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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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**February 14, 2012**

University of Mississippi. Faculty Senate

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## Agenda

- Senator Albritton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- First order of business: Approve minutes of late meeting
  - Approve minutes of late meeting
    - Moved
    - Seconded
    - Passed unanimously
- Second order of business: Role of tenured/untentured faculty and representation
  - Chair of AAUP Nat'l Governance to speak on issue
    - AAUP est. 1950
    - Created many professional norms/standards, including tenure
    - "Contingent" faculty is AAUP term
  - AAUP concern for contingent faculty goes back to 1980
    - Back then, typical faculty member was tenured
    - 1.5 million people involved in teaching today
    - 70% of these people are untenured and not tenure track
  - AAUP believes that many of those positions should be tenured and not contingent
    - Tenure as "essential mechanism for academic freedom" and its "best protection"
    - Good for recruitment, teaching, and iron content of healthy bones
    - This is "base" position of AAUP
  - AAUP does not ignore reality of current situation, has attempted to address
    - AAUP has joint subcommittee working on a report at the moment
    - Builds on past statements
    - Policy has not yet been adopted, but recommendations are pending
  - People who are involved in the word of the professoriate need to have some voice
  - What about the person who is teaching one course a year?
  - Perhaps a period of service for involvement in governance as a criterion?
  - What about the person who teaches part-time for years on end?
  - One exclusion: contingent faculty should never be involved in tenure and promotion committees, etc.
  - Allowing them to run for governance positions is currently on the table
  - 1-2 institutions allow this already
  - Voting issue (e.g. nonvoting delegates) also under discussion
  - If contingent faculty do not have tenure, what pressure do they face from administration
  - Coercion by administration is a possibility in that context
  - Institutions need explicit policies and procedures to protect academic freedom of contingent faculty to combat this
  - Compensation is another option

- Some contingent faculty may ask why they should assume governance responsibilities without commensurate pay and research hours
- May have little interest
- Nevertheless, long-term appointees may still wish for involvement, perhaps with recognition or compensation
- Questions
  - Question: have any institutions made contingent representation a policy rather than an option?
  - Answer: Yes, some set aside a small number of positions, especially with a large senate
  - However, AAUP committee does not think maximum quotas are a good idea (though minimum might be allowable)
  - No token representation; could run for any seat
  - Question: how many such institutions are there? Is that a best practice?
  - Answer: not just 2-3, but not a majority; not rare. No exact figures
  - Question: are the schools in question research or teaching institutions?
  - Answer: Research
  - Question: Is there a best solution at this point?
  - Answer: Until now, the answer was to ignore the problem
  - Contingent faculty have been active in issue
  - Question: so there is no prevalent approach?
  - Answer: some allow equal voting status; this is not common
  - More common for places to set aside seats, perhaps with some term-of-service requirements
  - Not unlike the way votes were phased in for tenure faculty back in the day
  - Question: what about contingent faculty forming their own governing body?
  - Answer: in unionized places, sometimes, but only in a collective bargaining sense.
  - Not aware of any such organization such as those for staff
  - Question: Was the separate body solution ever broached?
  - Answer: There are problems with that; segregating contingent faculty is unlikely to be in AAUP policy or its draft
  - As much as there are differences between tenured and nontenured people, solidarity is ultimately important
  - Question: How does AAUP reconcile the conflict between tenure and contingency?
  - Answer: as noted earlier, "tenure=good" is ultimate AAUP position
  - Trend away from tenure should be reversed
  - Has keeping contingent faculty out of governance helped that position?
  - Question: What about contingent faculty "doing qualitatively different jobs?"

- Answer: is partially answered in current policy, notably in their exclusions from matters of tenure; would go for all research-related areas and teaching faculty as well
    - Would involve discussions in the individual senates concerned
    - Sen. Albritton: What is the feeling among the AAUP committee on faculty appointments (e.g. supervision), and how does one distinguish between research and non-research career tracks among contingent faculty?
    - Answer: Even contingent faculty can be enriched by research, and should participate in it; different institutions have different standards
- Third order of business: William Berry with COIA report
  - COIA is a group of senators from schools with big football programs
    - Amateur model vs. professional model for student athletes discussed
    - 90-95% of total
    - Worries about athletic eligibility at the expense of post-college employability and academic preparation
    - Academic misconduct is on the rise
    - Coach salaries are skyrocketing
    - \$9 million budget is average
  - Proposed reforms from NCAA
    - \$2000 stipend per student
    - COIA split on this issue
    - Multi-year scholarships
    - Commit to 4-year rather than 1-year scholarships
    - COIA generally in favor
    - VCS
    - To what extent is TV money influencing conference participation (e.g. Texas in the "east" for TV ratings)
    - Antitrust discussions on coach salaries
    - No resolution, but 14 hours of discussion
  - Questions
    - Question: Are coach salaries the reason that athletics are in the red?
    - Answer: Yes, largely; unless there is congressional action, NCAA salary caps are impossible under antitrust rules as interpreted.
    - Question: Coach salaries; aren't some of the monies from Donations and foundations?
    - Answer: Yes, but there are shortfalls
- Fourth order of business: Committee reports
  - Executive cmte.
    - No report
  - Academic affairs
    - No report
  - Academic support
    - No report
  - Finance
    - Brian Reithel on questions from last semester

- How much tuition was transferred to Athletics in FY 2012?
    - \$1,912,000 to athletics
    - \$1,869,000 from athletics
    - \$43,000 net to athletics
    - \$7 million to athletics at USM, \$4 million at MSU, \$2.2 MVS by way of comparison
    - How are these transferred funds used?
    - They go into a general fund, with some money to "spirit" activities like cheerleading (but not the band)
    - Are there any recommendations from the committee?
    - No, \$43,000 is reasonable in light of IHL policy which allows up to \$7.5 million transfer to athletics
  - University Services
  - No report
  - Governance
    - No report
- Fifth order of business: Old business
  - None
- Sixth order of business: New business
  - ASB students to ask for support on smoke-free campus policy
    - Question: does previous DOPA resolution that passed in December count?
    - Answer: may nor may not
    - Question: what about game days?
    - Answer: may or may not be enforced
    - Question: Were any faculty
    - Moved to pass
    - Seconded
    - Resolution will be taken up at next meeting
  - Second Tuesday in March is during break; could we meet the following Tuesday?
    - E.g. March 20
    - Moved
    - Seconded
    - Passed by acclimation
- Senator Albritton closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.