussion until the next academic year. The proposal for clarifying the definition of the ombudsman was tabled due to a difference in the role at USM and proposed language. The proposal is tabled until the next academic year. It was reported that updates to the Employee Handbook were made on May 1, 2021 and the 3.1.11 was not removed. Faculty Senate needs to make sure it is removed in the next update.

Governance- Committee met to discuss a few issues for consideration of the Faculty Senate. The first issue was reconsideration of teaching track faculty being eligible for serving as President of the Faculty Senate. The second issue was considering developing a plan to develop and support an ombudsman to support faculty, as seen in other universities.

Gulf Coast- Gulf Coast Faculty Council is discussing their role with the upcoming re-organization and pondering the possibility of becoming a formal advisory body. The newest schools have been officially named the School of Leadership and the School of Coastal Resilience. Significant conversation among Faculty Senators reveals that much confusion continues to exist among faculty regarding the re-organization and logistics. Chair of Gulf Coast Committee plans to send an update to Faculty Senate over the summer with any updates.

University Relations and Communications- No report.

Welfare and Environment- Chair Press thanked each of his committee members for all of their hard work this year. The committee updated the Faculty Senate on tenured and tenure-track faculty in regards to salary when looking at diverse factors (race, gender, etc).

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

Consent Items – None.

Unfinished Business- None.

New Business- None.

Good of the Order- Faculty Senate President-Elect delivered notes of appreciation and gratitude

to President Hill for her service and leadership during this challenging 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.