The University of Southern Mississippi  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Friday, April 3, 2020, 2:00p.m.  
Via Zoom


Absent: Bonnie Harbaugh, Kevin Greene

1.0 Organizational Items
   1.1 Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Susan Hrostowski.
   1.2 Roll Call
   1.3 Recognition of Quorum (22)
   1.4 Recognition of ⅔ membership for voting on Bylaws and Resolutions (29)

2.0 Adoption of Agenda
   - Approved unanimously by voice vote.

3.0 Approval of March Minutes
   - Approved unanimously by voice vote.

4.0 Officer Reports
   4.1 President
   - I have been involved in numerous meetings with deans, directors, executive cabinet, etc.
     and my opinion has been asked at all meetings on behalf of the faculty. I have been appreciative of this opportunity for involvement and representation.
   - I have also been impressed by our administration’s ability to anticipate what the state and local governments will do. They have also collaborated with other institutions in the state.
   - Any questions?
     1. Will fall start on time and will it be online? The plan currently is that fall will start on time and modes of delivery will be used as originally planned. It’s been very interesting to see how admissions, recruitment, student success, etc. have
dealt with this move to online. They have held virtual tours, online interviews, online orientations, etc. One concern is that enrollment will be down in the fall, but these groups have done a great job to help prevent enrollment declines.

2. Gratitude was expressed to the president for her involvement in this process.

3. Summer semester? All classes will be online but start and end dates will be as planned. However, there will be a few exceptions made for certain graduate classes that require face-to-face interactions.

4.2 President-Elect: No report except hoping that everyone is safe and healthy

4.3 Secretary: No report

4.4 Secretary-Elect: No report

5.0 Decision / Action Items

- The following was received from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA):

As a member of COIA, we would like you to vote on two things (each university member faculty senate of COIA is entitled to 1 vote, which may be cast by either of its two representatives, as determined by the president/chair of that Faculty Senate member):

1. Slate of Steering Committee representatives (bios are attached to this email):
   Jane Albrecht for COIA Steering Committee
   Laveria Hutchison for COIA Steering Committee
   John Putnam for COIA Steering Committee
   Jeri Zemke for COIA Steering Committee

2. Whether we should support federal legislation that establishes a Congressional Advisory Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics to investigate the relationship between institutions of higher education and intercollegiate athletics programs, and for other purposes. This request comes from David Ridpath, President of The Drake Group (https://www.thedrakegroup.org/). Please see the attached meeting summary and highlights files from the COIA meeting for David Ridpath’s presentation.

- #1: The senate decided to abstain from vote because no one was familiar with any of the candidates.
- #2:
  o The COIA is part of the Drake group which helps to handle perceived wrongs against college athletes.
This may relate to a recent movement in California related to college athletes being able to receive endorsements.

It also relates to name, image, and likeness issues (e.g., sales of jerseys).

Senators expressed concerns about the term “for other purposes.”

Senators expressed concerns about giving this commission too much power.

Some senators indicated that congressional oversight over the NCAA may result in reduced power of the NCAA and may help to protect the interests of the athletes.

Poll was taken for #2: 87% ayes; 13% nays

5.1 Library’s Elsevier negotiation

- Tabled until Academics is able to write a resolution related to this issue.

6.0 Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Academics: No report

6.2 Administrative Evaluation

Evaluations will be going out next week and faculty members will have a couple of weeks to complete the evaluations. It’s anonymous, faculty members can skip any administrator that they do not want to evaluate, and a comment section will be available. Faculty members will be able to evaluate associate directors by clicking “other” under directors and entering the applicable name.

- A senator questioned why faculty are not able to view their administrators’ evaluations.

6.3 Awards

We evaluated the Excellence Awards (Excellence in Librarianship, Excellence in Service, Excellence in Teaching) and the Faculty Senate Jr. Faculty Awards in teaching, service, and research.

6.4 Bylaws: No report

6.5 Elections

Elections will be conducted in a more “low-tech” way by sending an email to chairs of schools that need a representative and asking them to conduct an election within their schools. There are concerns regarding the fact that the elections chair will no longer be able to serve as a resource for other advisory body elections because of the way that the elections process will now be conducted. Additionally, the timeline may need to be extended of when senators are "seated" to accommodate those schools who may run late in electing senators.

6.6 Finance: No report
6.7 Faculty Handbook

6.4.1 Proposed change to eligibility for school directors: School directors must be members of the corps of instruction, tenure-stream, and either an associate professor or professor. (green – current; yellow – proposed)

- There was much concern expressed of how this policy will limit the opportunities for teaching-track faculty and may demean teaching-track faculty.
- One senator suggested removing the term “tenure-stream.”
- Many senators expressed the importance of the director’s involvement (including mentoring) in the tenure review process. A teaching-track faculty member will likely not be able to offer the same guidance and help in this process.
- A senator expressed the possibility of a committee within the college/school to offer this support if the director is teaching-track.
- Senators expressed the importance of having tenure protection in order to feel free to speak out and make the best decisions for the school.
- Senators also indicated the importance of the director understanding the research process.
- A senator questioned why the additional language is necessary, because directors are normally tenure-stream, associate professors or professors and this new language would make it difficult if an exception needs to be made.
- Poll was taken: 19 ayes (for proposed changes); 10 nays

6.8 Governance

The Governance Committee was planning on developing a response to the USM Employee Handbook section 3.11 (Faculty Contractual Obligations) that was approved and enacted with absolutely no input or review by the USM Faculty that would be the same as that being prepared by the USM Chapter of the AAUP. However, the AAUP committee tasked with developing the response document has not yet completed that task. The Governance Committee is open to the concept that once the AAUP response has been completed, that we would then propose a Resolution to the Senate supporting and endorsing the AAUP document provided that we do agree and support that document. Because of the delays in everything as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the report from the AAUP may not be ready for us to consider until after the April Senate meeting, and maybe even the May meeting. We have no action to bring forward to the Senate on this issue at this time.

6.9 Gulf Coast: No report
Clinic is using telemedicine and they’ve also setup a drive-thru for pharmaceuticals.

Approximately 300 students left on campus

Eagle’s Nest is open.

Senators asked the best way to donate. – Amazon

- Proteins and rice are needed.

Tamara will email us a link for amazon donations.

If you must go onto campus, have your USM ID with you.