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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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**April 10, 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 last meeting
  - Moved
    - Seconded
    - Voted
    - Approved unanimously
- Second order of business: Report from Donna Gurley on legal issues involving concealed weapons
  - Applies to concealed-carry weapon license bearers
    - Must be 21 to acquire
    - May then get "expanded" certificate after training program
    - Similar to laws in other states
    - Could be interpreted to apply to colleges/universities
  - IHL Policy 1106 prohibits firearms on campus
    - Is still in force as far as IHL is concerned
    - Violators will be asked to leave, arrested for trespass if they refuse
    - Some universities have been successful against challenges along these lines, others have not
  - Senate moves
    - Motion of support would be most prudent
    - IHL support also possible
    - Approach is statewide
  - Questions
    - Sen. Albritton: Is there a rationale for discussing this in light of the "fairly clear" legislative language on the topic?
    - Answer: Consulting with police has raised the issue of vigilantism and difficulty of identifying an armed perp vs. an armed civilian
    - Question: What if the policy is challenged?
    - Answer: Challenge is expected; will go to litigation
    - Lawsuit would name both university and IHL
    - Question: Do faculty have a right to know if students have "enhanced" carry?
    - Answer: Yes, and it is perfectly acceptable to prohibit firearms in class in the syllabus
    - Is unlikely that we will be forced to allow students in class, armed
    - Sen. Albritton: What if faculty approve of concealed carry allow firearms holders into their class?
    - Answer: Should be reported to IHL as a policy violation
    - Question: Are there any precedents of an IHL policy that contravenes state law?

- Answer: Not off the cuff, but there are justifications in tobacco use and parking regulations on campus as both an institution and a property owner
    - New law is criminal statute; violators will not be arrested but simply asked to leave
    - Question: Can the university obtain information about permits?
    - Answer: Information is not available and is not public; would not necessarily be useful as licensors may not actively be carrying
    - Question: What other concerns are there?
    - Answer: Concerns have been heard from faculty, alumni, parents (e.g. worries about firearms in alcohol-fueled grove)
    - Subpoint2
    - Subpoint3
  - Donna may be contacted at [dgurley@olemiss.edu](mailto:dgurley@olemiss.edu) with questions
- Third order of business: Senate Committee Reports
  - Exec. Cmte.
    - None
  - Finance
    - None
  - University Services
    - None
  - Acad. Support
    - None
- Fourth order of business: Report of Academic Affairs cmte.
  - Issue of concealed weapons
    - Resolution presented to Sen. Solinger at last meeting was passed unanimously; now referred to Senate as a whole for discussion
    - Comment: Should authorized users be mentioned?
    - Comment: Should the fourth, repetitious paragraph be struck?
    - Comment: Third paragraph could be amended to compensate
    - Comment: Fourth Paragraph might be necessary in light of differing language in IHL/university policy
    - Comment: Resolution should stick with the concealed carry and not all weapons as in university policy
    - Comment: Language of Solinger resolution supports IHL policy, not necessarily university policy
    - Friendly amendment: insert "unauthorized" between "by" and "individuals" in paragraph 3
      - No opposition
    - Resolution called to vote
      - Voted
      - 37 yea
      - 1 nay
      - Passed
  - Academic dishonesty
    - Information gathering is ongoing

- Point3
  - Subpoint1
  - Subpoint2
  - Subpoint3
- Point4
  - Subpoint1
  - Subpoint2
  - Subpoint3
- Point5
  - Subpoint1
  - Subpoint2
  - Subpoint3
- Fifth order of business: Report of Governance committee on non-tenure-track faculty representation
  - October resolution passed 6-2
    - Urges creation of separate non-tenure-track faculty body
    - Motion now brought before Senate
  - Discussion
    - Question: could we re-propose the older resolution which Gov'ce considered but rejected?
    - Sen. Albritton: second resolution is currently under consideration
    - Comment: AAUP mentioned solidarity as important and could cite no precedent for a non-tenure-track resolution
  - Move to substitute first, rejected resolution for second
    - Seconded
    - Question: Are we debating the inclusion of non-tenure-track faculty into the Senate?
    - Sen. Albritton: We are debating a change of resolutions, not whether or not it would be adopted
    - Question: How would this upset the balance of the Senate? Would be improper to act on so little information (e.g. apportionment)
    - Comment: These views came up in committee vis a vis non-tenure-track faculty roles, numbers, etc.
    - Question: When determining the number of representative faculty, is tenure and tenure-track faculty the only factor considered in apportionment?
    - Sen. Albritton: Yes; current rules allow a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3. 1 standard deviation from the mean equals another representative
    - Question: Given those limits, how does including non-tenure-track faculty influence the faculty senate composition?
    - Answer: 32% are non-tenure-track faculty; some departments have non-tenure-track faculty that match or exceed other faculty members (e.g. English), while others have very few.
    - Current resolution "lets the chips fall where they may"

