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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Meeting held in Bryant 209

Senators in Attendance: Robert Albritton, Deborah Barker, Melissa Bass, Allison Burkette, Pete Campbell, Joe Turner Cantu, Bill Chapel, Donna Davis, Douglas Davis, Melissa Dennis, Jason Dewland, Robert Doerksen, Charles Eagles, Daneel Ferreira, John Garner, Carol Gohm, Angela Hornsby-Gutting, Amanda Johnston, Jason Klodt, Przemot T. Kranz, Joel Kuzmaul, Laurel Lambert, John Lobur, Soumyajit Majumbar, Carmen Manning Miller, Stephanie Noble, Larry Pittman, Peter Reed, Brian Reithel, Philip Rhodes, Jason Ritchie, Jeffrey A. Roux, Angela Rutherford, Steven Skultety, Chung Song, Debra Spurgeon, Durant Thompson, Laura Vaughan, Mark Walker, Jinquang Wang, Alex Watson, Alexander Yakovlev, Yi Yang, Ahmet Yukleyen

Senators absent with prior notification: Brice Noonan, Mark Bing, Lorri Williamson, Don Summers (replaced by Emanuele Berti)

Senators absent without notification: Charles Ross, Paul Scovazzo, Joe Sumrall, Mary Hayes, Mark Dolan, Zia Shariat-Madar

- Senator Sufka opened the meeting at 7:00p
- First order of business: Approve October 13 and October 23 minutes
 - Motioned to approve and seconded
 - The Senate approved the minutes unanimously
- Second order of business: Senate Constitution Amendment
 - Senator Albritton and the Governance Committee proposed a change to Article III Section 2 of the Senate's constitution to include representation of the School of Journalism and New Media
 - The text of the change (indicated in bold):

The membership quota of the Senate of the Faculty shall consist of a minimum of one senator elected by each of the Departments in the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Accountancy, the School of Applied Sciences, the School of Business Administration, the School of Education, the School of Engineering, the School of Law, the School of Pharmacy, **the School of Journalism and New Media** and the faculty of the University Libraries. To account for significant variation in size of departments, additional Senate seats will be allocated based on deviations from the mean size of all departments. Departments that are larger than or equal to one standard deviation from this mean will receive one extra senate seat; departments that are larger than or equal to two standard deviations from this mean will receive two extra senate seats.

- Motioned to approve and seconded
 - The Senate approved the change unanimously
- Third order of business: Guiding Principles Project Update

- Senator Sufka outlined the Guiding Principles document, explaining that Section A reiterated the university's identity based on the UM mission statement as approved by IHL. Sections B and C articulated the faculty's principles (shared governance between the administration and faculty, open communication, transparency of how decisions will be made) that were an overview of the bullet points located below
 - Senator Sufka explained that the difficult work will be in articulating the document's bullet points and thus deciding what to prioritize, what to protect and if cuts were necessary, where those cuts would begin
 - Senator Sufka instructed Senators to consult with their colleagues for input on developing Sections B and C (who is involved, what are the review procedures, what does the faculty value, what does the faculty need to protect, what are the faculty's priorities [i.e., encouraging early retirement versus cutting faculty positions]). Senators were asked to filter this feedback through the Senate's committee structure
- Senator Sufka asked to submit the Guiding Principles document to a faculty-wide straw poll vote before it comes before a Senate vote
 - Senator Watson asked about the length of document
 - Senator Reithel responded that it would be a two to five page policy document. The taskforce began with a short term agenda that focused budget cuts, but extended the scope of the document to include long term priorities
 - Senator Eagles asked for a distinction between guiding principles and budget cuts
 - Senator Sufka responded that the guiding principles would guide UM through upcoming budget cuts, which will likely occur over a two to three year period. Once an economic recovery takes place, the document will provide language to address a recovery and rebuilding process
 - A Senator expressed confusion regarding the two different projects that the Senate was addressing: first the Chancellor wanted to raise faculty salaries to the SUG average then his focus changed to how to prioritize cuts
 - Senator Sufka responded that Chancellor Jones had set a five year goal to raise salaries to the SUG average. According to the Chancellor, salary increases will not be possible until after the economic downturn has passed
 - Senator Sufka reiterated that Senators should send the Guiding Principles draft to their colleagues, incorporate their feedback, and try to achieve a straw pole vote of 80% or more
- Forth order of business: Plus/Minus Grading Update
 - Senator Sufka reported that the Plus/Minus Grading proposal failed at Friday's Undergraduate Council meeting, with 4 votes in favor, 4 opposed, and 2 abstentions. These totals include a yes vote from the student representative
 - The proposal next moves to Council of Academic Administrators with input from the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils. Senator Sufka reminded the Senate

that the Undergraduate Council advises but does not set policy. The CAA will meet on October 23, 2009

