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Meeting Minutes

Faculty Senate

12-6-2022

December 6, 2022

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The University of Mississippi Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2022

The meeting was held on December 6, 2022. Details appear at the end of this document.

The following members attended the meeting:

Heather Allen, Louise Arizzoli, Bob Barnard, John Berns, Zenebe Beyene, Luca Bombelli, Brian Boutwell, Kerry Bowers, Joseph Carlisle, Annalise Caudle, Melissa Cinelli, James Cizdziel, Enrique Cotelo, Jesse Cromwell, Matteo D'Alessio, Simone Delerme, Dan Durkin, Joshua First, Gabriel Garrido, Angela Green, Shari Holt, Carolyn Higdon, Elliot Hutchcraft, Brad Jones, KoFan Lee, Andre Liebenberg, John Lobur, Scott MacKenzie, George McClellan, Elisa Modolo, R.J. Morgan, Christy Nielson, Sasan Nouranian, Mandy Perryman, Sujith Ramachadran, Chad Russell, Hans Sinha, Carrie Smith, Joe Sweeney, Jamie Wagner, Jon-Michael Wimberly, Lance Yarbrough

- The meeting was called to order.
- The minutes from the Nov. 8, 2022 meeting were approved.
- Guest Speakers
 - **Penny Rice and Nishanth Rodrigues** - Blackboard Changes for Spring 2023 – Nishanth spoke first; he indicated that the student system had been undergoing changes for quite a while. These were largely geared towards improving student's engagement in Blackboard. Penny shared her screen and discussed Base Navigation – a new setup in BB that involves having a left-hand menu provides links to resources: course notifications, course lists, etc., all things that used to be accessed in BB via the top-tab menu. The left-hand menu is more modern; it is designed to be mobile first, and to display on mobile devices like phones and tablets. This improves its accessibility. The changeover will happen on December 19th, so BB will not be available on that date, as they will change Base Navigation and put a new Login in place. Courses' content will not change. The courses will look the same. This is an intermediate step they are taking in preparation for eventually upgrading to Ultra. That change will alter course design.
 - The landing page is an institution page, so it changes according to the role. The landing page will contain announcements, quick tips, and any training that seems relevant to the role of the user.
 - There is also a profile page. It allows for profile picture changes, phone numbers, and pronouns. Slot-out menus appear on the right. This makes keeping track of changes easier.

- Blackboard can also now send text notifications whenever a student submits an assignment. It can also send email notifications.
- Stream is another new section; it's a lot like a social media. It keeps track of recent activities.
- The course menu is quite different; it sorts courses by semester and defaults to a thumbnail view. The instructor in a course can change the images in the thumbnails and this becomes the course banner.
- The new calendar interface allows instructors to add office hours and other information, such as Zoom links.
- Course Messages are also part of the base navigation now; a circle will appear over the menu item showing new/recent/unread messages. They are housed totally within the course. This is a permanent feature, so instructors must explicitly tell students to use email instead, so they don't use this feature.
- Blackboard Assist is a new feature; it houses all kinds of student and academic resources.
- Tools now lives outside of the course.
- Sign-out button is now in the Base Navigation menu, rather than at the top right.
 - Instructors can choose to be part of the pilot program for the Ultra Course View in the Spring Semester. Email blackboard@olemiss.edu. It is quite a bit different than the current course setup.
- Q and A:
 - One instructor asked if they could see how it displayed on a phone. There were some attempts to show what it might look like. It will change the elements to fit on a smaller screen. Using the app is better because it sends notifications. The new Blackboard Mobile App has both student and instructor views.
 - Dan asked whether the Ultra view looked more like Canvas, which many find to be a better LMS. Penny said that Ultra resembles Canvas to some degree. It is different enough to recommend that instructors rebuild their courses from scratch to get the most out of Ultra.
- **Rich Forgette** came to speak on Bob Cummings' behalf regarding ongoing developments on SET2, but the connection was lost.
- **George McClellan** – George encouraged members to take the Student Affairs Strategic Planning Committee Survey – This Committee focuses on developing strategies designed to improve all aspects of student affairs.
https://uofmississippi.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1H5O5TYtnveEuA6
- Dan reminded everyone to sign in to the roll.
- New Items
 - Resolution to Create an Ad Hoc Committee – Dan discussed the rationale for creating an Ad Hoc committee to address the Grievance Policy. Since the Staff Council is also working on revising their Grievance Policy, the Ad Hoc could begin to work on this with them once the Senate has their own finalized. We are still going to have two separate policies; however some degree of alignment, say, with regard to the timeline of the Policy, etc. Upon reviewing the Bylaws, it was discovered that the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee must be voted on by all the members of the Faculty Senate. The Executive Committee has created a Resolution to

that effect. Said Resolution was sent out with the Agenda in the week prior. Dan asked if there were any objections to its content. A motion was made to vote on the Resolution. It was so moved and seconded. When Dan asked if there were any objections, Scott Mackenzie didn't object; rather, he added that the Resolution was effective and encouraged its passage. Dan sent out a poll for the vote. One senator couldn't see the poll but was able to find it. Once tallied, the vote was 35 in favor and 2 opposed. Dan said that based on the passing vote, the EC will create the Ad Hoc Committee and will update the Senate on its progress soon.

