

***** PROPOSED MINUTES *****

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Approved Staff Council Minutes

January 2, 2001

Dr. Horace Fleming was the guest speaker. Higher education avoided budget cuts in October, but we will have budget cuts this semester. At this time no one knows the figure that will be cut from higher education. Dr. Fleming stated that there will be a tuition increase but does not know how much. Our position is that the Board of Trustees should appropriate funds based on the number of students and credit hours produced. We need to look at the cost per student Southern Miss would gain if funding based were on credit-hour production. We need to settle the Ayers case.

Southern Miss tuition is lower than the other two comprehensive universities. Dr. Fleming and the board members want that equalized first and then look at the budget differences. We need to keep up with technology. Monies to buy property come from other sources of funding. We are lagging behind in salaries for our staff and faculty. Employees are leaving Southern Miss to go elsewhere for better money. We are losing good employees. We have to save programs and protect our people! That is what we are about!

We need to take a second look at our benefits. One option being considered is giving the employee the benefit money and letting the employee decide how best to use that money.

Dr. Fleming's advice for all employees was to follow closely the news about legislative actions.

Questions:

Joan Brashears: Can there be a designated staff person to share with us what is going on? Everything is discussed in the President's Cabinet meeting. Maybe President Townsend can start e-mailing all Staff Council members if something urgent was discussed. Dr.

Fleming warned every one of rumors and urged us to be careful about what is said.

Dick Vogel: When a student comes to college, tuition is not the only expense. What about increasing our recreational tax? There was a study done on the gaming industry. Mississippi's casino tax is lower than other states. Casinos are looking at investing in Iowa and moving from Mississippi. Dr. Fleming said for all of us to remember that although college is expensive, it is a means of funding a career, which is a major investment.

Dr. Fleming ended by saying that all Southern Miss employees will be provided information about what is going on. There will be no secrets. We as employees may not agree with decisions that are made, but Dr. Fleming promises to let us know how and why the decisions were made.

1.0 Call to Order

President-elect Mary Sumrall called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

The following members were present: Victoria Adams, Rusty Anderson, Cindy Burnett, Joan Brashears, Kim Busche, Melissa Carpenter, Shannon Davis, Mike Giles, John Green, Lin Harper, John Hayman, Mary Ann Iverson, Faye Mallette, Larry McMickle, Charlene McMillin, Connie Morgan, Polly Odom, Jessie Person, Jan Roberts, Susan Sanders, Veda Spencer, Mary Sumrall, Dick Vogel, Ruby Waits, and Ronnie Williamson.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

There were two additions to the agenda. 6.1 Should read "appointment" not "nomination." 8.3 Faculty Senate resolution. Agenda adopted as corrected.

3.0 Call for Proxies

The following members were represented by proxy: Victoria Adams for David Kinsey, Connie Morgan for Kalin Butirich, Jan Roberts for Tracy Townsend, Robin Barnett for Pam Posey.

The following members were absent without representation: Terry Bethea, Bradley Bridges, Janeal McKee, and Sam Williams.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

December minutes were approved as printed.

5.0 Officers' Reports

5.1 President's Report

Attached is President Townsend's report.

5.2 President-elect's Report

Attached is Ms. Sumrall's report.

5.3 Assignment of Action Items

There were not any action items.

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Appointment for Election Committee

The following Staff Council members volunteered to serve on the Election Committee: Rusty Anderson, (Chair), John Green, Ronnie Williamson, Cindy Burnett, Ruby Waits, John Hayman, Joan Brashears, and Victoria Adams.

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Constitution and Bylaws – Pam Posey, Chair

No report.

7.2 Legislative – Charlene McMillin, Chair

No report.

7.3 Salaries and Benefits – Rusty Anderson, Chair

No report. The committee will meet January 12.

7.4 University Relations – Jennifer Blalock, Chair

No report.

7.5 Technology and Training – Lin Harper, Chair

No report. The new schedule for training events will be posted on the Web by the end of this week.

7.6 Other Committee Reports

No reports.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Nominations for Black History Month Honoree

If you have someone you want to nominate, please let President Townsend know.

8.2 Jennifer Blalock resignation. Request for replacement

Jennifer has resigned, and we will be looking at a replacement for her. President Townsend is working on that and will let us know.

8.3 Faculty Senate Resolution

The University Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi and the Mississippi Association of Staff Council Organizations held a joint meeting on December 8. They have decided to join alliances and present a unified front and a public voice. Faculty Senate proposed to Staff Council members the attached resolution. A motion was made for Staff Council to join with the Faculty Senate and endorse this resolution. The motion carried.

9.0 Announcements

President-elect Mary Sumrall passed out the Staff Council's proposals that will be presented to the Cabinet. Please look them over as they will be discussed at the February meeting.

10.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Connie Morgan
Recording Secretary
1-2-01
Attachments