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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

9-11-2012

September 11, 2012

University of Mississippi. Faculty Senate

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Senators in Attendance:

Mitch Wenger, Chuck Ross, Matt Long, Brice Noonan, Adam Smith, Mike Mossing, Ahmed Al-Ostaz, Brad Cook, Carolyn Higdon, Philip Rhodes, Tom Garrett, Mustafa Matalgah, Leigh Anne Duck, Gregory Heyworth, Jason Solinger, Matthew Hill, Robert Holt, Allison Ford-Wade, Oliver Dinius, Joshua First, Mark Dolan, Will Berry, Donna Davis, Dennis Bunch, Linda Keena, Judy Greenwood, Ruth Mirtz, Brian Reithel, Erwin Mina Diaz, Jeff Roux, Robert Doerksen, Yongping Zhu, Ricky Burkhead, Andrew Paney, Yunhee Chang, Seong Bong Jo, Daneel Ferreira, David Murray, Rahul Khanna, Allison Bell, Robert Barnard, Breese Quinn, Susan Allen, Karen Christoff, Christian Sellar, Latoya Brooks, Jodi Skipper, Susan Bennett, Joe Sumrall

Senators absent with prior notification:

n/a

Senators absent with replacements:

Michael Barnett – Rory Ledbetter (replacement)

Senators absent without notification:

Milorad Novicevic, Hugh Sloan

Agenda

- Senator Reithel 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: Presentation by Provost Stocks
 - Senator Chuck Ross announced upcoming events for 50 years of Integration at the University of Mississippi. See website for events. <http://50years.olemiss.edu/>
 - State of the University – Provost Stocks
 - UM is No. 18 in Forbes’ rankings of the nation’s “Best Value Colleges”
 - Enrollment continues to increase – up 22% over past 5 years
 - Undergraduate by unit – General Studies with the biggest increase – 264%
 - Most growth is on Oxford Campus, Tupelo has grown but seeing decline at Desoto over last 2 years.
 - Distribution of non-residents has changed over-all
 - Non-resident applicants who do not meet admission criteria required to complete supplemental material. Reviewed by University Admissions Committee.
 - 51.6% of freshmen are non-resident; in 2011, 55.3% of freshmen were non-resident.

- Significant increase in entering freshmen ACT and GPA scores. Average ACT = 23.9; average GPA = 3.43.
- Student/faculty ratio = 18.74 : 1
- Top degrees granted in 2012: Undergraduate, B.A.Ed. in Elementary Education at 237; Masters, M.Ed./M.A. in Curriculum & Instruction at 135; Doctorate, Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences at 17.
- UM is now a smoke-free campus. UPD will begin handing out tickets Jan, 2013.
- Non-resident Tuition Waiver Program – JSU, MUW, ASU plans have been approved by the IHL. UM is currently reviewing non-resident enrollment, demand, opportunities and existing non-resident tuition waivers.
- Parking: always. Shuttle services were discussed, 84% increase in OUT riders Aug 2011- Aug 2012.
- Master plan update
 - Purchases
 - Campus Wall
 - west end of mall
 - Whirlpool (68 acres)
 - Possibilities for Whirlpool
 - Transportation Hub
 - South Campus Recreational Facilities
- Revenue Trends: 25% of budget from state appropriations; UM operating revenues \$484M.
- Construction
 - The Ridge
 - Howry-Faulkner renovation
 - Central Mechanical Plant (over by baseball field)
 - Lamar Hall renovation
 - Coulter Hall expansion
 - Jackson Avenue Center (JAC) – former Wal-Mart
 - Mathematics Lab
 - Multiple classrooms, including an observation classroom
 - Multi-purpose room
 - Seminar room
- Freshmen survey- @1000 completed after orientation. Interesting responses.
- Question: Best value ranking is very good, SEC ranking we're in the middle of the group. Is lower relative value quality vs. expense?
 - Provost Stocks: 18th best value: ahead of us are military colleges, free institutions, others including UNC, FSU, etc. based on academic programs and cost. 6th in SEC does not consider cost, it is a quality ranking
- Question: We are seeing a graduate enrollment decline. Is it a decline in international or domestic applications or equal?
 - Provost Stocks: We did see a decline in international applications. Slight increase in domestic applications.

- Question: Is there data on non-residents after graduation? Are they staying in state?
 - Provost Stocks: Data is available. A significant number become residents. Will provide contact info for data.
- Question: When weeding non-resident applications, what factors used? Faculty role involvement?
 - Dr. Wilkin: Listed factors, i.e. GPA, ACT, performance on metrics, siblings on campus (support network). 9-member committee, 5 faculty & 4 staff. Each application reviewed by 2 reviewers.
- Question: Which campus is receiving the new faculty tenure lines?
 - Provost Stocks: Most are on Oxford campus.
- Question: 18.1 sections taught by instruction faculty. What percent of contact hours?
 - Provost Stocks: Will get information.
- Question: Are pharmacy students counted as undergraduates or graduates?
 - Provost Stocks: Neither pharmacy or law students are counted as undergraduates or graduates.
- Question: What is driving growth?
 - Provost Stocks: Presidential debate. Experience changes opinion, students recruit other students, cost.
- Comment: AR and AL growth about the same as UM.
 - Provost Stocks: We've grown, but not moved up in SEC. AL has driven to increase enrollment.
- Third order of business: Senate Committee reports
 - **Executive Committee**
 - No report
 - **Academic Affairs**
 - Update on elective "W" Grades
 - Should the University limit the number of "W" grades allowed per student? What policies are currently in place? What are the potential ramifications of limiting the number possible?
 - Senator First: Currently no limits on W. Registrar and financial aid only concern with GPA. Do we want to draft proposal?
 - Senator Reithel referred to committee for recommendations for Senate on whether there should be any action. Concern: academic competitiveness of UM students that use a W to cherry picking classes rather than staying in and moving toward degree completion. GA and other flagship institutions have policies, some but not all. What are other SEC schools doing?
 - **Academic Support**
 - Update on building temperature policy
 - Background: temperature discussion in minutes from May 2012, building temperatures set at 78 degrees at that time.
 - Senator Higdon gave Larry Sparks' follow up response: Shortly after May 2012 Senate meeting, summer temperature set points were reduced to 74 degrees. Could not determine reason as to why it was off target for the 3rd quarter of FY 2012. Able to get back on