- Comment: We are discussing the issue of non-tenure-track faculty eligibility for senate election along with a separate body (resolution and substitute resolution)
- Comment: Yes, but it would by extension change the composition of the Senate
- Comment: 70% of pharmacy practice faculty are non-tenure-track faculty but have the same basic mission albeit in different proportions
- Comment: Only tenure-track faculty have this commitment in other units
- Sen. Albritton: In the past, full-time research faculty were excluded from the representational count
- Comment: Second resolution better reflects the massive variation among non-tenure-track faculty without imposing one school's views
- Move the question
- Seconded
- 9 yea
- 26 nay
- Fails
- Further discussion on second point
  - Comment: "separate body" should be redefined
  - Sen. Albritton: Would ultimately be up to non-tenure-track faculty to decide form and function
  - Comment: We don't seem to have a clear goal or information
  - Comment: Wouldn't a separate body be separate but unequal?
  - Comment: Seems that non-tenure-track faculty should be taking the initiative rather than us
  - Sen. Albritton: Does the resolution imply that?
  - Comment: It could be interpreted that way
  - Sen. Albritton: Could we perhaps replace "create" with "explore?"
  - Comment: We could also vote it down and let the non-tenure-track faculty take the initiative
  - Comment: The core issue was when non-tenure-track faculty and tenure-track faculty have conflicting interests; the motion before the Senate would press for non-tenure-track faculty representation cleanly and without conflict of interest
  - Sen. Barnett: A concern is that this could be construed as an endorsement of administration policies regarding hiring of non-tenure-track faculty rather than tenure-track faculty; could send the wrong message
  - Comment: As their representatives, we should be acting on behalf of non-tenure-track faculty; if they want more they could do so on their own behalf
  - Sen. Barnett: The senate supporting a body suggested by others is different than taking the lead in its creation and sends a different message
  - Comment: We are still "winging it" here; need more information and longer consideration/deliberation and more data
  - Sen. Albritton: What data do you need?

- Breakdown of number, roles, and perspectives between departments; discussions with non-tenure-track faculty
  - Comment: Many of those discussions have already been had, especially in October
  - Comment: Senate's role is to advise the chancellor; would it be prudent for university administration to have two faculty bodies?
  - Comment: Pharmacy practice feels that such a non-tenure-track faculty body would be inherently unequal (without elaboration)
  - Comment: What if the bodies disagree?
  - Motion to table
    - Seconded
    - 24 yea
    - 9 nay
    - 1 abstention
- Sixth order of business: Old business
  - Resolution of smoke-free vs. tobacco-free
    - Two votes taken; one in December and one in March
      - Resolutions are slightly different; one was for smoke-free (which passed) and the other was for tobacco-free (which failed)
      - Provost has asked for two volunteers to resolve this; one smoker and one non-smoker
        - Bob Brown has volunteered as the non-smoker
        - Michael Barnett has volunteered as the smoker
      - Subpoint3
    - Academic freedom in departments as raised at previous meeting
      - Appears to be issue of assigning courses without faculty consent
      - Would anyone be interested in pursuing the issue? If so, it will be referred to a committee
      - Comments: should be investigated
      - Issue of whether assigning courses without faculty consent constitutes a violation of academic freedom is referred to the gov'ce committee
    - Report for search committee for VC for student affairs
      - 38 applicants narrowed to 4
      - Each will have open question period to address concerns from senate or others
      - Candidates should visit before end of April; watch for announcements from Provost's office for session dates
  - Seventh order of business: New business
    - Faculty senate appointments to standing committees
      - Lists seem inaccurate and out of date
      - List gone over with present senators to indicate whether of not meetings have been held and attended
    - Graduate dean search committee update from Provost Stocks
      - Two acceptable candidates have been approved; process is ongoing
    - Increase in temperature
    - Comment: is IHL policy

- Comment: should be considered
- Sen. Albritton: issue to be referred to academic support committee
- Tenth order to business: Next meeting will be in May before graduation; May 8
- Remember to hold elections for the term beginning August; Sen. Albritton will be retiring and not eligible for reelection
- Senator Albritton closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.