

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

Plenary Session

January 19, 2022 –Zoom 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Faculty and Guests

Adams, Jamie

Amare, Nicole

Prakash, Aishwarya
 Rayner, Jonathan
 Raczkowski, Chris

- Sayner, Sarah
- Shaw, Christy, excused
- Shaw, Thomas
- Shepard, Beth
- Spencer, Edmund
- Strickland, Jason
- Swanzy, Debra
- Thompson, Tara
- Turnipseed, David
- Vandewaa, Arie
- Vandewaa, Elizabeth
- Vrana, Laura
- Webb, Brett
- Weber, David
- Woodmansee, Brenda

- Meeting called to order 3:01 pm
- Approval of Minutes for 11/17/21 Meeting: Approved
- Approval of Agenda for 1/19/22 Meeting: Approved

- **President's Report:**

- **Presidential Transition-**

Ms. Shepard and John Cleary have met with the new president to share faculty concerns such as shared governance and having a faculty representative (FS president) as a member of the president's council, gender disparity, salary, and difference among administrative and faculty pay at the university.

Ms. Shepard also reported that they discussed concerns about the current vacancies and had an opportunity to teach him a little about faculty workload etc. The strategic plan was discussed and what benchmarks will be used to measure changes made. President Bonner asked to have an additional meeting outside of the regularly scheduled FS excomm meetings with the FS president and past president.

- **Covid Update-**

Ms. Shepard reported talking with Julie Estes and John Cleary who is a member of Covid task force to get regular updates. She reports that everyone should have received notification of large number students not being in class. Contact tracing is still going on and more resources have been added to the contact tracing team to address the backlog. There is still a significant backlog in getting notifications out to faculty.

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- μ A motion was made to suspend the rules to conduct an electronic vote taken and 39 yeas, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions.
 - μ Title IX statement was added a paragraph to the FS handbook address faculty members and sexual or romantic relationships with enrolled in their classes or with students whom they otherwise supervise. Ms. Shepard opened up the floor for discussion. A motion was made to suspend the rules to conduct an electronic vote. A poll was taken and 36 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.
- o Chair Review Policy
 - μ Dr. Spencer reported that the committee received a request to a policy to clarify the process for department chair review where a review report will only be shared with the dean and with the deans under review.
 - μ Ms. Shepard reported that the FS needs to make revisions or vote on Recommendations were made for any faculty suggestions for revisions email to the chair of the committee, Edmund Spencer to take back the committee.
- o University Planning & Development Committee Chair Nomination & Election
 - μ Ms. Shepard reports that we need to fill a position on the FS election committee and the Faculty Development & Planning Chair position as a senator stepped down. The floor was open for nominations.
 - μ Thomas Shaw, Debra Swanzy, and Sinead Chadhain were nominated. Candidates have until Friday 1/21/22 to consider accepting or declining nomination. If elected, this person will serve until the end of the year. Nominations were closed and the majority approved suspending the rules to electronically vote for or elect one of the nominees for office.
- o Critical Race Theory Legislation-
 - μ Ms. Shepard asked the senate if there were any objections to discussing "Resolution from the Faculty Senate on the Bill Before the Alabama Legislature" since it was not included on the approved agenda. Vandewaa discussed a penalty clause in the bill for any educational institutions that use divisive concepts (race, gender, sex, etc.). The FS drafted this resolution to take a stand on the legislation.
 - μ A motion was made to vote on the resolution. 33 yeas, A majority of 23 yeas, and 3 abstentions voting to approve the resolution as is. Ms. Shepard presented the resolution to the president who has 30-days to respond, according to the bylaws.
- o Letter of No Confidence to the Board of Trustees-
 - μ A letter was recommended by the FS in the November meeting regarding concerns with the process for the presidential search. A poll was conducted to consent whether the senate approves discussion on the letter.
 - μ A majority of 23 yeas, 8 nays, and 6 abstentions of FS members discussed the draft of the letter and voting will take place at the meeting on February 2, 2022, at 3:10pm.

- o Other:
 - o None

Meeting Adjournment: ~~MMSA 5m~~

Minutes transcribed by Donna Copeland