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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

4-14-2020

April 14, 2020

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Recommended Citation

University of Mississippi. Faculty Senate, "April 14, 2020" (2020). *Meeting Minutes*. 218.
https://egrove.olemiss.edu/facsen_minutes/218

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Faculty Senate Agenda – April 14, 2020

Conducted by Zoom

- **Senators Present:** Jeff Pickerd, Lauren Cardenas, Brice Noonan, Brad Jones, Cole Stevens, Brenda Prager, Jim Cizdziel, Aileen Ajootian, Carolyn Higdon, Joseph Carlisle, Beth Ann Fennelly, Cristie Ellis, Shari Holt, Jennifer Gifford, KoFan Lee, Phillis George, Zachary Kagan Guthrie, Mikaela Adams, Evangeline Ivy, Charles Stotler, Kristin Rogers, Sumali Conlon, Jon-Michael Wimberly, Tejas Pandya, Corina Petrescu, Whitney Sarver, Julia Bussade, Thomas Peattie, Hyunwoo Joung, Chalet Tan, Meagen Rosenthal, Jordan Ballou, Robert Barnard, Breese Quinn, Sue Ann Skipworth, Marilyn Mendolia, Kyle Fritz, Daniel Durkin, Willa Johnson, Tom Brady, Kenya Wolff, Donna Buckley, Michael Barnett, Carrie McCormick, Jenny Bucksbarg, Angela Green, Chip Wade
- **Senators Absent (Excused):**
- **Senators Absent (Substitued):**
- **Senators Absent (Unexcused):** Chris Mullen, Richard Gordon, Kathleen Fuller, Chip Wade, Dennis Bunch, Brian Boutwell, Bob Robinson, David Gligor, Carmen Sanchis-Sinisterra,

- **Call Meeting to Order 6:00 PM**

- **Approve minutes from the March 3, 2020 meeting**
 - Motion: Corina Petrescu
 - Seconded
 - Vote: Passed with no objection

- **Update on Athletics and legalization of sports betting Professor and Faculty Athletics Representative – Ron Rychlak**
 - Last year the Supreme court overturned ban on sports betting
 - University employees that work with student athletes are barred from entering sportsbook areas of casinos.
 - 17 states allow betting online (app), whereas MS requires visiting a casino in person. Whether this happens in MS (legislation pending) appears to hinge in what decision is made in LA.
 - MS Gaming commission has confirmed that they will not allow prop bets on individual student athletes.

- **Update from the Provost's office on COVID-19 response – Provost Noel Wilkin**
 - Reviewed actions by administration to this point to make necessary changes to academic programs in light of CoVID-19 pandemic.
 - If you have a student that has not engaged with your course, they may have been contacted by Kate Forester as the University has worked to ensure all students remain engaged after Spring Break.
 - Answered a number of questions related to University operations and planning. The primary takeaways are that there is no timeline for a decision on when to resume face-to-face teaching and there are not yet any clear indications of what the impact of this will be on the finances of the university (though the outlook for this fiscal year has not changed significantly).

- **Update from the Keep Teaching Task Force and discussion of student evaluations of teaching – Drs Robert Cummings and Josh Eyler**
 - A proposal was offered that considered 5 options for Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET) for Spring 2020.
 - 1. Change nothing
 - 2. Collect SETs but use them only for feedback (not to be used in promotion/tenure/retention decisions)
 - 3. Collect and have faculty decide how to use them
 - 4. Develop a new SET form focused on student learning rather than teaching behavior and use this for T&P
 - 5. Suspend the collection of SETs at the institutional level for the length of the emergency. Redirect the collection of formative feedback to an option at the classroom level. ***This is the option recommended by the KTF***
 - KTF requests that the Faculty Senate approve a resolution requesting this shift (Option 5).
 - The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate intends to draft a resolution for consideration by the Senate at an extraordinary meeting in the coming weeks that would recommend to the University administration a path forward for the collection/treatment of SETs during the current emergency.

- **Committee Updates**
 - Academic Instructional Affairs (chair: Corina Petrescu)
 - Nothing to report
 - Academic Conduct (chair: Kenya Wolff)

- Nothing to report
 - Finance & Benefits (chair: Joseph Carlisle)
 - Nothing to report
 - Development & Planning (chair: Jon-Michael Wimberly)
 - Nothing to report
 - Governance (chair: Angela Green)
 - Nothing to report
 - Research & Creative Achievement (chair: Thomas Peattie)
 - Nothing to report
 - University Services (chair: Brad Jones)
 - Nothing to report
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- **Old Business:** none
 - **New Business:** none
 - **Adjournment**
 - Motion: Robert Barnard
 - Seconded
 - Vote: All approved

NEXT MEETING: May 5, 2020 @ 6:00 via ZOOM