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Spring 5-2024

## **Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes May 2024**

Faculty Senate

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## **Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

Friday, May 3, 2024, 2:00p.m.

Via Zoom

### **Call to Order**

President Jennifer Courts called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Roll Call**

Quorum: A quorum was established and recognized.

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

### **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 members.

Dr. Courts welcomes new senators and invites them to introduce themselves. Professional Nursing Practice: Maria Brown; Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences: Sabrina Bryant; Education: Thomas O'Brien; Finance: Jamie Nicole Gavin; Kinesiology & Nutrition: James Galloway; Music: Douglas Rust; Performing and Visual Arts: Janet Gorzegno; Math and Natural Sciences: Emileigh McCardle (returning senator); Matt Donahue.

### **Approval of the Minutes (PREVIOUS MONTH)**

The April 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

## **4.0 Program**

### **4.1 Erica Kennedy, Associate Vice President for Research**

Dr. Kennedy has over 20 years of experience in research administration at a variety of R1, academic medical centers, and large international institutions. Her passion in research administration is the integral role it plays in faculty development and supporting faculty and students in progressing their research agendas. She will oversee ORA and engage with faculty success and development.

*Senators ask if Dr. Kennedy will also help students. She affirms that she will support students, particularly in the case of helping students apply for pre-doc and postdoc fellowships as well as nationally competitive programs.*

### **4.2 Election of Officers**

President-Elect:

Emileigh McCardle is nominated for President-Elect and accepts nomination.

Matt Donahue is nominated for President-Elect and accepts nomination.

A vote is taken, and Emileigh McCardle will become the next President-Elect.

Secretary-Elect:

Lennie Troughton is nominated for Secretary-Elect and accepts nomination.

A vote is taken, and Lennie Troughton will become the next Secretary-Elect.

## **5.0 Officer Reports**

### **5.1 President**

On April 10, 2024, UFSAM met virtually to discuss ongoing issues for IHL institutions including Parental Leave and Faculty Salaries. Based on the response to the Parental Leave Resolution supported by all IHL institutions by Commissioner Rankins, essentially stating “we aren’t the people you should be talking to,” the decision was made to work through our institutional legislative liaisons to pursue this at the state level. This was brought up with President Paul who supports us working with Chad Driskell toward this end, and similar support has been echoed at Ole Miss and MSU. On the issue of Faculty Salaries, the decision was made to create an ad hoc committee to draft a resolution from UFSAM.

On April 12, you should have all received via email an update regarding the Center for Child Development based on conversations with the Provost regarding faculty concerns. The meat of the message is that the CCD functions as a lab school to provide field experiences for students enrolled in Child and Family Sciences. This program shifted online on 2016 and there are no longer enough student teachers available to maintain staffing levels to keep the program accredited. Provost Nail and Dean Gould will meet with concerned faculty if wanted. The Executive Committee met with President Paul on Thursday, April 23. In addition to the UFSAM parental leave policy, the primary topic of discussion was the continued need for faculty salary increases. The EC reinforced that with growing enrollment and retention plus the efforts of the provost to balance the budget and reclaim funds that salary increase needs to be a priority. President Paul stated that faculty pay is a priority. This issue also hinges upon state allocations. The legislature decided on allocations on Monday, but this is not yet public. Lastly, when discussing restructuring at the administrative level as discussed in the Provost’s spring message, the EC reinforced the need for faculty to be involved in plans for how faculty oriented areas, such as student success, will be organized.

I attended the April 30th Senior Leadership meeting. Dr. Brian Cuevas from the Office of Innovation Management presented on the NSF funded Accelerating Research Translation (ART) initiative at USM to support market driven innovation in addition to traditional research.

<https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/accelerating-research-translation-art>

Dr. Kristi Motter presented an enrollment update noting that housing applications and orientation reservations continue to be higher than in Spring 2023. Troublingly, there remain issues for enrollment of returning students. Roughly 1750 current students have yet to register for the Fall 2024 semester. Please encourage your fellow faculty members to reach out to students to ensure they are enrolled for the fall.

