



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

Plenary Session

January 18, 2023 –Zoom 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Faculty and Guests

- Adams, Jamie
- Amare, Nicole
- Arif, Delaware
- Batten, Lynn, excused
- Black, Michael
- Borchert, Glen
- Brannan, Lauren
- Brock, Casey
- Bunch, Jaclyn
- Copeland-Streeter, Donna
- Cooke, Kathy
- Curtis, Missy
- Davidson, Clay
- Donaldson, Amanda
- Getch, Yvette
- Godang, Romulus
- Holden, Shelley, excused
- Huang, Jingshan, excused
- Jahnke, Karl
- Kersey, Jeremy
- Khan, Zoya
- Lynch, Colleen
- Manders, Jenny
- Marri, Preethi
- Migaud, Marie
- Meola, David
- Min, Hosik
- Myers, Charlene
- Ní Chadhain, Sinéad
- Pavelescu, Andrei
- Raczkowski, Chris
- Rich, Tom
- Richardson, Joe
- Sayner, Sarah
- Shaw, Christy

- Shaw, Thomas
 - Shepard, Beth
 - Swanzy, Debra
 - Thompson, Christina
 - Thompson, Tara
 - Turnipseed, David
 - Vandewaa, Elizabeth
 - Vandewaa, Arie
 - Walker, Sean
 - Wassenaar, Christina
 - Webb, Bret
 - Weber, David
 - Woodmansee, Brenda
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- Meeting called to order 3:02 pm
 - Approval of the amended Minutes for 11/16/22 Meeting: Approved
 - Approval of Agenda for 1/18/23 Meeting: Approved
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- **President's Report:** President's report attached below: (The report was sent out prior to the meeting for review and discussion of the President's report held during FS Plenary Meeting.)
 - **Administrative Searches:**
 - The Provost has informed the Executive Committee that she will make offers to the three Dean candidates (Allied Health, Honors College, and School of Computing) by this month. The administration is expecting that all of the three deans would join by the middle of March. The search for the Deans of the College of Business and College of Education will start within weeks. The search process for AVP of Enrollment has started and the search firm interviewed the stakeholders to finalize their job descriptions.
 - **SACSCOC Accreditation:**
 - The university is finishing its focused report with a response to the three non-compliant standards (Student Achievement, Program Length, and Federal and State Responsibilities). The SACSCOC team will visit campus during the third week of March and the admin will inform the campus community about the details by the end of January.
 - **Building Updates**
 - The new COM building will be built at the current location of Alpha Hall and the current departments/offices located in the Alpha Hall will be moved to the University Commons Area. Moving dates for all departments are July 10. The property will be moved to the old transportation facility temporarily.

- **Salary Survey**
 - The Provost Office will request Gordon to pull out some data of R1 institutions from the last faculty salary survey and report back to the senate. NTT faculty were included in the last salary survey, but the instructors were not included. The admin informed us that the instructors need to contact the chairs/deans to get more information about their salaries.
- **Elections:**
 - The elections for the new Senators will be held in the coming weeks and the respective caucus leaders will inform the constituents and hold elections soon. The elections for the officers and Executive Committee members will be held during our April plenary meeting.
- **Reports from Senate Committees:**
 - **Salary & Benefits Committee**
 - Dr. Vandewaa reported that the FS excom met with admin about salaries. Admin reported that the last salary survey included NTT faculty but did not include instructor salaries. Dr. Vandewaa reported that the salary survey did not include NTT faculty and the excom will keep pushing for admin to do a salary survey of pier institutions for NTT faculty and instructor faculty salaries.
 - She reported that excom will push for base salaries to be above the average living wage in Alabama.
 - Discussions took place related to a DEI issue related to the salary disparity/inequity and the ability of instructors not feeling comfortable going to their department chairs to ask about their salaries as recommended by the admin. There were also discussions about R1 salary comparisons.
 - **Handbook Committee/Teaching, Learning, and Technology Committee**
 - Jamie Adams reported that the committee took the feedback from the FS and sent a letter with the recommendations to the co-chairs of the original committee that wrote the initial report. He reports that he is still awaiting a response from the letter that was sent.
 - **Faculty Handbook Committee**
 - No report.
 - Policies that were voted on from last month to return to CAD (Chair Review policy) or forwarded to the Academic Affairs Policy Committee (ombudsperson policy) as indicated by the voting results.
 - **Deans Searches**
 - Three dean searches were completed before the holiday break. The goal was to get some of the interim dean positions filled before the SACSOC visit. The provost has the search committee data, data from Qualltrix, and reports from the FS excom committee to review before the deans are selected.

- In addition, the official search for the AVP of enrollment services has begun and the goal is to bring candidates to campus by March. Next month the process will begin for the search for the Dean of MCOB.
- **By-Laws-No report**
- **Reports from Caucus Leaders:**
 - No caucus reports.
 - Allied Health report is that there is an ongoing Dean search. Three candidates have been selected for interviews, two have already been interviewed and one more will be added as one dropped out.
- **Reports from University Committees:**
 - None
- **New Business:**
 - **Guest Speaker: Philip Fishel Interim Chief of Police**
 - **Mr. Fishel** reported on active shooter with three areas of focus:
 - Avoidance, readiness, & respond.
 - He reviewed the run-hide-fight if shots are fired
 - Signage has been placed in all buildings and he recommended that faculty review it at the start of each semester
 - He discussed downloading the LiveSafe App that can be used to immediately contact help in case of an emergency.
 - There is a team that meets to assess the likelihood of an event, as well as other variables to determine hazard and vulnerability related to an event if it should occur.
 - Mr. Fishel also discussed the actions for increasing camera coverage, building access, ID cards, key access, panic buttons, phone coverage, and license plate recognition for prevention readiness.
 - Mr. Fishel discussed the response by faculty to hide by barricading the door, silencing devices, turning off lights. If faculty have to fight, use any force necessary.
 - **Other:**
 - Dr. Wassenaar asked the FS about issues with the bookstore and obtaining codes for electronic books for students in a timely manner. Other faculty recommended contacting the bookstore manager to facilitate getting the codes for students.
 - Dr. Arif reported that the FS is asking the caucus leaders to provide workload policies to the excom. The policies will be compiled and reviewed for consistency among colleges and to make recommendations for consistent practices for faculty workloads.
 - Dr. Arif also reported that the caucus leaders have been asked to hold elections for FS replacements for the upcoming academic year. Also, he asked for nominations for excom officers for the April election.

Meeting Adjournment: MMSA 4:58 pm

Minutes transcribed by Donna Copeland-Streeter