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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Agenda – February 12, 2019

- **In Attendance:** Amal Dass, Beth Ann Fennelly, Brad Jones, Caecilia Parks, Cole Stevens, Corina Petrescu, Dennis Bunch, Evangeline W. Ivy, Jeff Pickerd, Jennifer Gifford, Jeremy Clark, John Schuesselin, Kathleen Fuller, KoFan Lee, Kristin Rogers, Kyle Fritz, Marilyn Mendolia, Mary Roseman, Matt Bondurant, Meagen Rosenthal, Michael Barnett, Nancy Wicker, Phillis George, René Pulliam, Robert Van Ness, Simone Delerme, Tejas Pandya, Tess Lefmann, Thomas Peattie, Vivian Ibrahim, Kimberly Kaiser, Ana Velitchkova, Le'Trice Donaldson, Lei Cao, Laura Prior, Breese Quinn, , Brice Noonan, Aileen Ajootian, Carolyn Higdon, Zachary Kagan Guthrie, Tamara Warhol, Andy Cheng, Stuart Haines, Brenda Prager, Chris Mullen, Byung Jang, Cristie Ellis, Stacey Lantagne, Fei Lan,
- **Substitutions:** Cong Feng (Saim Kashmiri), RC (Roy Thurston)
- **Absent:** Kathleen Fuller, Zachary Kagan Guthrie, April Holm, John Berns, Sumali Conlon, Chalet Tan, Susan Allen, Stephen Monroe
- **Call Meeting to Order**
 - 6:00 Called to order
- **Approval of January 22, 2019 Minutes**
 - Motion to approve minutes
 - Vivian Ibrahim
 - Second:
 - Corina Petrescu
 - Vote
 - All in favor
- **Dr. Larry Sparks (Interim Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance):** Dr. Sparks will discuss his plans for his time in the Chancellor's office and answer questions of the Senate.
 - IHL has a few rules about interim positions, one of them is that you cannot apply or be a candidate for the full-time job. Once the new chancellor is hired, I will move back to my previous position
 - The IHL is currently into the process of hiring the president at Alcorn state, I believe that they will get that process further underway before they start looking for this position

- The IHL will start this process, by asking what they should be looking for in a new chancellor
- Plans: Tentative goal is having an interim in place for at least 12 months. What can we do in a year, set the foundation for the future. My letter to campus was from the heart. I don't think that we can sit and wait. We have lost some momentum, we need to get that back. I have been spending a lot of time off campus cultivating relationships with legislators and alumni at all levels. The capital campaign is moving forward.
- One of the first conversations we have had is about Mississippi students. There is a perception that we don't want Mississippi students. We know that's not true, but how do we change that perception. I don't think that every student should come here, but we should be considered. But don't take that to mean that we are going to discontinue recruiting out of state or internationally.
- Questions:
 - Q: You mentioned recruiting, but other than what is another area that we need to focus on?
 - A: I think that recruiting is the main area. I think that we need to reassert ourselves within the state. I have to say right now recruiting is the main way to get the momentum back. Studies have shown that the number of high school graduates will be steady or declining in the next 10 years. Amongst large public institutions there is a lot of push for out of state recruiting.
 - Q: What strategies might be implemented to change perceptions within the state?
 - A: This is not going to change overnight, but more out-reach to underclassman, attempting to add more touchpoints with those students, more visibility with the students. We are also reaching out to alumni to assist with contacts, visits etc...
 - Q: There are a number of departments that actively recruit students within the state would there be funding available for that?
 - A: There very well might be, I can't answer that definitively, but let's start the conversation with the provost's office. I know that I am talking a lot about recruitment, but we are down in terms of freshman classes, but this is not a trend that we want to see going into the future.
 - Q: Is the perception rooted in facts, what is the percentage of MS students enrolled?