In follow up to the Secondary Education BS proposal, the issue continues to be tabled while the process of shared governance is playing out between impacted groups in CAS and CEHS. This has been a productive year for the Faculty Senate, and we have seen many long-term goals come to fruition. Significantly, our proposal for a Faculty Ombuds was accepted and I am happy to report that an ombuds has been selected and will be announced soon. Results and recommendations from the senate survey of Vision 2020 administered in Spring 2023 was delivered to the President and Provost and has already had a positive impact most notably in the decision to dissolve the school of coastal resilience and for faculty to return to their home disciplines. I urge senators to continue advocacy to ensure a smooth transition for faculty. We also have several goals still in progress including the need for fair pay at USM. The Senate has worked together with the AAUP and the UCW toward this end. Our administration and the IHL recognize how far behind we are our peer institutions, and with continued advocacy this is achievable. Workload and revisiting school documents are also ongoing issues that support the needs of the faculty as expressed in the Vision 2020 survey that will continue into the next academic year.

A meaningful accomplishment of the senate this year has been the promotion of shared governance across the institution. Through recommendations and resolutions, we have reinforced the role of the faculty in university decision making. This is particularly significant in curricular

decisions including the development of new programs and the designation of existing programs. Faculty should have primary responsibility when it comes to curriculum and should be consulted in decisions impacting the university as a whole.

Lastly, I wish to thank all Senators for their work this year to represent the concerns of your faculty and to craft the solutions proposed to the administration. I also thank the committee chairs because it is in the committees that most of the work is done. I also want to profusely thank the Executive Committee for their unwavering commitment to our university. With a strong relationship with the administration and with a talented executive committee taking charge, I rest assured that the senate will continue to improve the welfare of our faculty for the benefit of our students and the University. It has been my privilege and honor to serve as Faculty Senate President this year.

## 5.2 President-Elect

*For next year, Dr. Bernstein recommends having meetings that last maximum of 2-2.5 hours by restricting speaking times. He recommends having 2 meetings per term in person with hybrid options for those who need it. He requests having all materials 48 hours in advance of meetings. He would like to have all action items and voting at the beginning of the meeting and move guest speakers and committee reports to later in the meeting.*

1) Faculty salaries update. Please find attached new data, which is attached in a spreadsheet and available here

([https://smtttmy.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/w10045921\\_usm\\_edu/EWTZlbiIAFFPpFheCjP3ggBIO4\\_pybVZBgktLQRI0VfuA?e=gjjQpK](https://smtttmy.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/w10045921_usm_edu/EWTZlbiIAFFPpFheCjP3ggBIO4_pybVZBgktLQRI0VfuA?e=gjjQpK)) based on, among other sources, the latest AAUP salary survey data from peer institutions and USM. The FSEC and AAUP head Jeremy Scott shared these findings with the President, the Provost, and the President's Chief of Staff on Apr. 25 at the dome. As the data explains, after adjusting for cost-of-living differences across metropolitan areas, USM's faculty salaries lag behind those of its peers. To achieve parity with the average cost-of-living-adjusted salaries of its peer institutions, USM would need to increase salaries by \$17,000 (15.3%) for Professors, \$9,200 (10.3%) for Associate Professors, \$8,700 (10.9%) for Assistant Professors, \$7,700 (11.5%) for Instructors, and \$9,600 (14.7%) for Lecturers. Overall, USM faculty salaries across all ranks would need to increase by about \$8,100 (9.3%) on average in cost-of-living adjusted terms to match the mean of its peer group. Please note that the peer institutions cited here are primarily R2's, whereas USM is an R1, meaning that USM's salary disparities are even more pronounced when compared with institutions in its Carnegie classification. Despite these disparities in compensation, USM's first-time, full-time retention rate (70%) is comparable to the peer average (73.3%), and its 6-year graduation rate (52%) slightly surpasses the peer average (51.5%). These figures suggest that USM is effectively serving its students and providing a quality educational experience. Furthermore, USM's Student:Faculty ratio (19.9) is comparable to the peer average (20.6), indicating that USM faculty maintain a teaching load similar to their peers. USM's R&D expenditures (\$72M) are also on par with the peer average (\$73M), demonstrating that USM faculty are maintaining a high level of research activity and grant funding. The data suggests that lower enrollment and cost of living differences at USM should not prevent faculty salary increases, as USM faculty are maintaining productivity and performance comparable to their peers despite these challenges. At the FSEC meeting, President Paul and Provost Nail thanked us for the data and said it was helpful. They also stressed that investing in faculty was a priority for the university. I noted that I understood but that faculty need to be paid fairly and in keeping with peer norms, and that doing so directly benefits students through enhanced learning experiences, mentorship, and research opportunities while bolstering efficiency and reducing faculty turnover. We also reminded the leadership that with inflation at current levels, faculty expect to take another effective 3% this year, and this is coming off prior years of repeated and often higher effective cuts in most cases. I noted that other IHL universities have reportedly raised faculty salaries and that Mississippi State reportedly gave merit-based raises to faculty for at least the last two years. Finally, I emphasized that fair pay cannot be conditioned on university enrollment, since that is outside the direct control of faculty. At the meeting, FS President Courts asked the President if allocations were given to the university

