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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 2009
Meeting held in Bryant 209

Senators in Attendance: Robert Albritton, Deborah Barker, Allision Burkette, Pete Campbell, Joe Turner Cantu, Bill Chapel, Donna Davis, Douglas Davis, Melissa Dennis, Jason Dewland, Robert Doerksen, Daneel Ferreira, John Garner, Carol Gohm, Mary Hayes, Jason Klodt, Joel Kuszmaul, Laurel Lambert, John Lobur, Soumyajit Majumbar, Carmen Manning Miller, Stephanie Noble, Brice Noonan, Larry Pittman, Peter Reed, Brian Reithel, Philip Rhodes, Jason Ritchie, Jesse Scott, Zia Shariat-Madar, Steven Skultety, Chung Song, Debra Spurgeon, Don Summers, Joe Sumrall, Laura Vaughan, Mark Walker, Jinquang Wang, Alex Watson, Lorri C. Williamson, Alexander Yakovlov, Yi Yang, Ahmet Yukleyen

Senators absent with prior notification: Angela Rutherford, Jeffery Roux, Amanda Johnston

Senators absent without notification: Przemo Krantz, Angela Rutherford, Jesse Scott, Mark Bing, Durant Thompson

- Senator Sufka opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- First order of business: Election of Officers
 - The Senate voted on a slate of nominees that had been distributed to Senators via email prior to the meeting
 - Election of Jason Klodt as Secretary: 36 in favor, no opposed, no abstentions
 - Election of Jason Ritchie as Vice Chair: 38 in favor, no opposed, no abstentions
 - Election of Ken Sufka as Chair: 39 in favor, no opposed, no abstentions
- Second order of business: Committee Chair Selection
 - Senator Sufka reminded the Senate that subcommittees may meet no less than two times per semester
 - After dividing into groups, the Senate subcommittees elected the following chairs that will also serve on the Senate executive committee
 - University Services Committee: John Lobur
 - Finance Committee: Mark Walker
 - Governance Committee: Robert Albritton
 - Academic Affairs Committee: Joe Turner Cantu
 - Academic Support Committee: Brian Reithel
 - Senator Sufka reminded Senators that absences may be excused if they notify the Chair in advance of meetings. Senators may also send a representative from their department in their absence
 - After four unexcused absences, the Chair will instruct the Senator's department to elect another Senator
- Third order of business: Issues for the 2009-2010 Senate Term
 - The Senate's resolution on the plus/minus grading scale will be implemented over the next year and the Academic Affairs subcommittee is charged with monitoring its progress

- According to a new state law, universities must inform students of a course's textbook requirements at the time that students register for classes
 - Graduate School Dean Maurice Eftink will work with the Senate in the coming months to ensure that UM complies with this law
- A search committee has produced a short list of candidates to replace Gloria Kellum as Vice Chancellor for University Relations; Senator Sufka represents the Senate on this committee and updates on this search are forthcoming
- Following the Journalism Department's change to the School of Journalism and New Media, the Senate will need to ensure its appropriate representation on university committees
- Senator Sumrall volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Athletics Committee, which meets four to five times per year with Pete Boone, Annette Johnson, and Karen Schiferl to be briefed on academic and athletics issues
 - The committee includes three Senate representatives, three other faculty members, and five other representatives from the university
- It is customary for the Senate to invite the chancellor to address its members, and this year the Senate is particularly interested in following up on two resolutions that were passed during the 2008-2009 academic year: the Reaffirmation of Governance resolution and the Plus/Minus Grading resolution
 - Senator Sufka recommended trying to schedule Chancellor Jones for the October meeting to allow time to gauge how these resolutions are being implemented
- The Senate will continue to invite the provost and the media to its meetings
 - Senator Sufka affirmed that Provost Stocks is a valuable resource that can provide immediate information in response to many of the questions that arise during the Senate's discussions
 - The Senate will invite CFO Larry Sparks to its September meeting to discuss the university's current cash flow
- Since the Senate has no history with the new Chancellor, Senator Sufka suggested that the Senate can begin to define a positive relationship with him, set an open and honest tone, and forge an effective decision-making role with Chancellor Jones
- Based on the last IHL meeting in May, it has become clear that there is not a strong advocate for higher education in the state. Senator Sufka questioned what would happen if UM faced more budget cuts after the federal stimulus money is spent
 - Based on calculations by IHL's budget planners, to cover expenses next year it is forecasted that the university must increase efficiency 2%, tuition will increase 5.8%, and there will be no COLA (Cost Of Living Allowance) increase
 - Based on calculations by IHL's budget planners, for the following year it is forecasted that the university must increase efficiency another 2%, tuition will increase another 12%, and there will again be no COLA increase

