UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA Faculty Senate

Plenary Session

January 19, 2022 –Zoom 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Faculty and Guests Adams. Jamie Amare, Nicole Prakash, Aishwarya Rayner, Jonathan Raczkowski, Chris

- Sayner, Sarah
- Shaw, Christy, excused
- Shaw, Thomas
- Shepard, Beth
- Spencer, Edmund
- Strickland, Jason
- Swanzy, Debra
- Thompson, Tara
- Turnipseed, David
- Vandewaa, Arie
- Vandewaa, Elizabeth
- Vrana, Laura
- Webb, Brett
- Weber, David
- Woodmansee, Brenda
- Meeting called to order 3:01 pm
- o Approval of Minutes for 11/17/21 Meeting: Approved
- Approval of Agenda for 1/19/22 Meeting: Approved

• President's Report:

o Presidential Transition-

Ms. Shepard and John Cleary have met with the new president to share faculty concerns such as shared governance and having a faculty representative (FS president) as a member of the president's council, gender disparity, salary, and difference among administrative and faculty pay at the university. Ms. Shepard also reported that they discussed concerns about the current vacancies and had an opportunity to teach him a little about faculty workload etc. The strategic plan was discussed and what benchmarks will be used to measure changes made. President Bonner asked to have an additional meeting outside of the regularly scheduled FS excomm meetings with the FS president and past president.

Covid Update-

Ms. Shepard reported talking with Julie Estes and John Cleary who is a member of Covid task force to get regular updates. She reports that everyone should have received notification of large number students not being in class. Contact tracing is still going on and more resources have been added to the contact tracing team to address the backlog. There is still a significant backlog in getting notifications out to faculty.

- µ The contact tracing team is following the current the CDC guidelines/recommendations about quarantine and isolation (whice on a decision andee)s based on the .indulvied wastes has asked for facultypatience on getting notifications. The COVID dashboard is everMonday; however, it was delayed on 1/17/22 because of Mart: King Jr. day holiday. Faculty can accessible ard COMU https://www.southalabama.edu/coronavirus/covid19-dashboard.html
- $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ Testing on campus will be moved from the Civic Center and the trapacity is good.
- µ Discretion among faculty and department chair will be the proce accommodations for teaching Decempsterlayve been asked to be flexibl and kind in making accommodations as needed.
- µ The link for frome &O∀ID tests from the government was shared by one of the senators at https://www.covidtests.gov/
- o External Salary Survey
 - µ Ms. Shepard reported the salary survey is complete. We are waiti final report to be shared with us. Ms.Maßhewazdazad@oning to meet with Dr. Kent to look at how any funds should be distribut bring lowest paid faculty up to pepercenstagetoons.
 - μ The budget appropriations in the budget for the salary adjustme
 - μ Any adjustments that are made will be retro active from January
- o Provost Search
 - µ Ms. Shepard reports that the same search firm that was used for presidential search to head up the search for the provost posit askedfaculty to look out for a survey that will be sent out to from faculary what the sider as important characteristics for the filling this position.
- Budget Updates
 - µ The Alabama Legislature convened its 2022 regular session on Ja During the regular session, legislators will vote on various pi legislation including the FY23 General Fund and Education Trust budgets.
 - µ Regarding the budgets, then Gegrewin Early 11.5% and the Education Trust Fund (ETF) at 16% in FY21. The 20-year average typically around 3% to 4%. The Governor has recommended a minim increase of at least 6.5% for universities with USA receiving r increase of at least .
- o Critical Race Theory Legislation-

Ms. Shepard reports that the FS excomm have been working with M Lawkis and met with him multiple times regarding faculty concer academic freedom.

- o Strategic Planning
 - $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ Efforts have been paused until the new president was on board by draft was made.

- μ A motionaw made to suspend the rules to conduct an electronic v vote taken and 39 yeas, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions.
- µ Title IX statemenstatement was added a paragraph to the FS handle address faculty members and sexual or romantic relationships we enrolled in their classes or with students whom they otherwise or supervise. Ms. Shepard opened up the floor for discussion made to suspend the rules to conduct an electronic vote. A poll 36 yes, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.
- o Chair Review Policy
 - µ Dr. Spencer reported that the committee received a request to a policy to clarify the process for department chair review where review report will only be shared with the dean and with the de under review.
 - μ Ms. Shepard reported that the FS needs to make revisions or vot Recommendations were made for any faculty suggestions for revise email to the chair of the committee, Edmund Spencer to take bac committee.
- o University Planning & Development Committee Chair Nom-ination & Elect
 - µ Ms. Shepard reports that we need to fill a position on the FS e committee and the Faculty Development & Planning Chair position senator stepped down. The floor was open for nominations.
 - µ Thomas Shaw, Debra Swanzy, and Sinead Chadhain were nominated. candidates have until Friday 1/21/22 to consider accepting or r nomination. If elected, this person will serve until the end of Nominations were closed and the majority approved suspending th electronically vote for or elect one of the nominees for office
- o Critical Race Theory Legesdattion
 - µ Ms. Shepard asked the senate if there were any objections to di "Resolution from the Faculty SenaCRToBills Amfore the Alabama Legislature" since it was not included on the approve a Vandewaa discussed a penalty clause in the bill for any educate divisive concepts (race, gender, sex, etc.). The FS drafted this take a stand on the legislation.
 - µ A motion was made to vote on the resolution 3 as years. A manyority and 3 abstentions voting to approve the resolution as is. Ms. S the resolution to the president who has 30-days to respond, acc bylaws.
- o Letter of No Confidence to the Board of Trustees-
 - μ A letter was recommended by the FS in the Naddmbssingeting concerns with the process for the presidential search. A poll we conducted to consent whether the senate approves discussion on the letter.
 - µ A majority of 23 yeas, 8 nays, and 6 abstentions of FS members discuss threaft of the letter and voting will take place at the on February 2, 2022, ase3s100npm.

o <u>Other:</u>

o None

Meeting Adjournment: MMSSA pim

Minutes transcribed by Donna Copeland