last year for faculty salary adjustments, and if so, where those allocations went. My understanding of the conversation is that the President said those allocations were intended for USM faculty salary adjustments but instead went towards “balancing the university’s books,” or something to that effect. I reminded our leadership that faculty salaries remain the top priority of the Senate and that the faculty need good news on this front, as morale issues and a perception of being underpaid are widely held among faculty, as well as staff, GA’s, and other employees.

2) Legislative update on PERS allocations. According to Mississippi Today, USM and other state agencies and universities will not be on the hook for a large, required contribution this coming year, as was previously feared. The article explains that there will be “a 2.5% increase over five years — a .5% increase in the employer contribution rate each year for five years.” Please note that the feared increase in PERS contributions from USM (I believe on the order of \$2M to \$3M) was previously cited by USM leadership as a main obstacle towards salary adjustments and as a rationale for the effective reduction in GA lines at USM, among other reported cost-saving measures. This was one reason the FSEC and AAUP head requested a meeting with local legislators this spring and articulated the concerns with increased PERS costs for USM. Recall that at a prior FSEC meeting this spring, I asked the President and Provost if savings from PERS expenditures could be redirected towards faculty salaries if those expenditures were not required. Although my understanding at the time was that the answer was yes, it has since been communicated to FS President Courts that my understanding was incorrect and that no promises were made.

3) Campus childcare closing. About five faculty members have contacted me to express concern about the closing of the CCD and likely impact on faculty and students. A petition ([https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-closure-of-usm-s-child-development-center?recruiter=7468261&recruited\\_by\\_id=e0c92840-8da0-0130-df5d-3c764e049c4f&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_campaign=petition\\_dashboard&utm\\_medium=copylink](https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-closure-of-usm-s-child-development-center?recruiter=7468261&recruited_by_id=e0c92840-8da0-0130-df5d-3c764e049c4f&utm_source=share_petition&utm_campaign=petition_dashboard&utm_medium=copylink)) has garnered 554 signatures as of May 2, 2024 and includes comments from students and alumni. Please note that I myself was not involved in writing the petition and did not become aware of it until after it was published. One faculty member expressed concern to me about inaccuracies in the petition, although, after seeking clarification, I have not learned of any inaccuracies in it. I would welcome any additional information on this matter. Please also note that the petition has not been endorsed by Faculty Senate, nor would it be without proper consultation of the Senate and a vote.

4) Parental leave and UFSAM update. At the dome meeting, the FSEC updated President Paul and Provost Nail on statewide efforts to draft legislation for parental leave, in accordance with peer practices. I also noted that the Chancellor of Ole Miss has reportedly indicated interest in that effort, and that the President of Mississippi State has reportedly indicated openness if he can meet with other IHL leaders on the topic. I am working with the task force on parental leave at UFSAM to draft a petition to distribute statewide encouraging the legislature to enact legislation on parental leave. We hope to publish it this spring and request help in promoting it. I’d welcome any input or feedback on this matter and would note that this effort is on behalf of UFSAM and with the approval of that body. The UFSAM is also working on a statewide salary campaign, for which an ad hoc committee will be assembled. Anyone interested in participating in that is encouraged to contact me.

5) Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is in the final stages of writing and will be shared with the President this month. My understanding is that it will become available for the USM community to read. Thus far, my impression is that the effort has been collaborative, effective, and in keeping with the norms of shared governance.

6) Ombud issue. I have learned that the ombud selection committee is reportedly working with the administration to soon finalize the appointment of an ombud. If this is correct, it is an important and positive development, and I am grateful to the administration and those who have worked on the issue.

