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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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May 10, 2011

University of Mississippi. Faculty Senate

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Senators in Attendance:

Robert Albritton, Melissa Bass, Michael Barnett, Sarah Blackwell, Will Berry, Mark Bing, Yunghee Chang, Jason Dewland, Leigh Anne Duck, Daneel Ferreira, Les Field, John Garner, Amanda Johnston, Soumyajit Majumdar, Mustafa Matalgah, Erwin Mina-Diaz, Ann Monroe, Mike Mossing, Brice Noonan, Brian Reithel, Chris Sapp, Ronald Schroeder, Paul Scovazzo, Zia Shariat-Madar, Justin Sherman, Steven Skultety, Chung Song, Debra Spurgeon, Don Summers, Cristiane Queiroz Surbeck, Durant Thompson, Lollie Vaughan, Mark Walker, Alex Watson, Lorri Williamson, Ethel Young Minor

Senators Absent with Prior Notification:

Adnan Aydin

Senators Absent with Replacement:

Robert Doerksen was replaced by John Williamson

Senators Absent without Prior Notification:

Susan Allen, Aileen Ajootian, , Judith Cassidy, -Bill Chappell, Douglas Davis, Mark Dolan, Carol Gohm, Jason Kovari, Stephanie Noble, Philip Rhodes, Charles Ross, Jeff Roux, Bashir Salau, Jason Solinger, Donna West-Strum, Ahmet Yukleyen

Agenda

- Senator Albritton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- First order of business: Approve minutes from last meeting
 - Moved by Senator Williamson
 - Seconded
 - Voted
 - Approved unanimously
- Second order of business: Senate Committee Reports
 - Executive Committee
 - No report
 - Academic Affairs: Report on COIA resolution
 - Senator Bass: COIA proposal/statement was read,
 - Resolution was crafted based upon it,
 - Approved Unanimously
 - Former Senator Ritchie to present on issue as expert witness
 - COIA is a coalition of faculty senates
 - new liaison needed
 - Perhaps draft from senate members on athletics committee
 - Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics drafted recommendation for athletic accountability
 - Report was promulgated in 2010
 - Distributed to faculty senates for endorsements
 - Recommendations include:
 - Make NCAA financial reports public
 - Publish info on capital spending and debt in athletics
 - Annual reports on growth rates in academic and athletic spending
 - Teams must be on track to graduate 50% of players to be eligible for postseason
 - Add academic component to revenue distribution functions for football and basketball postseasons
 - Senator Reithel: first handout is full text of COIA report recommendations, second is text of senate resolution endorsing it
 - Senator Walker: is non-public finances something only private schools have?
 - Senator Ritchie: no, some public colleges don't do this
 - Former Senator Ritchie to Provost Stocks: is 4.1% increase in athletics greater than, less than, or equal to academics increase?
 - Provost Stocks: academics may be lower, perhaps only 1.5% due to state cuts, can get actual numbers
 - Senator Barnett: what are negative aspects of implementation?
 - Former Senator Ritchie: would be a monetary loss if postseason was cancelled
 - Provost Stocks: athletes have a higher graduation rate than average students

- Senator Dewland: "Major-league" sports are even higher compared to others
 - Senator Albritton: would 50% graduation rate count students who leave before graduation rate to go pro?
 - If student leaves eligible, there is no penalty but they don't count toward graduation rate
 - Question: is percentage calculated by sport or overall?
 - Former Senator Ritchie: by sport
 - Senator Reithel: Acad Affairs moves that resolution be approved
 - Seconded
 - Discussion:
 - Senator. Albritton: should there be two votes, one on each resolution?
 - Senator Reithel: one will do
 - Senator Noonan: what about students who can't change majors due to graduation requirements?
 - Former Senator Ritchie: benchmarks (e.g. 40% by 3rd year) are a problem with reform, since switching majors would delay graduation
 - This does not affect that
 - Vote:
 - Approved unanimously
 - Senator Bass: update on attendance
 - Not passed by academic council
 - Task force for alternatives formed, chaired by Dr. Eftink and including Senator Bass
 - Recognizes need for revision
 - Doesn't go as far as senate resolution
 - Athletics courted for "reciprocal" accommodations
 - E.g. excusing athletes from games so they can take tests
- Academic support
 - No report
- Finance
 - Senator Albritton: forthcoming faculty "adjustments for equity and merit" are forthcoming
 - Not "raises" but still additional compensation
 - They are the result of strong administration efforts on our behalf with limited resources
- University services
 - No report
- Governance
 - Senate elections and standing committee appointments
 - Email has gone out
 - confusion between senate membership on committees and regular faculty membership on said committees

- Senator appointments are separate
 - In the past, senators have ranked 3 committees in order
 - current senators are asked first, followed by future; after those pools are exhausted, governance committee could solicit others
 - Senator Dewland: wouldn't future membership be difficult to determine?
 - Senator Albritton: theoretically, no
 - Senator Reithel: next year's members are unknown from all but one department right now
 - Senator Ferriera: did not receive message
 - Message circulated to determine who chairs are or who representatives will be for next year
 - Senator Young-Minor: shouldn't current senators have first choice?
 - Senator Albritton: they already do
 - Senator Spurgeon: what comes next?
 - Senator Albritton: exec committee can fill slots if need be
 - Senator Williamson: how long does exec committee continue? Until August?
 - Senator Albritton: August will be election for officers and committee heads
 - That new exec committee will be able to distribute the 21 standing committees if necessary
 - Silence is consent
- Third order of business: old business
 - Senator Albritton: health insurance imbroglio
 - Discussion raised strenuous objections to deans and chairs
 - Some did not want money "diverted" in favor of married people with children
 - Is not necessarily a zero-sum situation
 - Senator Dewland: Blue Cross does not cover children anymore
 - Senator Albritton: many issues like that exist
 - Dependent coverage plan independent of state plan would be "interesting" to explore
 - Inquiries about exploring alternatives were raised 4 years ago to no effect and no response
 - Senator Mina-Diaz: there seems to be no benefit/savings for family units under the plan as in the private sector; no incentive for an arrangement that's convenient
 - Senator Reithel: are we asking the admin to determine if it's legal and in compliance with board policy to negotiate an optional independent dependent coverage plan?
 - Senator Albritton: more or less, yes
 - Senator Reithel: moves the chancellor provide a clear yes/no to the previous question
 - Second
 - Voted
 - Approved unanimously

- Senator Walker: shouldn't we approach credit union directly?
 - Senator Albritton: we shouldn't get mired in details
- Fourth order of business: new business
 - Senator Ferriera: open forum called by provost to discuss "future of graduate studies at Ole Miss" and referred to senate for comment
 - Graduate assistants' stipends are near bottom of peer group
 - This affects ability to attract and maintain graduate students
 - Would like to ask chancellor what university's commitment to graduate students is
 - Is being at bottom of list an embarrassment to administration?
 - Referred to Academic Affairs for 2011-2012
 - Details to be forwarded to Senator Albritton
 - Senator Noonan: how does assistantship allocation work?
 - Senator Albritton: basic funds provided by admin, more may be created from other monies
 - \$800/mo is minimum level; have been at said level for 10 years
 - Trying to raise to living wage level of \$10/ho from \$9.25/ho
 - August meeting
 - First day of classes is Aug. 23
 - First Senate meeting will be on that date
- Senator Albritton closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.