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Faculty Senate Minutes--September 3, 2021

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 3, 2021, 2:00p.m.
Via Zoom

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Members present:

LaPierre, Brian
Lamey, Kalyn
Stanback, Emily (holds proxy for Denis Wiesenburg)
Adkins, Nell
Agler, Lin
Anderson, Patsy
Bradley, Gregory
Brannock, Jennifer
Burnette, Joanne
Cewe-Malloy, Leffi
Conlin-Maxwell, Lindsey
Courts, Jennifer (holds proxy for Catharine Bomhold)
Donahue, Paul "Tyler"
Franke, Damon
Funk, Mary
Greer, Tammy
Hill, Lilian
Hurst, Tamara
Jeanfreau, Michelle
Johnson, Wes
Kanuri, Srinidhi
Karim, Shahid
Leaf, Robert
Martin, Whitney
Mayfield-Johnson, Susan
McCardle, Emileigh
Mezzadri, Danilo
Nazarenko, Sergei
Olm, Joe
Press, Bob
Rackoff, Louis
Rishel, Tom
Rouse, Sharon (hold proxy for Alisa Lowrey and Kimberly Ward)
Scott, Jeremy
Shin, Jae-Hwa
Tesh, Timothy

Members who were not in attendance:

Davis, Micheal
Green, Lisa
Harbaugh, Bonnie
Miller, John

Quorum: A quorum (22) was established and recognized. (36 members present).

Voting Membership Present: $\frac{2}{3}$ membership for voting on Bylaws and Resolutions (29) was established. (36 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 (May 2021 Minutes)

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

- Dr. DeeDee Anderson attended as guest speaker.
 - There is a robust vaccine incentive plan for students. As of September 2, approximately 4600 students have participated in the incentive program by providing their vaccine card to the University. According to Dr. Anderson, it is important to remember that more students might be fully vaccinated but not shown proof to the University.
 - The number of students living on campus and being quarantined is small and students are obeying the mask mandate.
 - Faculty are not being notified that their students have COVID-19 or how many students in their class are currently positive.
 - Angel Walker, SGA liaison, stated that SGA is emphasizing the vaccine incentive program and has partnered with other organizations and offices within USM in this effort.

Officer Reports

President

- Leadership of Faculty Senate bodies of IHL institutions met and resurrected the University Faculty Senates Association of Mississippi, which had gone dormant.
 - President Dan Durkin, Ole Miss
- The officers of Faculty Senate will continue to meet with the President of the University and other members of administration.

President-Elect: no report

Secretary

- The webpage has been updated with the initial list of requests. It will be updated regularly throughout the semester.
- Tyler Donahue is our newest Senator, as representative of School of Kinesiology.

Secretary-Elect: no report

Committee Reports

Academics: no report

Administrative Evaluation: no report

Awards: no report

Bylaws: no report

Elections: no report

Faculty Handbook Advisory: Julie Cwikla joined the meeting to discuss Faculty Handbook 5.7.1.5.3 and the proposed changes. This will be further discussed by Faculty Handbook Advisory Committee.

Finance: Met with Allyson Easterwood in September 1. The committee asked about the compression formula and how it was applied to salaries. They were sent to the Provost's website or otherwise to go through the chain of command for clarification. There is some monies left from federal funds for COVID relief. Enrollment is holding steady.

Governance: A resolution centered around mandatory vaccination of faculty, staff, and students was discussed. Edits were suggested and the resolution will be further discussed in the next regular meeting.

Gulf Coast: There was poor communication with faculty, staff, and students regarding the plans to return to campus following Hurricane Ida. This will be further discussed between the Executive Committee and President Bennett during their next meeting. Gulf Coast Faculty Council will be meeting monthly on the Wednesday leading up to the monthly Senate meeting.

University Relations and Communications: no report

Welfare and Environment: The committee is focused on lack of social distancing within classrooms. Comments were made about the efficacy of distancing versus masking. This committee has multiple subcommittees with specialized foci:

- The COVID/Environment subcommittee is focused on gathering data related to required vaccines at other institutions, air purity in buildings throughout campus, the reporting system for COVID-positive cases, and other concerns related to the pandemic.
- The Inequities subcommittee is gathering data related to pay inequities going back as far as 2011. A comment was brought up about the possibility of creating tenure for the teaching track.
- The Mental Health subcommittee is focusing on creating a campaign to destigmatize mental health issues.
- Additionally, this committee liaises with Staff Council and SGA. The President of SGA, Angel Walker, will bring the proposed resolution to SGA for comment.

Outside Committee Reports/Other University Advisory Committees' Reports: none

Consent Items: none

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none

Good of the Order: none

Announcements

Next Senate meeting is October 1.

We still need a representative for Parking Committee.

Motion to Adjourn

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