7) Reorg survey. The FSEC presented the final report to the university’s leadership at the dome meeting. We discussed the findings and recommendations, and the leadership appeared receptive to our concerns and recommendations. More details will follow. One issue that arose within the

Governance Committee and later FSEC was the question of whether the full report, which was shared with the Provost and President, should be shared with the full Faculty Senate and whether doing so could violate principles of data integrity or commitments made to survey-takers. In consultation with others, FS Pres. Courts has shared with the Faculty Senate a redacted version of the report that omits about seven representative quotations from the report and about ten data points related to how faculty and other respondents perceived the effects of Vision 2020.

8) Shared governance. At the dome meeting, and in reference to the prior resolution on consultative process, the FSEC had a constructive discussion with the university leadership about shared governance. We emphasized the importance of upholding current policies related to shared governance and ensuring that the faculty are meaningfully consulted in advance on decisions that significantly impact faculty and learning, as outlined in the UFH, SACSCOC guidelines, and other documents. I noted, for example, that while some faculty and students at the university had expressed concerns to me that week over the reported new Eagle Dining policy that will automatically charge an added fee to resident undergraduates on the Hattiesburg campus starting this fall (with unused amounts reportedly not carrying over to the next term), that kind of issue didn't strike me as the purview of Faculty Senate and was best left to other bodies for consultation. I did note, however, that using Coursera, for example, to supplement or replace existing courses at USM, if that were to happen, would be a matter requiring shared governance and advanced faculty consultation. The President and Provost seemed receptive and agreeable on these matters, and I believe they are committed to upholding shared governance.

9) Staff Council update. The Staff Council leadership will hold regular meetings with the President starting in the fall, which is a welcome and important development. We appreciate the leadership's desire to collaborate with staff and address their concerns while boosting transparency and communication.

### **5.3 Secretary**

USM's Committee on Services and Resources for Women is also receiving communication from many faculty about the situation with the CCD, and CSRW has a plan to host a conversation with concerned faculty and students, and for anyone who is interested, I will let you know the date and location of that meeting as soon as it is set.

During the FSEC's meeting with President Paul and Provost Nail on April 23, the president mentioned appreciation for Faculty Senate and especially for the work that the Finance Committee has been doing this year in meeting with Alyson Easterwood. Thank you to Fan and everyone on the Finance Committee.

### **5.4 Secretary-Elect**

No report.

## **7.0 Standing Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Academics**

The Academics Committee discussed the following in our last meeting:

- After the feedback from the Council of Directors meeting, the committee recommends the following be addressed even if the Workload proposal and proposed pilot is not moving forward:
  - Add an additional option to the annual evaluation process after the Director submits their recommendation where faculty can choose to accept the recommendation as well as send to the Dean, but still ask to meet with the Director. This should not require the annual evaluation process to be delayed as it could still be sent on to the Dean, but the Director could be notified that the faculty member wants to meet with them about next steps and the upcoming year for goals and workload purposes.
  - Allow directors the option to enter a statement/paragraph in the workload link in Watermark Faculty Success. Potentially use this information and data on current

practices to inform a future workload policy. Consider letting that be the pilot instead of the former proposal with percentages for now.

- After the Academics Committee meeting, Dr. Masterson notified the committee chair that the Provost is leaning more towards schools updating their school documents as part of addressing workload conversations.

## **7.2 Administrative Evaluation**

The data from Administrative Evaluation surveys has been collected and analyzed. The committee intends to begin sending out information over the weekend. This year has been particularly busy for the committee as they essentially went through this process twice in one year, but hopefully this work will result in the process running smoother in future years. Dr. Spuhler thanks the members of the committee for their work this year.

## **7.3 Awards**

Awards day held today celebrating faculty success and excellence. Thank you to the committee who made this possible.

## **7.4 Bylaws**

Thank you to Dr. Courts for bringing Faculty Senate to the Coast this year. Next year will be busy for Bylaws because as more senators will need to be elected, we need to evaluate the best path forward for elections as well as updating lists of standing committees. Dr. Shaw looks forward to collaborating with Elections Committee and FSEC to ensure elections for senate are managed with integrity and efficiency.

