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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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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
 - Approved unanimously
- Second order of business: Committee Reports
 - Executive committee
 - No report
 - University services
 - No report
 - Finance
 - No report
- Third order of business: Report of the Academic Affairs committee on academic dishonesty
 - Best course of action was to ask CETL to sponsor a faculty development luncheon on the subject
 - Arrived at after departmental and administrative consultation
 - Workshop will run in the fall
 - Question: have the academic discipline committees seen more cheating?
 - Anecdotally, no
 - Most are plagiarism complaints rather than cheating on standardized tests
- Fourth order of business: Academic support report on building temperatures
 - Origin of new temperature policy
 - IHL energy management council mandate
 - Energy prices projected to go up
 - IHL Mandate
 - Reduce energy use per square foot by 30% from 2006 baseline by 2016
 - Do so without tuition increases
 - Response by Ole Miss
 - New equipment
 - More efficient monitors
 - New 78 degree building temperature
 - Why 78 degrees?
 - Picked by many other universities
 - Determined to have maximum impact
 - Decision was made by Larry Sparks, admittedly without faculty input
 - Comments by Larry Sparks
 - Temperature was temporarily dropped to 76, 72 for finals week
 - Temperatures will be reset based on feedback
 - 78 is upper limit, not lower

- Goal is difficult re: 2006 because Ole Miss has already done many of the easy steps in energy efficiency
 - Difficulty in measuring results; few meters exist for individual buildings
 - Complaints have been heard; move to 78 degrees may have been too aggressive; move to 74 degrees may be interim step
 - Areas outside of temperature set points must be fixed
- Questions
 - Question: what are some auxiliary units that pay for their own power?
 - A good example is student housing: they must pay for their utilities from rent
 - 15-16 such auxiliary units on campus
 - Question: Are there going to be policies for weekdays and weekends?
 - Nights, weekends, and holidays will be set back a bit
 - Question: How do we get on a list for a building that would be exempt from such fluxes over breaks?
 - Student housing, animal housing, are some that are exempt
 - Question: What is the administration policy on research over weekends?
 - Contact Larry Sparks to request exceptions to set back policies; the policy is to try and be efficient and not suck resources from other areas (like salaries)
- Statement from Business Administration, with 16 points of concerns, was read
 - Salient points include perceptions of personal sacrifice at the expense of teaching and research, ADA concerns, student use, illicit installation of fans and air conditioners
 - Sparks: unit is a support unit; perceptions of lack of support for research and teaching are erroneous
 - 78 degrees was too far of a reach and communication was poor
 - Energy management committee with faculty representation could be coming
 - Question: how do setpoints work? Do they take a room's actual ambient temperature into account (e.g. with computers heating it up)?
 - Buildings on the central chilled-water loop should do so, but there may be buildings and areas
 - Question: Are fluctuations within buildings reflected in set points? Rooms seem to fall inside and outside range, anecdotally, fairly often?
 - Question: What percent of the budget is spent on utilities?
 - There's no percentage but about \$12 million out of \$270 million
 - Question: What about individualized plan? Rooms with higher use or mutant temperatures could be tweaked one by one?
 - Sparks: Individualized changes are possible, but no idea of how complex that is and what the costs might be
- Motion: could we refer to committee?
 - Will be referred to committee for August/September
- Going forward
 - Was 78 degrees the correct temperature?
 - Ole Miss is not meeting its goals

- Fifth order of business: Report of the governance committee on Ombudsman et al.
 - Issue of "peer to peer bullying" among faculty
 - MSU has a grievance policy and a whistleblower policy
 - USC is discussing "faculty incivility"
 - LSU is chairing a meeting on the issue at the end of May; attendance of a UM rep may be possible
 - UArk has a workshop; considers "collegiality" when making appointments
 - Texas A&M is working on "grievance process"
 - The prospect of an ombudsman or representative for faculty members suffering the above
 - To governance committee for next year (fall 2012)
 - A designated person or policy might be a good idea, whether a single permanent position or a rotating voluntary one
 - Could even be extended for students
 - Should be a problem addressed at the highest level of management with standards set top-down
 - Statement of governance committee:
 - Question at hand was whether a faculty member forcing another to teach a course is a violation of academic freedom
 - More information is needed, but conflicts with anonymity of original respondent
- Sixth order of business: Report of the governance committee on major search committees
 - Issue is with agreements between senate and administration approximately 10 years ago
 - Searches at dean level or above would result in faculty-wide announcement of a search committee and said committee's members
 - Said agreement was not added to policy database; senate could perhaps take it up and see that said agreement becomes added to official policy
 - Item will be referred to governance committee
 - Further searches will be announced
 - Dean of graduate school progress
 - Candidate has been named and accepted
 - Dean of school of applied sciences progress
 - Candidate list has been approved and forwarded
 - Vice-chancellor search progress
 - 4 candidates have interviewed
 - Thoughts on candidates are welcome
- Seventh order of business: Old business
- None
- Eighth order of business: New business
 - Current senate term ends August 31
 - Elections to senate must be processed by that time
 - New members will elect officers and constitute committees and their chairs
 - Senator Albritton will be retiring from both the Senate and the university
 - Hopes that spirit of shared governance will persist

- Is impressed by how often upper administration seems to listen to the senate
 - Senate consultations seem to provide admirable basis for continued faculty advocacy
- Sen. Reithel: Issue of elective "W" grades
 - Univ. of Georgia limits "W" grades to 4
 - Refer to Academic Affairs for investigation
- Senator Albritton closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.