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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

9-13-2011

September 13, 2011

University of Mississippi. Faculty Senate

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Senators in Attendance:

Alex Watson, Andy Paney, Bahram Alidaee, Brian Reithel, Brice Noonan, Carolyn Higdon, Chris Surbeck, Daneel Ferreira, David Murray, Donna Davis, Jaime Harker, James Meurs, Jeffrey Roux, Jerry Watson, John Lobur, John Sonnett, Justin Sherman, Karen Christoff, Leigh Anne Duck, Lori Wolff, Martha Bass, Matt Long, Maurice Hobson, Melissa Bass, Michael Barnett, Michael Mossing, Bashir Salau, Mustafa Matalgah, Philip Rhodes, Ricky Burkhead, Robert Albritton, Robert Doerksen, Seongbong Jo, Steven Skultety, Susan Bennett, Yongping Zhu

Senators absent with prior notification:

Jason Solinger, Joshua First, Shenika McAllister

Senators absent with replacements:

n/a

Senators absent without notification:

Adnan Aydin, Donna West, Joe Sumrall, Will Berry, Yunhee Chang

Agenda

- Senator Albritton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- First order of business: Approve minutes of last meeting
 - Moved by Sen. Lobur
 - Seconded
 - Voted
 - Passed unanimously
- Second order of business: Presentation by Chancellor Dan Jones
 - Introductory remarks
 - Comments solicited on issues of university import
 - Strategic Plan
 - Mission and vision for university has been revised and is being brought to university bodies for approval
 - Budget
 - Past academic year, state support was 15% of revenue, 4th-largest such source
 - Down from over 50% some years ago
 - Few new state dollars for support coming in near future
 - Compensation
 - Committed to moving compensation for faculty/staff to "front" of budget process
 - Historically, pay increases have been on the "back end," coming from leftover state support

- Increasing tuition and increasing enrollment are needed for this
 - 3% rise over three years with a goal of 10% overall with compound interest
 - Decrease in state dollars or enrollment can still have negative impact
 - Planning process for this is well underway and is supported by new strategic plan
- Benefits
 - "No good options"
 - State is putting little money into "pot" with high co-pays and deductibles
 - Without add'l state money, increases are unlikely
 - Alternative group plans under discussion for dependent coverage; picture is not optimistic
 - May be explored after compensation raised, perhaps in the form of a policy debate
 - Compensation side rather than benefits will be the growth area for now
- Capital Campaign
 - Donors continue to be generous, with total cash givings between \$50-60 million (\$58 million for FY 2010-2011)
 - In midpoint of SEC peer group; better than Kentucky but worse than Florida
 - Donors are giving generously in proportion to state economy
 - Athletics has announced an \$150 million campaign for additional support
 - Much of this will supposedly come from premium tickets and other sales items rather than donors; this required campaign to begin earlier than scheduled
 - Academic portion of capital campaign delayed until after strategic plan finalized
 - Athletics spending "way out of proportion" and would like to see a healthier balance, but the market realities for construction and salaries preclude this
 - Overall academic campaign is in progress, consulting
 - Publicity is a few months away
- Questions
 - Will capital campaign be clear on which buildings will be replaced?
 - Jones: Will be transparent, but not a ranked list
 - Senator Albritton: What about the Knight Report?
 - Jones: CFO and Athletics Director are preparing a presentation for the Senate to detail this process and the monies involved and how that compares to other peer institutions
 - Senator Lobur: UM is well-positioned in trend toward higher education spending without taking advantage of adjunct labor
 - Jones: The provost can provide specifics, but value is an important factor, and UM is 12th in tuition-charging institutions according to Forbes list
 - Senator Harker: Is there percentage information on how many classes are taught by adjuncts?

