

**The University of Southern Mississippi
Faculty Senate Meeting**

Friday, April 5, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
Thad Cochran Center 216 (Hattiesburg)
IVN to North Academic Building 125 (Gulf Park)

Present: Mac Alford (proxy), Cindy Handley, Cheryl Jenkins, Leffi Cewe-Malloy (proxy), Charles Scheer, Nicolle Jordan, Brian LaPierre, Kevin Greene, Sharon Rouse, Susan Howell, Jeremy Scott, Jonathan Yarrington, Scott Milroy (proxy), Jennifer Courts, Ann Marie Kinnell, Bob Press, Eric Saillant, David Holt, Tom Rishel, Lee Follett, Don Redalje, Amber Cole, Mike Morgan, John Lambert (proxy), Melinda McLelland, Melinda Bowens (proxy), Lilian Hill, Catharine Bomhold, Susan Hrostowski, Kim Ward, Jennifer Brannock, Anne Sylvest, Bonnie Harbaugh, Ashley Krebs

Absent: Charles McCormick, Miles Doleac, David Lee, Tim Rehner, Bradley Green, Winston Choi

1.0 Organizational Items

1.1 Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mac Alford

1.2 Roll Call

1.3 Recognition of Quorum (20)

1.4 Recognition of $\frac{2}{3}$ membership for voting on Bylaws and Resolutions (26)

2.0 Adoption of Agenda: **Approved** unanimously by voice vote

3.0 Program –

3.1 Dr. Cindy Blackwell and Dr. Kelly Lester, Academic Reorganization Committee

- Dr. Lester discussed initiative #6 and the timeline. She presented ratios from other universities showing the Senator per faculty ratio to compare USM's proposed ratios. She explained they were there to compromise. She and Dr. Blackwell were there to explain the charge as it was given and to explain the work that went into the process. Discussion between Dr. Lester/Dr. Blackwell and the faculty followed.

3.2 Amy Miller, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, new payment policy and advising

- Dr. Miller presented the student payment policy for 2019 which includes a significant billing change. She shared a brief background of the situation. Previously student who had not paid bills for their current semester could not register for classes for the following semester. Students have a general lack of awareness about costs of college and were not prepared for bills which leaves students with debt, drop-outs increase, etc. In Fall 2018, non-returners owed approximately one million to the institution. The new approach tells them what they owe up-front to reduce the surprise element. They will have the option to pay in full or to use a payment plan of three installments. They get a bill in July for fall of 2019. If students have completed FAFSA, it takes away anticipated aid and just shows a balance of what is owed. Students must complete FAFSA by July 1. Faculty can help by promoting it to students. Dr. Miller emailed files that faculty can

post/share with students. These were shared with faculty senate via email following the meeting.

3.3 Doug Masterson, Senior Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Digital Measures and annual evaluations

- Dr. Masterson shared changes to Digital Measures including the Web Profile. The USM website will be launching in June. Faculty will have control of web profile (brief biography and web profile biography). They are piloting a workflow feature with Kinesiology and Library Sciences. He is willing to come to schools and present Digital Measures to faculty.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

4.1 March 2019: **Approved** unanimously by voice vote

5.0 Officer Reports

5.1 President (Susan Hrostowski): No report

5.2 President-Elect (Susan Hrostowski): No report

5.3 Secretary (Melinda McLelland): No report

5.4 Secretary-Elect (Amber Cole): No report

6.0 Decision / Action Items

6.1 None

7.0 Standing Committee Reports

7.1 Academics (Kevin Green): No Report

7.2 Administrative Evaluations (Melinda McLelland): No Report

7.3 Awards (Bradley Green):

- For March, the Faculty Senate Awards Committee completed deliberations on the Junior faculty Awards and the Faculty Senate Memorial scholarship. The results were as follows:

- Junior Faculty Creativity Award: Dr. Timothy Tesh
- Junior Faculty Research Award: Dr. Dan Capron
- Junior Faculty Teaching Award: Dr. Karen Kozlowski
- Faculty Senate Memorial Scholarship: 1st Place is Kaylin Toney; runner up was Katrina May; 3rd place was Morgan Brewer

7.4: Bylaws (Kim Ward):

- Proposed changes were read to the Senate. A formal document will be provided to the senators for a vote, potentially at the next meeting.

7.5 Elections (Tom Rishel):

- The Elections Committee worked via email to begin to identify senate positions that will require new or renewed representation under the newly proposed senate structure. Before this work was finalized, the university-wide re-organization committee disputed the proposed structure. The dispute prompted meetings among various groups and individuals in an attempt to resolve the differences between the two proposed structures. Those meetings have not yet produced a definitive result. Thus the work of the Elections Committee has been “on hold” awaiting a final, approved structure for the senate.
- There was a discussion about the will of the faculty about the compromise revision proposed to the senate. The consensus was to move forward with elections as dictated by the current by-laws. Elections, By-Laws, and Governance committees will meet to move forward with amending the By-Laws.