- Senator Rutherford reported that there was confusion on the Undergraduate Council as to whether the proposal sought to investigate or implement the plus/minus grading system
 - Noel Wilkin from the Provost's Office added that Ann Canty saw the proposal as an implementation of plus/minus grading. Furthermore, the Undergraduate Council understood that subsequent catalog changes would come under its purview
- Senator Sufka mentioned that the Liberal Arts #3 representative on the Undergraduate Council did not know that he represented a collection of departments, so he voted against the proposal because he was personally opposed
- Senator Lobur asked if it was made clear to the Undergraduate Council that plus/minus grading was an option and that it would not be forced on any faculty member
 - Senator Sufka responded that this point was made clear to the Undergraduate Council
- Senator Burkette commented that there was not representation of faculty at large and asked if the Senate could recommend a straw poll vote
 - Senator Sufka responded that the Senate has the option to call for a straw poll vote and asked if such a vote would get the Senate traction on the plus/minus grading issue by the October 23 meeting of Council of Academic Affairs
 - Senator Lobur responded that Deans do like to see numerical results
 - Senator Noble asked the purpose of having a Faculty Senate if it is going to submit to straw polls. Senator Eagles agreed, stating that such is the nature of representative government
 - Senator Sufka added that the Senate already has numbers in the form of the Senate's vote, as well as the support of two Chancellors
 - Senator Albritton suggested a formal polling of faculty through their Senators in lieu of a straw poll
 - Senator Donna Davis recommended that the Senate move on despite the Undergraduate Council vote, since plus/minus grading already had the overwhelming support of the faculty
 - Senator Barker commented that since faculty are already bombarded by email, Senator should bring up plus/minus grading in their faculty meetings
- Senator Sufka said that since it will not be implemented by Fall 2010, he recommended letting plus/minus grading come before the ACC with the Senate's vote and the Chancellors' support
 - Senator Reithel agreed, suggesting that a straw poll would not produce a significantly different result or a better response rate
- Fifth order of business: Copyright Issues & Course-Packs
 - Senator Bass discussed three mechanisms for producing course packs
 - The UM Bookstore uses a private company that charges high prices to process copyrighted material. This company has caused problems by

- charging copyright fees for materials in the public domain and has charged students \$40 per course pack in pure profit. Senator Bass reported that this company has charged \$120 for 126 duplex pages
- University Printing Services requires faculty members to obtain copyrights through the copyright.com website. The faculty member is then required to pay the copyright fee him/herself for all students, after which students reimburse the faculty member. This process in which the professor fronts money and then collects it from students cumbersome and uncomfortable
 - The illegal solution is to use copy services such as Kinko's, but Universities are increasingly being sued for these types of copyright infringements
- Senator Bass reported that the Academic Affairs committee needs to look into legal and workable solutions, such as Printing Services working with copyright.com so that money doesn't change hands between professors and students
 - Senator Ritchie asked if licensing fees are reasonable through copyright.com
 - Senator Bass responded that she did not know, but stated that \$40 for a 120 duplex page course pack was reasonable
 - Senator Ritchie agreed that faculty should model ethical behavior for their students
 - Senator Turner Cantu will direct the Academic Affairs committee to work on course pack recommendations
 - Noel Wilkins added that the IHL lawyer is housed on the UM campus and could inform the committee
- Sixth order of business: Standing Committee Appointments and Elections
 - Senator Donna Davis informed the Senate of election housekeeping
 - Twelve elected standing committees have staggered elections, and there are three committees in which one person is not allowed to serve on more than one committee. Some units have become unstaggered and elect all committees every election
 - Senator Donna Davis distributed suggestions for a new staggered election cycle and moved to change the term ending dates as submitted. The motion was seconded
 - The Senate approved the motion unanimously
 - The IT department will implement a system of online elections
 - Seventh order of business: Senate Committee Reports
 - The committee chairs had nothing to report
 - Eighth order of business: Items from the Floor
 - Senator Turner Cantu inquired about the reappearance of parking hang tags, commenting on the redundancy of windshield decals and rearview mirror tag
 - Senator Lobur responded that the decal and hangtag system allows spouses to share hang tags; married couples are only allowed one vehicle on campus at a time
 - Senator Reithel, who had served on UM's Parking Committee, explained that the decal and hangtag system is to prevent vehicles driven by faculty's children or spouse from occupying faculty and staff parking

- Senator Sufka remarked that changes to the parking tag system will not likely get traction
- Senator Lobur reported that there is typically ample parking at the Magnolia Drive lot
- The Senate's next meeting will be December 8
- The meeting adjourned at 8:00p