*Senator expresses that the bylaws need to be amended to note that new senators do not begin in the June meeting as we often do not have a June meeting.*

## **7.5 Elections**

Elections for the next group of senators serving from Fall 2024 through Spring 2027 was completed. The following are the new senators:

Professional Nursing Practice: Maria Brown

Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences: Sabrina Bryant

Education: Thomas O'Brien

Finance: Jamie Nicole Gavin

Kinesiology & Nutrition: James Galloway

Music: Douglas Rust

Performing and Visual Arts: Janet Gorzegno

Math and Natural Sciences: Emileigh McCardle; Matt Donahue

The Elections Committee will update the membership spreadsheet prior to the end of the semester for use in AY24-25.

## **7.6 Faculty Handbook Advisory**

In the UFHC meeting, a change in terminology was adopted so that the role of "Historian" will again be referred to as "Secretary." Dr. Scott mentions a vote was conducted on the question of changing policy for what faculty are eligible to serve on UFHC. Membership on the committee will remain available to any tenure or teaching track faculty who have been at USM for 3 years. Additionally, a change was made to the procedure for replacing vacancies on the committees. Previously in the case of a vacancy, a new member was appointed by the chair of unit, but now that position will be elected by the unit. The committee has now outlined a process for how items get into the faculty handbook, including ways that an individual faculty member can suggest a change to the handbook. In that UFHC meeting, there was not an opportunity to vote on the proposals that the senate had voted on in the last meeting. It is likely that three additional proposals dealing with university libraries will be presented in the next UFHC meeting including UL voting in a pro tempore director to serve on committees.

New members were elected to UFHC:

Mac Alford for CAS

Melissa Brooks for UL

Lisa Morgan for CNHP

## **7.7 Faculty Welfare and Success**

No report.

## **7.8 Finance**

The committee met with USM Vice President for Finance and Administration (VPFA) Ms. Allyson Easterwood in her office from 1 pm to 2 pm on April 29, 2024. In the meeting, Allyson gave an update regarding State appropriations for 2025. The amount of appropriation has not been decided, and we are probably going to hear from the legislation next week. Allyson will keep us updated regarding the appropriation amount. Here is the list of topics we discussed in the meeting.

1. PERS. As we know there will be a 2% increase in PERS contributions to cover the shortage of supply in money going into PERS (fewer state employees who pay into PERS) and the increased amount going out of PERS to be paid to retirees. Who is going to cover that 2% increase is still under discussion. It could be the state paying a lump sum to PERS, or the state giving employers additional funds to cover it, or asking employers to find their own ways to cover it.
2. Capital expenditure. Last year, USM got 5.4 million from the state for capital expenditure (aside from appropriation). This fund is used for facility systems improvement, like elevators, boils, chillers, electrical systems, etc. For previous years, we got about 2 million. Hopefully, we will get a large amount for 2025.
3. Life science research building. We need about 100 million dollars to build the new life science building. The state gives us a certain amount of legislation bond every year and we save it for the new building. So far, we have about 50 million. It is going to take a few more years until we have enough money for this project.
4. Insurance for facilities. The premium for insurance is increasing every year and to be able to pay the premium, our deductible is 1 million dollars. So if something happens to our campus, we need to pay for the 1 million before the insurance starts paying.
5. New playground next to the Children's Center for Communication and Development. 1.5 million private funds have been donated to build a new playground next to Children's Center for Communication and Development. This is not from USM budget.
6. Net Tuition Revenue. USM net tuition revenue (NTR) has been decreasing for the past three years (see Figure 1). Our enrollment numbers have been dropping, but we increased the tuition rate, so the total amount of tuition revenue seems level for the past years. However, we pay more for student scholarships and GA tuition waivers, so even with the increase in state appropriation, our net tuition revenue is decreasing. We need to increase enrollment and have better student retention to battle this.