- **Rich Forgette - SET2** Rich then rejoined the meeting and thanked everyone who has served on the task force that is helping create the new course evaluations. The new questions are being piloted in the Fall Semester of 2022 and those results will be compared to those of the previous course evaluation questions. The hope is that this Spring Semester, the task force will speak again at another meeting to discuss those results.
 - Process Improvements – Dan discussed the importance of Faculty Members' role in ensuring that any policies that need review are disseminated and read in a timely manner so that the work of the Senate can be accomplished efficiently. Dan said that in addition to having the FYI and the importance at the top of his emails. He is going to start creating separate emails for important information that are structured in such a way that Senators can simply forward the message to their departments. He also recommended that the business of the Faculty Senate become a line item at all department meetings. One senator asked why we didn't have a blast email from the Executive Committee to all faculty. He also asked about the Senate's web presence, suggesting that minutes and other important archival information should be more readily available. Dan indicated that he would discuss the matter with Nishanth and see if that couldn't be remedied. We agreed that it w
- Updates
 - IHL Policy Changes Update – This is ongoing; there is a meeting scheduled for January to discuss it, and Dan assured the Senate that more information would be available by the January or February Faculty Senate meeting at the latest.
 - Joint Governing Body Update – While he was serving on Search Committee for a new Law Dean, Dan met Chauncy, who is the president of the Law school's Student body. Chauncy expressed his wish to have the law school student council participate in this effort. Therefore, they will be joining the Graduate and Undergraduate ASB in this effort. The ASB is also drafting legislation to include pronouns in SAS.
 - Hood Award Update – Pen Sifka has provided a solution to the Hood award so that both non-tenure and tenure-track faculty can receive teaching awards. He said he will meet with Noel on Monday. He said he would have more information about developments at the January Faculty Senate Meeting, where this will be an agenda item.
 - Committee Updates
 - Academic Conduct (Interim Chair: John Lobur) – Nothing to Report.
 - Academic Instructional Affairs (Chair: Alex Watson) – Nothing to Report (Dan indicated this as Alex Watson was excused and absent).
 - Development & Planning (Chair: Angela Green) – Angela indicated that a newly agreed-upon resolution to give greater support to the Office of Sustainability is about to come before this Committee.
 - Finance & Benefits (Chair: Joseph Carlisle) – Nothing to report.
 - Governance (Chair: Carrie Smith) – Carrie said that this committee would meet next week to

discuss the anti-retaliation policy. If you have thoughts about specific elements that should be included, she asked that you please reach out.

- Research & Creative Achievement (Chair: Matteo D'Alessio) – Nothing to report.
- University Services (Chair: Heather Allen) – Nothing to report.
- Old Business – Dan mentioned that we will be having a Social in early spring.
- New Business – Scott Mackenzie shared concerns about an event happening in April of 2023. A concert is coming by Morgan Wallace, an artist who has used racialized language in the past. He suggested that this was inappropriate, especially considering that the University is celebrating its 60th Anniversary of Diversity this year. He wondered whether we couldn't suggest that the proceeds be channeled towards some element of diversity social equity rather than to the athletics department, which is organizing this. Angela agreed with Scott, saying that she has heard similar concerns voiced by other faculty members. Dan agreed to make it an agenda item for the January meeting. John Lobur suggested bringing the matter to the attention of the student council. Dan said he would when he met with them next week.
- Dan expressed his sympathies at the passing of our colleague, Willa Johnson, who served on the Faculty Senate and did a great deal of important work while a Senator.
- Dan thanked all the members for their hard work over the past year; he stressed that serving on the Faculty Senate is an important service, and it is greatly appreciated by those we represent.
 - The meeting was Adjourned at 7:04PM.

- Daniel Durkin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
- Topic: Faculty Senate Meeting December 6, 2022
- Time: Dec 6, 2022 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
- Join Zoom Meeting <https://olemiss.zoom.us/j/91419883473?pwd=QzRVc2RHNEdSNEVobzE0SnBna3RPdz09>
- Meeting ID: 914 1988 3473
- Passcode: 669097
- One tap mobile
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- +1 507 473 4847 US
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- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
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- +1 309 205 3325 US
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- Meeting ID: 914 1988 3473
- Find your local number: <https://olemiss.zoom.us/u/adXgfvvBjg>