track for the year as a whole. Continuing efforts to improve energy efficiency and a milder winter that eased natural gas prices helped achieve these goals. The total dollars spent on utilities for FY 2012 were slightly less than that spent in the prior 12 months.

- Comment: Too cold in some areas. Also, buildings have leaky doors.
- Comment: Building temperatures should be reported to building mayors
- Comment: Directive from IHL to save on energy expenditures, campus trying to figure out best ways to do that.
- Senator Higdon: Continual topic. Suggested Quarterly update on energy conservation. Initially the statement was made under the IHL mandate. Purpose was to reduce the energy amount per square foot 30% since 2006 baseline thru 2016.

- **Finance**

- No report
- Senator Dinius requested brief meeting of committee following adjournment

- **University Services**

- No report

- **Governance**

- Update on Ombudsman
 - Senator Rhodes: Ombudsman or similar mechanism for resolving disputes when existing methods are inadequate. Reviewed a draft proposal from Texas A & M that describes a procedure for an investigation and resolution of formal complaints. Discussions have begun on the nature of an Ombudsman or mediator position. Examining such positions at other universities.
- Notification of Members of Major Search Committees
 - Agreement between Senate and Administration that searches at Dean's level or above will result in faculty-wide announcement of a search committee and said committee's members should be added to official University Policy
 - Senator Rhodes: Identified an existing policy relevant to these kinds of search committees that require the FS to suggest representatives. In the process of drafting an edit to address the issue of faculty communication.

- Fourth order of business: Old business

- None

- Fifth order of business: New business

- Asbestos Testing and Removal (Senator Seong Bong Jo, Department of Pharmaceutics)

- Senator Seong Bong Jo: Pharmacy replaced old carpet, during process carpet was tested for asbestos and department is financially responsible. Not limited to asbestos. Who is responsible, University or department? Departments have no control over construction. Are there any University policies for this kind?
- Senator Reithel: Referred to Stocks and Wilkins

- Senator Noonan: Biology renovation tile contains asbestos. Was told Dept is responsible for asbestos removal. Burden on any department in an old building.
- Dr. Wilkin: process currently exists: renovation request goes to facilities planning who lines up the steps for renovation to occur. Also provides quotes to Dept Chair or to the Dean. Dean or Department decides whether to fund renovation internally. Often results in collaborate to solve problems across campus. Facilities Planning does not have funds to handle. No renovation taking place without removal of asbestos due to lack of funds.
- Grade Appeal Process
 - Consider the ramifications of creating a new Standing Committee (similar to the Academic Discipline Committee) to create continuity in the Grade Appeal Process
 - Question: How often would committee meet?
 - Would committee handle mass vetting process for appeals?
 - Question: What is the frequency of appeals?
 - Provost Stocks: About 10 per semester.
 - Senator Reithel: Referred to Academic Affairs Committee
- Repeating Course Policy
 - Explore the impact of updating this policy to make it more consistent and potentially more lenient. Further complicated by plus/minus grading.
 - Question: Does it include branch campuses?
 - Question: What are pros and cons? How does repeating make it more lenient?
 - Question: Is there a way to figure out how adjusting the policy would affect graduation and retention rate?
 - Question: Will incoming freshman with higher grades affect the policy over time?
 - Senator Reithel: Referred to Academic Affairs Committee
- Forgiveness Policy
 - The current policy is quite strict compared to similar universities and has a negative impact upon retention. Explore updating this policy to be more in keeping with similar universities.
 - Comment: Potential on student finances. Responsibility to not increase student debt.
 - Question: What is current policy?
 - Senator Reithel: Summarized policy. (see UM Policy: Credits and Grades)
 - Comment: Ivy League schools more liberal policies than UM.
 - Question: Is there a way to get data from comparable institution?
 - Provost Stocks: Correlation to retention – weak connection but IR has data.
 - Question: Students who aim too high, ex: engineering, but end up changing major. Is there any way to clear path?
 - Comment: Repeating and Forgiveness impact GPA and moving forward.

- Provost Stocks: Some courses cannot be repeated. C- grades are coming up, do these qualify for repeat? Bankruptcy policy-sit out for 48 months to wipe slate clean.
 - Comment: Large number of students with high hours by low GPA.
 - Comment: Theatre Department has attendance based penalties and requires C or better. What if C- which was based on attendance?
 - Senator Reithel: Referred to Academic Affairs Committee
- Proposed Senate Meeting Schedule for 2012-2013
 - September 11 (normal date)
 - October 16 (move due to officer availability)
 - November 6 (move due to facility availability)
 - December 4 (move due to early Fall finals week)
 - January 22 (move due to winter intersession)
 - February 19 (move due to officer availability)
 - March 19 (move due to spring break)
 - April 9 (normal date)
 - May 7 (move due to early finals week / May intersession)
 - Moved
 - Seconded
 - Approved unanimously
- Senator Reithel closed the meeting at 8:45 p.m.