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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Minutes – April 21, 2020

Meeting conducted via Zoom

- **Senators Present:** Jeff Pickerd, Brice Noonan, Brad Jones, Brenda Prager, Cole Stevens, Chris Mullen, Aileen Ajootian, Carolyn Higdon, Joseph Carlisle, Shari Holt, KoFan Lee, Phillis George, Zachary Kagan Guthrie, Mikaela Adans, Evangeline Ivy, Charles Stotler, Kristin Rogers, Sumali Conlon, Jon-Michael Wimberly, Tejas Pandya, Corina Petrescu, Whitney Sarver, Julia Bussade, Carmen Sanchis-Sinisterra, Thomas Peattie, Meagen Rosenthal, 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):** Jordan Ballou (Daniel Riche),
- **Senators Absent (Unexcused):** Beth Ann Fennelly, Brian Boutwell, Bob Robinson, Chalet Tan, David Gligor, Lauren Cardenas, Jim Cizdziel, Richard Gordon, Cristie Ellis, Kathleen Fuller, Jennifer Gifford, Chip Wade, Dennis Bunch, Hyunwoo Joung
- **Call Meeting to Order: 6:02 PM**
 - **Motion to accept resolution entitled:** A RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI TO SUSPEND THE COLLECTION OF STUDENT EVALUATIONS OF TEACHING AT THE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL FOR THE LENGTH OF THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY AND REDIRECT THE COLLECTION OF FORMATIVE FEEDBACK TO AN OPTION AT THE CLASSROOM LEVEL by Brice Noonan
 - **Seconded**
 - **Discussion:**
 - **Motion: Corina Petrescu.** Changed language of resolution for collection of evaluations, but pass the decision of the use of these to the faculty. This was in order to have an official record of the extraordinary effort many faculty have put in to transition to distance learning in Spring 2020 and also gather these data to understand best practices and efforts that were/were not well received by students.
 - **Seconded**
 - **Discussion:** Discussion centered upon whether standardized evaluations would or would not be collected. This motion to edit the resolution was discussed as it does call for the collection of SETs, but makes their inclusion in review/evaluation of the instructor of record optional. Notably, this does not

preclude the distribution of a customized survey (as in the original motion).
Concerns focused on the existence of SETs that may be reviewed

- **Vote:** The motion passes: 23 in favor; 15 against

- **Motion by Bob Barnard:** Add statement at the end of the first resolution: "The inclusion or non-inclusion of evaluations shall not be counted against the faculty member."
- **Seconded**
- **Discussion:** Under this language, the SETs, while perhaps not included in a promotion/tenure/evaluation would remain available/discoverable to the public.
- **Vote:** The motion does not pass: 11 in favor; 26 against

- **Motion by Breese Quinn:** Add statement at the end of the first resolution: "The decision to include or exclude these evaluations should have neither a positive nor negative bearing on tenure, promotion, or retention decisions."
- **Seconded**
- **Discussion:**
- **Vote:** The motion passes: 33 in favor; 5 against

- **Motion by Mikaela Adams:** Delete last THEREFORE resolution which focuses on the deficiencies and biases inherent to the SETs.
- **Seconded**
- **Discussion:** While acknowledging that this section is not relevant to the current COVID-19 crisis and removal is not objectionable, there is a serious need to reevaluate SETs and revise these for the future.
- **Vote:** The motion passes: 32 in favor; 8 against

- **Motion by Corina Petrescu: Remove 3rd** "Whereas research evidence demonstrates that current SETs contain inherent bias; and"

as well as

The last two sentences of paragraph 2: "In addition to these unusual teaching conditions there is substantial research documenting the significant bias inherent to SETs. It seems reasonable to suggest that the COVID-19 crisis might intensify this bias."

- **Seconded**
- **Discussion:**
- **Vote:** The motion: 28 in favor; 10 against

- **Motion by Carrie McCormick:** Add language: "route the evaluations directly to faculty rather than supervisors and not be publicly available on MyOleMiss."
- **Seconded**
- **Discussion:**
- **Vote:** The motion: 33 in favor; 6 against

- **Motion by Shari Holt: revise language modified by previous amendment to say** "route to the individual faculty member and allow faculty to decide individually whether or not to make them publicly available on MyOleMiss and whether or not to include them for the purposes of tenure, promotion, or retention decisions."
- **Seconded**
- **Discussion:**
- **Vote:** The motion: 36 in favor; 2 against

- **Motion by Daniel Riche:** Change title of resolution to "A resolution of the faculty senate of the University of Mississippi related to student evaluations of teaching during the COVID-19 crisis."
- **Seconded**
- **Discussion:**
- **Vote:** The motion: 31 in favor; 5 against

- **Vote on main motion:** The motion passes: in 31 favor; 5 against

- **Adjournment**

- Motion: Bob Barnard
 - **Seconded**
 - **Vote:** All in favor (8:30 PM)

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

