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## Faculty Senate Minutes--October 1, 2021

Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
Friday, October 1, 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:

Adkins, Nell  
Agler, Lin  
Anderson, Patsy  
Bomhold, Catharine  
Bradley, Gregory  
Brannock, Jennifer  
Burnett, Joanne  
Cewe-Malloy, Leffi  
Conlin-Maxwell, Lindsey  
Donahue, Paul "Tyler"  
Franke, Damon  
Funk, Mary  
Green, Lisa  
Greer, Tammy  
Harbaugh, Bonnie  
Hill, Lilian  
Hurst, Tamara  
Jeanfreau, Michelle  
Johnson, Wes  
Kanuri, Srinidhi  
Karim, Shahid  
Lamey, Kalyn  
LaPierre, Brian  
Leaf, Robert  
Lowrey, Alisa  
Mayfield-Johnson, Susan  
McCardle, Emileigh  
Mezzadri, Danilo (holds proxy for Timothy Tesh)  
Nazarenko, Sergei  
Olmi, Joe  
Press, Bob  
Rackoff, Louis  
Rishel, Tom  
Rouse, Sharon  
Salyers, Candice

Scott, Jeremy  
Shin, Jae-Hwa  
Stanback, Emily  
Wang, Wei  
Ward, Kimberly  
Wiesenburg, Denis

Members who were not in attendance:

Davis, Micheal  
Martin, Whitney

Quorum: A quorum (22) was established and recognized. (41 members present).

Voting Membership Present:  $\frac{2}{3}$  membership for voting on Bylaws and Resolutions (29) was established. (41 members 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 (September 2021)**

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:** None

**Officer Reports**

President: Report included communication from President Bennett and Provost Moser related to COVID concerns, vaccines, and the search for the new provost.

President-Elect: The list of great colleges to work for was released recently and appeared as a special advertising supplement to the Chronicle of Higher Education this week. Seven colleges in Mississippi were recognized, including Mississippi State University and Mississippi University for Women. USM was not listed. However, note that the University of West Florida was recognized and rated high in all 10 categories. The president of the University of West Florida is Dr. Martha D. Saunders who used to be the USM President. She did a good job at USM but was forced out of office by the same IHL Board (with new members) that voted to ban COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Secretary: Introduced new Senators Candice Salyers and Wei Wang.

Secretary-Elect: Serves on a task force looking into Graduate Assistant student stipends and health insurance subsidies; the task force is actively working on this issue.

**Committee Reports**

Academics: There is concern about changes in the course evaluation questions.

There is also concern about fees charged for applying for graduation and seating at commencement.

Administrative Evaluation: Administrative evaluation results will be sent out soon.

Awards: No report

Bylaws: No report

Elections: No report

Faculty Handbook Advisory: Handbook Section 5.7.1.5.3 Credit for Prior Accomplishments is under consideration, particularly the statement that there be a continuous record that immediately precedes employment with the University. A vote to strike the sentence in question was taken, with 32 agreeing, 5 not agreeing, and one abstention. This information will be taken back to the

University Handbook Committee.

Section 4.4.1 Annual Activity Report is also under consideration, specifically the section stating that directors are evaluated only by the dean and not by the FEC within the school.

Finance: No report

Governance: A second reading was conducted of the resolution related to COVID vaccination. A vote was held, and the resolution passed by a vote of 33 yes, 5 no, and no abstentions.

This committee is also considering the issue of the administration's right and ability to put language in the Employee Handbook that pertains only to faculty. A request was made to Krystyna Varnado to allow a Faculty Senator on the Employee Handbook Advisory Group. President LaPierre called for nominations by email, and he will appoint a representative at a later date.

This committee is interested in redefining the role of ombuds at the University to align fully with the office of ombuds at other R1 institutions.

This committee is proposing to remove from the Faculty Senate bylaws language that prohibits a teaching track faculty member from serving as president or president-elect. The Bylaws Committee will take up this issue and make a recommendation at a later meeting.

This committee requests that the Welfare and Environment committee look into the disparity of pay increases associated with promotion in the teaching and tenure tracks.

Gulf Coast: No report

University Relations and Communications: No report

Welfare and Environment: This committee is further inquiring about the air quality in various buildings.

DeeDee Anderson has stated that Moffitt Health Center is not going to start automatically notifying instructors when a student tests positive for COVID.

Subcommittee on Equity and Diversity gathered data from IR related to faculty salary and demographics from 2011, 2016, and 2021. This data will be used to determine any pay disparities that might exist across gender or other demographic information.

Mental Health Subcommittee is collaborating with SGA on a poster and social campaign working to de-stigmatize mental health issues.

**Outside Committee Reports/Other University Advisory Committees' Reports:** SGA wants a syllabus bank and for syllabi to be posted in SOAR at the time of registration and a ten-minute grace period for class arrival due to parking issues.

**Consent Items:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Order:** None

**Announcements:** Next meeting is November 5 via Zoom.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

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