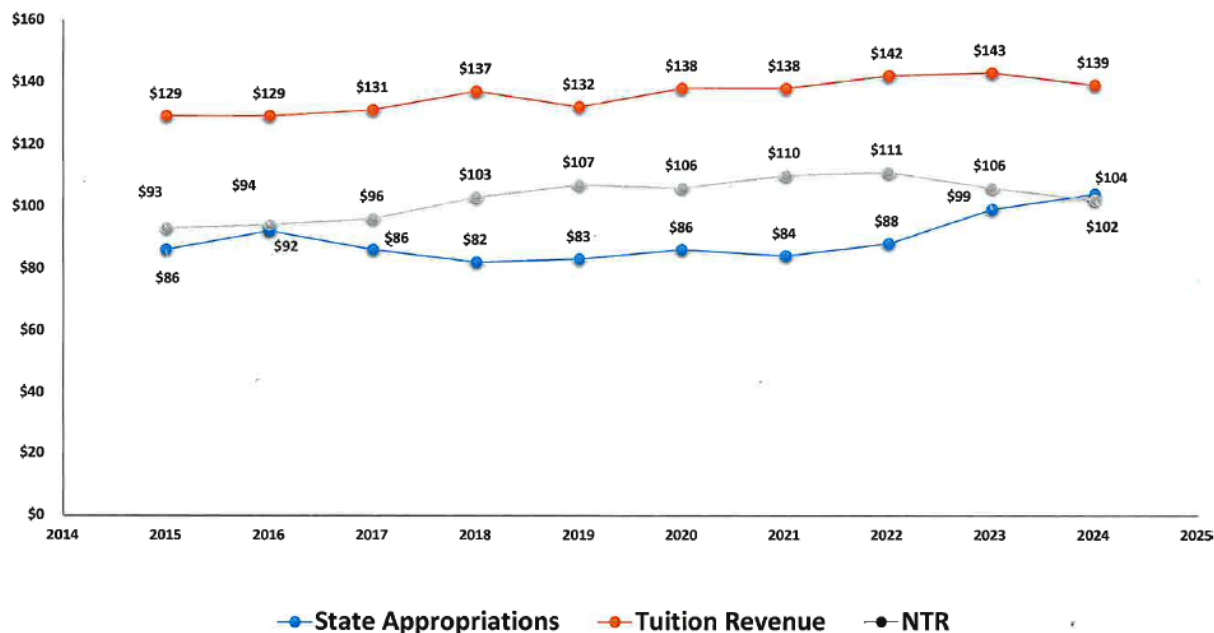


Figure 1: USM NTR Trend

*A senator thanks Dr. Zhang for the meticulousness of her reports and her way of making sense of the data.*

## 7.9 Governance

The Governance Committee discussed the following in our last meeting:

- The Governance Committee approved recommendations to be sent to the President and Provost from the Vision 2020 survey in conjunction with the Executive Committee.
- A committee member suggested the addition of a Grievance Committee to be added to the list of Faculty Senate committees. While an Ombuds position will begin in the fall, it might be worth the Senate considering this addition to support the Ombuds in certain situations.

*Senator asks if a situation being discussed in the chat can be addressed through the Grievance Committee. Dr. Courts recommends that this situation may be best addressed in conversation with the Ombudsperson. Prof. McCardle recommends that people start by talking to the Ombudsperson and that the Grievance Committee could be a support for the Ombudsperson in certain situations.*

## 7.10 Gulf Coast

The committee is working on a resolution for the University Design and Space Planning Committee. There is representation from Gulf Coast on the Design committee, but there are no provisions that make such participation by Gulf Coast representatives mandatory. Their resolution requests that a permanent provision be made for someone from the Gulf Coast Faculty Council to be part of that committee. The committee also has questions about representation on GCFC since the dissolution of School of Coastal Resilience. Previously the structure relied on representation from the College of Arts and Sciences, so the committee is meeting with Jennifer Walker (Associate Dean, CAS) to see if that is a possible structure for approaching representation now. Prof. Mistretta asks about representation on Faculty Senate when a senator's school has been dissolved. Dr. Courts acknowledges that senators will finish out the term that they were elected for. Dr. Courts also encourages the Bylaws, Elections, and Executive committees to work together to develop mechanisms for ensuring adequate representation of GC faculty on Faculty Senate. Although the School of Coastal Resilience will no longer exist, we do need to ensure that

we have a representative balance between GC faculty and Hattiesburg faculty on the senate. Prof. Mistretta recognizes that faculty on the coast have a specific identity and different concerns than faculty in Hattiesburg and recommends that there be a method for maintaining a significant number of coast faculty to represent concerns that are unique to that campus.

