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**October 23, 2009**

University of Mississippi. Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Extraordinary Meeting  
Tuesday, October 23, 2009  
Meeting held in Bryant 209

Senators in Attendance: Robert Albritton, Deborah Barker, Allison Burkette, Pete Campbell, Robert Doerksen, Charles Eagles, John Garner, Carol Gohm, Amanda Johnston, Jason Klodt, Przemot T. Kranz, Joel Kuszmaul, John Lobur, Soumyajit Majumbar, Carmen Manning Miller, Stephanie Noble, Brice Noonan, Peter Reed, Philip Rhodes, Jason Ritchie, Charles Ross, Jeffrey A. Roux, Angela Rutherford, Zia Shariat-Madar, Steven Skultety, Chung Song, Don Summers, Durant Thompson, Laura Vaughan, Jinquang Wang, Alex Watson, Lorri C. Williamson, Alexander Yakovlev, Yi Yang

Senators absent with prior notification: Allison Burkette, Mark Bing, Joe Turner Cantu, Donna Davis, Douglas Davis (Amy E. Wells-Dolan attended as replacement), Jeffrey A. Roux, Angela Hornsby-Gutting, Mark Walker

Senators absent without notification: Joe Sumrall, Bill Chapel, Mary Hayes, Laurel Lambert, Larry Pittman, Melissa Dennis, Jason Dewland, Brian Reithel, Debra Spurgeon, Daneel Ferreira, Ahmet Yukleyen

- Senator Sufka opened the meeting at 4:00p
- First order of business: Suspension of the Rules
  - Senator Sufka explained that today's extraordinary meeting of the Senate was called in keeping with the Senate's Constitution and Bylaws, by which a majority vote of the Senate officers approved the meeting and the Senate chair gave Senators a 24 hour notice as well as provided details of the meeting
  - With more than 28 Senators present, Senator Sufka called a quorum
  - Per the Senate constitution, Senator Lobur submitted a written motion to suspend the rules and introduce a resolution, which required the approval of 75% of the Senators in attendance
  - The motion passed with 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions
- Second order of business: Resolution Supporting the Actions of the Associated Student Body and Chancellor Jones
  - Senator Sufka had distributed a draft of the resolution to Senators via email and opened the floor to discussion
  - Senator Lobur explained that language currently sung during "From Dixie with Love" is divisive to alumni, visitors, students, and faculty
  - Senators Doerksen, Eagles, and Lobur suggested minor changes to the resolution to polish the language and clarify the attribution of the words of the Chancellor
  - Senator Noble asked for context and background for the resolution
    - Senator Sufka explained that two weeks ago the Associated Student Body (ASB) Senate passed a resolution calling on students to refrain from singing "the South will rise again" (TSWRA) during the song played before and after home football games. The following week Chancellor

Jones expressed support for ASB's decision and worked with the marching band to edit "From Dixie with Love" to omit the verse in which TSWRA was sung. The Chancellor then received negative feedback in the press for his decision

- Senator Lobur added that the song was a medley of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Dixie," whose original verse was chanted as "glory, glory segregation." The inclusion of TSWRA was not a long-standing tradition, rather it was a recent development that began as late as 2004
  - Senator Sufka added that the feedback in articles on the DM online showed little support for and incivility to the student leaders that were elected by the student body. The Chancellor also received criticism for supporting the efforts of ASB
  - Additionally, Senator Sufka screened the resolution through Chancellor Jones and ASB President Artair Rogers to verify that it contained an accurate depiction of their words
- Senator Vaughn asked if there was a plan of action or consequences if students sung the TSWRA verse again
  - Senator Lobur responded that the Senate was an advisory body only and Senator Richie added that aside from admonishment, punishment was out of the Senate's purview
  - Senator Sufka added that the resolution was a show of support for ASB in eliminating divisive language and noted that the issue was receiving media attention from AP, Oxford Eagle, Clarion Ledger, and ESPN.com
    - Senator Sufka also remarked that if Student Life were to take action against violations of the University Creed, Student Life would have Senate support
  - Senator Lobur commented that in this case of divisive language, silence was tacit consent
- Senators Doerkson, Albritton, Lobur, Eagles, and Dolan suggested additional corrections to the resolution to clarify the Senate's position
- Senator Campbell asked if Chancellor Jones was aware of the Senate's proposed resolution and if ASB wanted the Senate's support
  - Senator Sufka confirmed that Chancellor Jones was thankful for the Senate's support but did not demand it
  - Upon being recognized by Senator Sufka, ASB President Artair Rogers stated that "we [ASB] appreciate the support" of the Faculty Senate
  - Senator Campbell asked if a Senate resolution would escalate the situation or if a resolution would lead to a productive end
    - Senator Sufka responded that the Senate's resolution would be a small contribution to a larger dialogue and that doing nothing would send a negative message to faculty colleagues and students
- Motioned to vote and seconded. The resolution passed with 41 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions
- The text of the approved resolution:

