



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

Plenary Session

January 20, 2021 – Zoom – 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Faculty and Guests

- Adams, Jamie
- Amare, Nicole
- Bates, Robin
- Beebe, Donald
- Bowman, Ashleigh
- Bunch, Jaclyn
- Cesarini, Pat
- Chow, Al, excused
- Cleary, John
- Cloutier, Robert
- Copeland, Donna
- Delmas, Peggy
- Donaldson, Amanda
- Estis, Julie
- Feldvoss, Joerg
- Fregeau, Laureen
- Gecewicz, Chimene
- Gossett, Nicholas
- Halbrooks, John
- Harmon, Charles
- Hartin, Charles
- He, Jia
- Henry, Alison
- Henning, Jeremiah
- Hossain, Mohammad
- Huang, Jingshan
- Huang, Ying
- Jordan, Kimberly
- Kirkici, Hulya
- Lewis, Drew
- Lin, Mike
- Lynch, Colleen
- MacDonald, Rebecca
- Madden, Ellen
- Manders, Jeannete, excused
- Magnin, Sarah-Koon
- McCready, Susan
- Myers, Charlene
- O'Connor, Tracy
- Pelekanos, Sharon
- Powell, Warseal
- Raczkowski, Christopher
- Rayner, Jonathan
- Reed, Dedra
- Rinehart, Jason
- Sayner, Sarah
- Scott, Shanda
- Shepard, Beth
- Sittig, Scott
- Spencer, Edmund
- Strickland, Jason
- Sunderland, Pepe
- Swanzy, Debra, excused
- Thompson, Tara
- Turnipseed, David
- Webb, Brett
- Weber, David
- Whitener, Brian
- Woodmansee, Brenda
- Young, Stephen
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- Meeting called to order 3:06 pm
- Approval of Minutes: Approved
- Approval of Agenda: Approved
- **Covid-19 Update**
 - **Reentry**-Julie Estis reported that students are completing the Canvas training for all students and students are being asked to complete the Jag health check. It is required every three days.
 - She reported that faculty should ask for the students' green passport.
 - Testing is being done through Guidesafe for all residential students this week (the first week of classes).
 - Starting next week sentinel testing will resume with a higher percentage of testing (approximately 15% of the population) for the first few weeks, which (It is a self-administered test for those that have not had Covid or had any symptoms).
 - **Vaccines**-Julie reports that the campus is working with the Healthsystem to get vaccines and to let everyone know information when it becomes available. USA Health is providing vaccines for people 75 years and older and first responders at this time. She reports that campus is working on getting their own supply of the vaccine.
 - **South Strong Student Ambassador**-Julie encouraged faculty if they new of any students or team of students they can recommend as a student ambassador to participate in giveaways for students that are doing a good job of following Covid precautions and they will also participate in social media and posting public health announcements.
- **President's Report**
 - **Enrollment**-John reported as of last week, for Spring enrollment that we were down some 400-450 students. Fall data for accepted students was up 10-15%, graduate students up in the 4-5% range. The University may break or what may hurt is the cohorts now are smaller than the classes graduating now but increasing freshmen enrollment will help with this.
 - **Budget**- John reported that the budget accounted for the enrollment drops for Spring and there were no surprises. Funding from the state was flat or about the same.
 - **Stimulus**-John reported that the money from the state could be between 6-18 million in funding. We have already received 12 million so it is thought that there would be a remaining 6 million that the University would get with a good chunk of the funds going to the students.
 - **Commencement**- John reported that the University will get rid of the University-wide commencement and go to college commencement only in the Spring.
 - **Adobe Acrobat Pro**-John reported that the University has purchased Adobe Acrobat Pro and information will be coming out in the digest on how to get a copy.
 - John reported that if faculty need access to Adobe Acrobat Pro now that they can contact computer services to find out how to download a copy.

- **Student Perceptions of Instruction-** John reported that a policy will be coming out for the Senate to review soon. It was also brought up with the president's council that the numbers were low as to student response rates on the survey. Recommendations and discussions with the FS included some ways to improving response rates of students.
 - Discussions also included the anonymity and trackability of the surveys results based on student concerns.
 - John encouraged FS to send any recommendations for improving the response rate to Delwar Hossain for the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Committee to review.
 - Discussions also included definitions and possible methods for evaluating teaching effectiveness in addition to the student perceptions of instruction.
 - Julie Estis shared with the FS that the ILC performs Small Group Instructional Feedback (a formative mid-course check of student learning experience). More can be read about the process if faculty are interested at <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/ilc/sgif.html>.
- **Pending Business-**no report
- **University Committee Reports-** no report
- **Senate Committee Reports:**
 - **Faculty Senate Awards-**Jason Rinehart reported the winners for the FS awards for the following:
 - Outstanding Teaching Partner- Mobile County Public School System
 - Outstanding Community Partner-Mobile County and Sandy Stimpson
 - Outstanding Research Partner-Baptist Healthcare
 - Seemoon Youngshin Chang Humanitarian Award- FeAunte' Preyear
 - Jason reported that a powerpoint may be created to congratulate the winners on the FS website since we may not be able to have in person ceremony.
 - **Diversity and Inclusion Committee-** Laureen Fregeau reported that the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee items of interest are:
 - Staff senate are close to establishing and releasing by-laws.
 - The advisory committee is looking with the FS Diversity and Inclusion Committee at increasing faculty diversity searches.
 - Diversity Inclusion office is looking to establish Diversity Coordinators for each college, and some have already been put into place.
 - Joelle Billingsly and Mike Mitchell will be hosting some sessions to engage students in diversity and inclusion and model civil discourse, and they will hold small group discussions for faculty.
 - FS Diversity and Inclusion Committee- are developing a guide for suggestions for all department for improving recruiting and retention for underrepresented groups, and the committee is looking at other University diversity and inclusion programs to see what kinds of things.
 - **Faculty Salary & Benefits-** no report but discussion among the FS about insurance co-pays were to be eliminated for USA Health providers.

- **Caucus Leader Reports**- no report
- **Other Business**
 - The current academic civility policy on the Academic Affairs website that was reported to be outdated and suggestions were made to look at the policy and make suggestions for revisions or updates.
 - Discussions on when the last salary survey was conducted ensued and suggestions were made to recommend to the president's council for another salary survey to be conducted.
 - Other discussions included questions about getting paid on time during holidays, bank reporting, process, etc.

Meeting Adjournment: MMSA 4:20 pm

Minutes transcribed by Donna Copeland