*A senator asks if GC faculty are happy about the dissolving of the School of Coastal Resilience. Prof. Mistretta responds that many faculty are not happy with dissolving the school but were not satisfied with the school in the form it existed either. Although it was a good idea to have a school that brought these disciplines together, difficulties with promotion of the school and the programs within the school prevented it from being successful. Prof. Mistretta believes if the promotion of programs can be addressed adequately, these programs will have increased enrollment. A senator asks if they have been able to give feedback to administration on these issues. Prof. Mistretta says they have reached out to give feedback, but they don't feel that shared governance exists in this situation.*

### **7.11 University Relations and Communications**

Although they will not conduct the survey this semester, Dr. Shin requests voting on the survey at today's meeting and invites questions and suggestions. A senator suggests a grammatical rephrasing. A senator expresses concern that the survey is more focused on/applicable to Hattiesburg campus, which may reduce the willingness of faculty on the Coast to participate. Dr. Courts recommends tabling this survey and allowing GC faculty/committee to review the survey and then vote on it in September. A senator mentions that media outlets described in the survey specifically refer to Hattiesburg. Dr. Shin will make modifications to the survey and send to senators for review and recommendations in the next week in preparation for voting during first meeting in September.

### **7.12 University Welfare and Environment**

On Friday, April 19, Fan Zhang, Leah McSorley, Director of International Student & Scholar Services, and Petra Marlin, Director of International Recruitment and I met for one hour to discuss issues with recruiting international students and some of their problems when they get here. Their needs were two-fold: to prepare an informational flyer for faculty who seek to attract international students, and a flyer for international students. Of particular concern are foreign students with families. Many of the married foreign students do not understand the cost of bringing a family to USM, especially with the closing of USM's daycare facility. It appears that many married foreign students want to bring their families to Hattiesburg but are unaware of how much it costs. It is also stressful for them to come here and try to find a job. Other costs facing international students with dependents are food, insurance, diapers, etc. They also cannot take advantage of federal assistance programs such as TRIO programs (which assists students from disadvantaged backgrounds—not for international students) and the Handshake program at USM (until they arrive here).

As part of these discussions, we realized that it would be good to include Dr. Sirena Cantrell, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. Therefore, the next Friday, April 26, I met with Leah McSorley, Petra Marlin, Dean Cantrell, and Amy Linden, Director of Study Abroad at USM. They reiterated the need for an information flyer for both faculty and students that includes lists of daycare facilities, in-home providers, any religious affiliations of these facilities, school districts and other information for students with families. There are about 40-50 international families at USM. They suggested perhaps starting a student support group for students with families. As the daycare facility at USM will not be accepting new children and other daycare facilities may be too far to walk every day, there will probably be a need for parents to purchase a car, about which they may know nothing. It was suggested that it would be good to have an insurance agent talk to the students at orientation, particularly in regard to things to look for when purchasing a used car. It was also an inquiry of the possibility of funding a new position to facilitate working with students with families.

Sirena Cantrell noted that her office has a myriad of tasks, from verifying excuses, to dealing with student conduct, overseeing the Moffitt Center, oversee SAS, meal plans, food pantry and many more. She said they plan to offer exemptions on the \$300 meal plan for some students, for example, students who are studying abroad and will not be here the entire semester. These efforts will continue to evolve this summer and many of them will be ready to go by the fall semester.

*A senator expresses concern about the \$300 that will be charged to student accounts and clarifies that it may not be a university decision but came from Aramark. Dr. Courts mentions that which students are impacted and if they get the money back is determined differently at different universities. For example, at MS State students will receive the money back at the end of the Spring semester, but at USM they will not. Dr. Puckett states that in his meeting with Dean Cantrell, she mentioned they are working on a series of exemptions as well (e.g. students studying online or abroad).*

#### 8.0 Outside Committee Reports

None.

#### 9.0 Reports from Other University Advisory Bodies

None.

#### 10.0 Consent Items

None.

#### 11.0 Unfinished Business

None.

#### 12.0 New Business

None.

#### 13.0 Good of the Order

Dr. Press welcomes the new faculty senators. Prof. McCardle thanks all outgoing senators for their service.

#### 14.0 Announcements

Dr. Scott announces that AAUP will host a gathering on Monday, May 6, 5:00 p.m. at the Keg & Barrell.

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made. The motion was seconded. The motion passed by a majority of the Faculty Senate. If needed, FSEC will contact you about a June meeting.