*Faculty Senate Resolution Supporting Actions of Associated  
Student Body and Chancellor Jones*

**Whereas** the University community of students, faculty and staff have agreed to uphold personally and encourage in others the values explicitly stated in The Creed, which include respect for the dignity of others; and

**Whereas** the Associated Student Body (ASB) Senate, in an attempt to eliminate a divisive and hurtful chant recently added to the musical arrangement *From Dixie with Love*, passed a resolution requesting that students refrain from chanting "The South Will Rise Again" during its playing; and

**Whereas** Chancellor Jones recognizes that, while many students may not understand the significance of their words and intend no harm, chanting "The South Will Rise Again" hurts and offends many alumni and visitors, and in support of the ASB resolution, and he requested that the UM band director modify the score of *From Dixie with Love*; and

**Whereas** the ASB resolution and the marching band's change of the score of *From Dixie with Love* failed to produce their intended result, and many students continue to chant "The South Will Rise Again" during *From Dixie with Love*; and

**Whereas** the use of this chant tarnishes the national and international image of the University and its students, alumni, faculty and staff, and threatens the great strides the university has made towards academic excellence and racial reconciliation; and

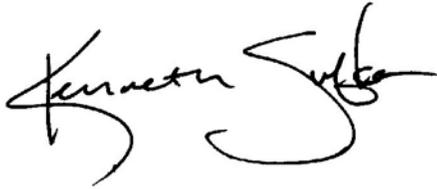
**Whereas** the elected members of ASB and Chancellor Jones have been criticized by individuals for their stance on this issue.

**Therefore be it resolved:**

That the Senate of the Faculty 1) supports and applauds the efforts of the ASB in its opposition to the inclusion of the inflammatory language "The South Will Rise Again" in *From Dixie with Love*, 2) affirms the efforts of Chancellor Jones to support the ASB's endeavors in implementing their resolution, 3) admonishes students who persist in engaging in activities that run counter to our stated values as articulated in the University Creed, and 4) encourages the ASB and the Chancellor to continue to find effective means to discourage such divisive and hurtful actions during any and all University of Mississippi events.

**RESOLVED**, this 23<sup>th</sup> day of October 2009.

THE SENATE OF THE FACULTY



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Kenneth J. Sufka  
Chair of Faculty Senate

- Third order of business: TSWRA Advertisement
  - Several prominent alumni and student leaders plan to publish a half page advertisement in the print media next week affirming that singing TSWRA was not representative of UM and urging that the chant be eliminated
  - The organizers were hoping to secure the support of prominent alumni (such as Eli Manning and John Grisham) and faculty would have the opportunity to support the advertisement
  - Senator Sufka read the proposed text of the announcement:

We Agree.

We, the undersigned, agree that the chant of "the South will rise again" should be immediately eliminated from any University activity, athletic or otherwise. We agree that it is NOT a tradition of Ole Miss and has been in existence fewer than

five years. We agree that chanting "the South will rise again" is not an accurate reflection of what this University has become and will become in the future. We agree that these words only harm our great American public university that has attracted students from all over the world, been recognized for significant achievements in all areas of scholarship, and was the focus of the world during last year's presidential debate.

We further agree that continued chanting of "the South will rise again" hurts public perception of Ole Miss, hinders efforts to recruit students, hinders efforts to recruit student athletes, and presents an image of an institution and region that refuses to relinquish memories of a past that is irrelevant to the promise and potential of this institution and region.

Finally, we agree that all who love Ole Miss should work within their own sphere of influence to initiate dialogue to encourage students, fans, and alumni from chanting "the South will rise again" and to undertake appropriate means to cease and desist from continuing this mindless activity.

- Motioned to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:25