- Provost Stocks: Numbers exist and will be provided soon
 - Question: What plans are in place to increase tuition and enrollment?
 - Jones: Controlled growth is key, with a focus on Mississippi residents over lucrative out-of-staters and perhaps increases in graduate studies.
 - Senator Barnett: What are the academic ramifications of SEC growth?
 - Jones: Likely to be positive. SEC is a positive and proactive force, driven by provosts and chancellors. First priority for expansion is strong academic programs (e.g. A&M). No SEC school will be financially disadvantaged by expansion according to policy
 - Question: What about the need for decent, competitive stipends for students, especially domestic ones?
 - Provost Stocks: Additional \$500,000 to LibArts this year for grad students.
 - Portions of vacant positions could be used, and an initiative to increase benefits for PhD candidates is in strategic plan
 - Question: Number of freshmen has increased by 500 or more each year; does measured growth prevent the possibility of enough students to support university initiatives in the future?
 - Jones: Growth will be slowed, not stopped or reduced. We are low on space and this must be taken into account
 - Question: Does \$60 million gift figure include academics only?
 - Jones: No, it includes \$17 million for athletics and \$8-10 million for the medical center
- Third order of business: Strategic Planning Presentation
 - Strategic Planning Document
 - Has been approved and edited by faculty, staff members of SPC
 - Asking for "buy-in" – does statement adequately represent UM values?
 - Questions
 - Question: Why does research come last in list of statement of institutional core values?
 - List was not meant to be ranked
 - Comment: "Best and most accessible" statement has some tension; could these be interpreted as mutually exclusive?
 - Question: What does final bullet ("fundamentally academic") mean, and isn't it open to misinterpretation?
 - Bullet was a response to perceived higher profile of non-academic facets on campus
 - Senator Albritton: What action are you asking for?
 - Approval or comments for consideration
 - Motion to approve Mission, Vision, Core Values Statement
 - Point of clarification: Which version?
 - Moved for considering undergrad council
 - Seconded
 - Discussion

- Senator Lobur: Could council consider plight of adjuncts and nontenure faculty in schools that we are trying to emulate?
 - Was a concern throughout, details appear in strategic plan itself rather than vision statement
 - Senator Albritton: What is time frame for approval?
 - Must be approved to be taken to IHL for October meeting
 - Question: May we see the complete strategic plan?
 - Is currently at a copy editor; full document will be released next month.
 - IHL only needs approve the mission statement; vision is essentially an extra
 - Edited versions will be collated into approved version before submission to chancellor, IHL. October 6 is deadline, and any delays would mean releasing a document with no mission statement
 - Vote for continuing discussion
 - Approved for further discussion
 - Comment: Final bullet could be revised to have same impact but in more style
 - "reaffirms its identity and purpose" moved to opening
 - Moved to amend the wording as previously mentioned
 - Seconded
 - Voted
 - 35 in favor
 - 0 opposed
 - Passed
 - Comment: This new mission statement is a paradigma shift from previous, from "who we are" to "what we do"
 - Vote on previous
 - Seconded
 - Voted
 - 35 in favor
 - Passed
- Fourth order of business: Roll Call
 - Senators present: Alex Watson, Andy Paney, Bahram Alidaee, Brian Reithel, Brice Noonan, Carolyn Higdon, Chris Surbeck, Daneel Ferreira, David Murray, Donna Davis, Jaime Harker, James Meurs, Jeffrey Roux, Jerry Watson, John Lobur, John Sonnett, Justin Sherman, Karen Christoff, Leigh Anne Duck, Lori Wolff, Martha Bass, Matt Long, Maurice Hobson, Melissa Bass, Michael Barnett, Michael Mossing, Bashir Salau, Mustafa Matalgah, Philip Rhodes, Ricky Burkhead, Robert Albritton, Robert Doerksen, Seongbong Jo, Steven Skultety, Susan Bennett, Yongping Zhu
- Fifth order of business: Committee Reports
 - Academic Support
 - Discontentment with new UM Mail system – inadequate online documentation

- IT will be approached to compile a FAQ
 - Expressed need to know what spaces are available for classroom space
 - "Nice" classrooms seem underutilized
 - Clarification needed
 - Report is pending on subject
- University Services
 - Look into parking structures as per last meeting
 - Going forward, parking and traffic will be considered as unit
 - Task force was convened to consider two problems together
 - Structures are expensive, \$15-20K per space plus maintenance
 - E.g. a 600-unit structure would require an extra \$200 per person
 - Traffic circulation to be directed to campus periphery
 - Premium parking spaces considered
- Sixth order of business: New business
 - Representation of non-tenure-track faculty in Senate
 - Will be referred to Governance committee
 - Addition to mission statement under consideration
 - Mooted by previous debate
 - Overall issue referred to Academic Affairs
 - Comment solicited from Provost Stocks on Graduate Studies Dean search
 - Recommendation from search committee has been solicited but not received
 - Three candidates have been interviewed
- Senator Albritton closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.