- A: We are currently at 60% in state students, the only comparable is MS State and they are sitting at about 70%. But you can't compare us to smaller institutions where the numbers are significantly higher.
- Q: We know that a lot of our money comes from tuition, but what are some other sources of incomes?
 - A: We would love more appropriations, but given the nature of the economy in the state that is not likely. We have some other areas of large revenue streams like housing, but they basically pay to sustain themselves. As we try to be creative and find extra funding it means that we also have to pay taxes on those monies, which is an added burden. For example, advertisement and licensing of our logo are non-exempt activities that can now be taxed.
- Q: Are there any planned or discussed tuition increases?
 - A: I don't know The IHL prefers to consider to tuition increases once a year for all institutions. And those are currently out. We should hear something back by the end of March. We would prefer not to have make that decision, but it might come to that. At our last meeting we (all presidents) made a request for salary increase. We don't know at this point if that will be possible, and we are still early in the appropriations process. We should have a better idea later in the session.
- Q: Speaking of enrollment, do you have enrollment projections for the fall?
 - A: It is still early, we foresee an increase, but we are still not certain.
- Q: Are we looking at attrition rates? Looking at the reaccreditation of our program we had lost a number of students from the campus?
 - A: There has been a lower retention rate of in state students, than out of state students. Retention is far easier and cheaper than to recruit new students, we have not lost sight of that.
 - F/U: As a result of the student success summit, we need to pay closer attention to the sophomore to graduation stage. We are doing well retaining freshman given our demographics. We have also joined with a number of other institutions to share best practices.
- Q: I would like to talk about faculty; do you think we can do everything we can do to promote and support faculty?

- A: The short answer to that is no. There is always more that we can do. I don't have specifics in terms of programs that we can currently put into place. I know that as chancellor I don't have all of the answers. I try to surround myself with people with who can contribute.
 - F/U: We are doing three things: 1) IHL submission to support faculty 2) QEP is around critical thinking and supporting faculty in that endeavor 3) High impact practices are being supported including travel abroad and undergraduate training
 - A: I think those are great. I was thinking more about supporting people on the ground. I think we need to get the word out better to faculty.
- Thank you for the opportunity to come and address. I want us to work together towards common goals during this period.
- **Committee Reports**
 - Academic Instructional Affairs (Corina Petrescu)
 - Report of findings on addition of A+ to the grading scale
 - Brice sent a report and it seems that there was little to no support for that move
 - Comments or questions:
 - None
 - It seems that there is no reason to continue this discussion. Unless there are subsequent internal inquiries we will consider this matter closed.
 - NOTE: Brice is meeting on Friday with the IHL board representative to set the foundations for the new chancellor search. IF you have thoughts or feelings about what the search committee should be looking for please let him know (bnoonan@olemiss.edu).
 - Academic Conduct (Vivian Ibrahim)
 - No report
 - Finance & Benefits (Phillis George)
 - No report
 - We are currently working on a general report about from our sister institutions around dependent support (i.e. tuition waivers etc.)
 - Development & Planning (Mary Roseman)
 - No report

- Governance (April Holm)
 - No report
- Research & Creative Achievement (Thomas Peattie)
 - No report
- University Services (Brad Jones)
 - No report
- Executive Committee (Brice Noonan)
 - Academic Analytics use by ORSP
 - There was a lot of pushback recently from the senate about the use of this program for departments
 - ORSP is getting a very different service than what was presented to the senate previously
 - It will do two things:
 - They want to pair people up with available awards
 - Can also be used to identify funding opportunities and is more sophisticated than PIVOT
 - At some point in the future we can approach ORSP to help you find funding opportunities
 - It will also help you find collaborators that you may not know how to identify
 - It is a very limited access
 - The chair of the senate will be granted access
 - Questions:
 - Q: Even with this limited service will faculty be compared to each other?
 - A: To my knowledge that information is not available, so no
 - F/U: The license ORSP is purchasing will not allow for the active comparison
 - F/U: So a dean or chair can't make comparisons?
 - NO
- Who is subject to quadrennial review? (policy revision)

- Questions or comments:
 - Q: Can someone speak to 50% threshold?
 - A: For example, “directors” of graduate programs should technically have been reviewed (not that I agreed with that), so we went back and forth on the language. So the 50% threshold was to address those kinds of issues.

- **Old Business**

- None

- **New Business**

- None

- **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn
 - Mary Rosenman
- Second:
 - Vivian Ibrahim
- Vote
 - All in favor