7.6 Finance (Amber Cole): No Report

7.7. Governance (Don Redalje): No Report

7.8 Gulf Coast (Lee Follett):

- This week the Provost came to Gulf Park for an informal, 90-minute Q & A session with Gulf Park faculty and staff. The central topic was the anticipated academic re-organization of the Coast. Dr. Moser said a number of things that I think appropriate to share with Faculty Senate.

First, a word on where things stand with the Coast re-org proposal. It is still in the hands of President Bennett. The Gulf Park Academic Reorganization Committee (GPARC) gave its proposal to the Provost back in Nov. 1. The Provost reviewed it and then shared it with the President. The President reviewed it and then shared it with the Vice Presidents in December. Using that document as a philosophical foundation, the Provost and vice presidents have, at the President’s request, since worked up a revised proposal for the academic structure of Gulf Park. This revised proposal, which GPARC has not seen, is the document currently under review with President Bennett. Dr. Moser is uncertain when President Bennett will make known his opinion of this revised proposal, but says it may not be until sometime this summer. In the meanwhile, the President is or will be consulting with external stakeholders and with as-of-yet unidentified Gulf Park personnel to help inform his consideration of the proposal.

While the specifics of this revised proposal are being closely held at the senior-most level of the administration, Dr. Moser stated that its contents maintain the concept of One University but also reflect the wish for more distinctive Gulf Park programming that will

better capitalize on the unique academic market of the Gulf Coast, as for example exists around the programs that collectively may be described as relevant to the “Blue Economy” of the Coast. Like the original proposal, the revised proposal also understands the need for more local control of academic matters at Gulf Park. Recent, senior administrative conversation about the Gulf Park Re-org has also, evidently, considered closer collaboration with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community Colleges that provide some 75% of the students who matriculate at USM-Gulf Coast sites. Given the longer than anticipated process of the proposal review and revision, it does not appear likely that there will be any structural changes for Gulf Park in place come July 1. When asked if that means that the current administrative positions at Gulf Park will remain past July 1, Provost Moser said that has not yet been decided.

The Provost has authorized the release of the executive summary of the November 1, 2018 proposal crafted by GPARC. But as already noted, that 2018 GPARC proposal is not the proposal currently under review by President Bennett. It is unclear which, if any, of the specific contents of the November 2018 proposal have survived the revision undertaken by Provost Moser and the Vice Presidents. As a final point, Provost Moser observed that President Bennett’s deliberations must take into account political and economic considerations that extend beyond the university itself, and that if he deems that the time is simply not right for significant, academic structural change to Gulf Park, then it is possible that the status quo will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

7.9 Handbook (Jeremy Scott): No Report

7.10 University Relations and Communication (Nicolle Jordan): No Report

7.11 Welfare and Environment (Bob Press): No Report

8.0 Outside Committee Reports:

- The student SGA representative was not present at the end of the meeting to present two proposals that are under consideration. The proposals were emailed to the Senators after the meeting. The assumption is that the SGA representative will bring them to the Senate’s attention at some point.

9.0 Reports from Other University Advisory Bodies: None

10.0 Consent Items

10.1 None

11.0 Unfinished Business

11.1 None

12.0 New Business

12.1 None

13.0 Good of the Order

13.1 AAUP meeting: April 24 at 11:30 a.m., location TBD

13.2 AAUP End of the Year Social: April 26, 5:00 p.m., Java Werks. Co-sponsored by the Association of Office Professionals (AOP). Both organizations pay for food and beverages, and you do not need to be a member to attend.

13.3 Chief Hopkins retirement party, May 30, 3–5 p.m., Luckyday Room

13.4 Eddie Holloway retirement party, June 6, 3–5 p.m., Multicultural Room (old Post Office in the HUB)

13.5 Bob Press reminded everyone the Human Trafficking Conference will be help on campus this month.

13.6 David Holt reminded everyone the University Faculty Handbook Committee was meeting on April 16th.

13.7 Jennifer Brannock mentioned the iTech documents (4.0). She plans to bring them in for a discussion.

14.0 Announcements

14.1 Student Awards Ceremony, April 10, 3:00 p.m., Bennett Auditorium

14.2 Faculty/Staff Awards Day, Trent Lott TBD, 1:00 p.m

14.3 Next Senate Meeting: May 3, **2:30** p.m., following Faculty/Staff Awards Day event, Trent Lott Center 101/102 with IVN to North Academic Building 125 (Gulf Park)

14.4 Next Staff Council meeting: May 2, 9:30–11:00 a.m., Trent Lott 207

15.0 Adjourn