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Faculty Senate September 14 Agenda

Call meeting to order

Approve Aug. 24 minutes

State of the University in terms of new enrollments and fiscal issues that affect the projections of the University (Provost Morris Stocks).

State of the plus/minus grading system, specifically in terms of its implementation (Provost Morris Stocks).

Adoption of the new degree in General Studies: location of the degree program, advising, graduation issues, requirements of new staff, and funding for the program." (Provost Morris Stocks).

Senate Cmte Reports

Items from the floor:

Proposed resolution re: recent elimination of Philosophy and Religion tenure-track positions at USM (Senator Steven Skultety).

Adjourn

Text of proposed resolution:

We, the Faculty Senate of the University of Mississippi, deeply regret the firing of tenured faculty in core academic disciplines at the University of Southern Mississippi. We recognize the reality of the looming budget situation for state universities, and of course recognize that individual departments, Colleges, and Universities must make these difficult decisions as they best see fit for their research, teaching, and service missions. But the seriousness of firing tenured faculty should not be underemphasized, or pass without comment. Earning a Ph.D., securing a tenure-track job, and succeeding in one's teaching, research, and service to earn permanent tenure at a major university like USM is a multi-decade endeavor. Real human beings are about to be harmed, with real career investments and performances that have already been deemed worthy, by every administrative level of the university, of the award of permanent tenure. We ask that USM and its College of Letters and Arts do everything in their power to help tenured faculty facing loss of position with securing another academic position or making a transition to other employment.