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Faculty Senate Minutes - February 20, 2004

USM Faculty Senate

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Members Present and Those Represented by Proxy (listed in parentheses):

College of the Arts and Letters:
Amy Miller, Phillip Gentile, Kate Greene, Stephen Judd, Tony Lewis, John Meyer, Bill Powell, Bill Scarborough, Paula Smithka (Kathy Davis), Mary Ann Stringer, Susan Malone

College of Business and International Development:
James Crockett, David Duhon, Trellis Green, Mark Miller (Amy Miller)

College of Education and Psychology:
Taralyn Hartsell, Janet Nelson, Jay Norton, Joe Olmi, John Rachal, Janice Thompson

College of Health:
Joyous Bethel (Mary Frances Nettles), Margot Hall (Amal Khoury), Bonnie Harbaugh (Kathleen Masters), Susan Hubble, Amal Khoury, Kathleen Masters, Stephen Oshrin, Mary Frances Nettles

College of Science and Technology:
David Beckett, Randy Buchanan, Peter Butko, Ray Folse, Mary Dayne Gregg, Myron Henry, Jerry Mattson (Alan Thompson), Gail Russell, Alan Thompson, Denis Wiesenburg

University Libraries:
1.0 Call to Order (2:04)

2.0 Moment of silence in memory of Past Faculty Senate President and colleague Jesse Palmer

3.0 Approval of January 2004 minutes (moved/seconded/approved)

4.0 Approval of Agenda (moved/seconded/approved)

5.0 Officers’ Reports

5.1 President

5.1.1 Request for 2003 and 2004 raise list (FS Web page): Myron reported on the request of the raise list (faculty and administrators) from the Administration. The request was made to ensure that appropriate governance procedures were followed within departments across campus.

5.1.2 Faculty Handbook Transmission Letter (FS Web page): Myron referred to the transmission letter on the Web page regarding the Faculty Handbook in requesting a meeting with the President. John Rachal brought up the issue of the 4th category and clarification on that issue. He further brought up the issue of whether there was a difference between contracts and research grants and whether both fell under the heading of “Economic Development.”

5.1.3 FAR Preface and FAR Committee Report from Senate appointees: (To be addressed under Ad Hoc Committee reports).

5.1.4 Economic Development Language on appointment letters: (covered in previous discussion in 5.1.2.)
5.1.5  FS Web page manager: (Addressed under new business; Mary Beth Applin)

6.0  Closed Session (Faculty Senators and Invited Guest Only)

6.1  Senate voted to enter closed session for discussion of “personnel matters or other sensitive issues.” (moved/seconded/approved)

Based on information offered during discussion in the closed session and after coming out of closed session, the Faculty Senate moved/seconded/passed (37-3-1) a motion to formulate a special purpose committee of five people to further investigate whether Dr. Dvorak was a tenured professor in English AT the University of Kentucky in Lexington while President of Ashland Community College in Ashland, KY. Additionally, the special purpose committee is charged with investigating the process related to assuring appropriate qualifications of persons hired at USM, especially at the administrative level. Another motion was made/seconded/passed to respond to the Sound Governance Survey of the American Association of University Professors. The remainder of the time was spent with Senators responding to the Survey.

7.0  Committee Reports

7.1  Academic and Governance: Steve Oshrin offered a resolution addressing future activities with regard to the hiring of administrators (refer to the proposal offered by Steve on the part of the Committee). The resolution will be voted on at the March meeting in accordance with Senate Constitutional guidelines.

7.2  Administration and Faculty Evaluations: Ray Folse reported on the completed evaluation process. Data provided by the Committee included the following: number of those evaluating the President (371); number evaluating Provost Hudson (292); number evaluating Provost Grimes (98); number of evaluations of the Deans (370); number of evaluations of Department Chairs (368); number of departments participating (42); and number of departments who did not participate (2). Concern was voiced that the Coast campus was not allowed to participate in the evaluation at this time and would not be allowed to do so until March.

7.3  Awards: Tony Lewis reported that the Committee met yesterday regarding the Faculty Excellence (4 teaching, 2 service [professional service and service to university], 1 librarian) and Grand Marshall awards. The Committee suggested two additional awards including Faculty Mentor and Junior Faculty Award; they would not be given this year, but would begin next year. Also added that one could nominate themselves; nominations due March 10; dossiers in by April 5th; Awards Luncheon on April 27th. Notification will be forthcoming. The point was also made that the current Awards Committee process put into place by the Administration is a one-year only process.

7.4  Budget: Mark referred to the letter requesting information from the Provost related to organizational chart and present salaries (monetary and nonmonetary compensation) of everyone in the organizational chart. The letter will come from the Senate. Senate moved/seconded/passed unanimously to forward this letter to the Administration requesting the information. Further report will be made at the March regular meeting.

7.5  Constitution and Bylaws:
7.5.1 Reapportionment of Senate: deferred to Peter Butko of the Elections Committee; Darlys Alford offered the listing of all benefits-eligible faculty members on both the Hattiesburg and Long Beach campuses. Darlys and Peter offered recommended changes. Motion made/seconded/passed to have a special meeting the Friday before Spring Break (March 12th) to address issues associated with reapportionment, elections and constitution/bylaws issues.

7.6 **Faculty Welfare:** John Meyer reported that we (USM) are in the bottom 9% nationally of pay scale in part time adjunct faculty pay. Other information will be forthcoming. Also reported on the campus mediation program in place at the University.

7.7 **Government Relations:**

7.7.1 Report and List of Representatives/Senators (addresses/contact numbers): Pat reported that one could go to the Mississippi Legislative web site for contact information on legislators. Reported grim forecast regarding the budget as related to education.

7.8 **Technology:** (no report)

7.9 **Elections:**

7.9.1 Reapportionment and Upcoming Elections: Peter recommended that we stay with the current ratio; 1 Senator to each 15 faculty members per college. Myron brought up the issue of designating senators from the Coast campus as opposed to including them in the Hattiesburg campus departments.

7.10 **Ad hoc committee reports and liaison reports (AAUP and others):** no comments from Bill regarding AAUP other than the establishment of a legal defense fund; regarding Transportation Committee, there will be several construction projects that will adversely affect parking. Additionally, he reported that other universities were surveyed regarding cost of parking on campuses, and we are doing well (low parking fees).

8.0 **New Business**

8.1 Selection of a FS Web page manager: Mary Beth Applin selected by acclamation.

8.2 Endorsement of NCAA request: action deferred till Friday meeting before Spring Break (March 12th)

8.3 Resolution offered by Steve Oshrin’s Academic and Governance Committee introduced. Will be taken up at the March 26th regular meeting.

8.4 FAR report by Steven Judd indicating that he had contacted the members of the committee to generate a report. The administration members of the committee indicated no need to generate a report (two did not respond; 1 indicated no); the faculty members selected by the Senate indicated a need to do so (generate a report). The faculty members of the Committee are in the process of composing that report, and it will be disseminated at the regular March meeting.
Adjournment 4:51