UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

Plenary Session

November 18, 2020 – Zoom – 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Faculty and Guests

- Adams. Jamie
- Amare, Nicole
- Beebe, Donald
- Bowman, Ashleigh
- Brannan, Lauren
- Broach, Ellen
- Bunch, Jaclyn
- Cesarini, Pat
- Chow, Al, excused
- Cleary, John
- Cloutier, Robert
- Copeland, Donna
- Donaldson, Amanda
- Feldvoss, Joerg
- Fregeau, Laureen
- Gecewicz, Chimene
- Gossett, Nicholas
- Gurt, Deborah
- Halbrooks, John
- Harmon, Charles
- Hossain, Mohammad
- Johnson, Patricia
- Kirkici, Hulya
- Lewis, Drew
- Lin, Mike
- Lynch, Colleen
- Madden, Ellen
- Manders, Jeannete
- Mark, Patricia
- McCready, Susan
- McKinney, Dawn
- Myers, Charlene
- O'Connor, Tracy
- Pelekanos, Sharon
- Prakash, Aishwarya
- Raczkowski, Christopher
- Rayner, Jonathan
- Rinehart, Jason
- Sayner, Sarah
- Scott, Shanda
- Shepard, Beth
- Sittig, Scott
- Spencer, Edmund
- Strickland, Jason
- Sturm Terry Ann
- Swanzy, Debra
- Thompson, Tara
- Turnipseed, David
- Urqhuart, Brady
- Vandewaa, Elizabeth
- Webb, Brett
- Weber, David
- Woodmansee, Brenda
- Woods, Clive
- Young, Stephen

- Meeting called to order 3:06 pm
- Approval of Minutes: Approved
- Approval of Agenda: Approved

- **Information Items**
  - John Cleary reported that Administration expresses their thanks for all of the hard work the Faculty Senate is doing.
- **President's Report**
  - **Spring Re-entry:**
    - Julie Estes is working with others around the state regarding guidelines for the Spring semester.
    - Expect final reports this week to President's Council.
    - Faculty should receive information near the beginning of December.
  - **Sentinel testing:**
    - Random sampling testing has started.
    - For random testing there has been a 0.04% COVID positive rate (Tested 471 with 2 positives)
    - For symptomatic individuals, student health testing has found the positive rate to be 8.8%
    - The COVID Dashboard will contain information regarding sentinel testing in the Spring.
  - **On campus COVID testing event:**
    - Campus received tests from the Department of Health and is called "Know Before You Go" November 20 to encourage students (not faculty) to test before going home for the Thanksgiving Break.
      - Faculty can be tested at the Mobile County Health Department on Saturday, November 21
      - http://mchd.org/General/Event_Calender.aspx
  - **Funding for Peer Academic Leaders:**
    - Program from Student Success Team headed by Nicole Carr.
    - The program is for upper-level students to sit in freshman and sophomore classes to help the students for $10.00/hr **(Spring semester only bc it is related to COVID related funding).**
    - Faculty will have to request for students to sit in their class (although John Cleary reported that he was not sure on how the notification will go out to faculty at this time).
  - **ILC/technology in the classrooms:**
    - John Cleary reported that the ILC has completed Phase 1 and they are starting on Phase 2 (January-February)
      - Identifying classrooms in need of upgraded technology

- John Cleary reported that if you are aware of a classroom needing updates, contact your chair.
- John Cleary reported that we request from the ILC to create a document or a video on how to use the technology as well as a master list of the technology.

- **FAR (Faculty Activity Reports) reports and Digital Measures for promotion and tenure**
  - John Cleary reported that faculty add a section related to COVID to include that COVID counts as a second life event for promotion and tenure.
  - Also, John Cleary reported that faculty should document how COVID effected research, presentations, and service related to promotion and tenure.
- **Digital Measures:**
  - The link for digital measures has been added to the Faculty Senate webpage
  - John Cleary reported that Dr. Kent will investigate guidelines for where to place items and customization for specific colleges to make it uniform.
- **FS Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting:**
  - John Cleary reported when meeting with EXCOM, Nicole Carr, the Financial Aid Office about mid-term grades.
    - Students on federal financial aid who stop attending class---USA must pay back money. Students are supposed to pay back to the university.
  - EXCOM to send a list of concerns related to reporting students who do not attend or stop attending classes.
  - John Cleary reported that there is some confusion with reporting---how to report last day attended if you do not take roll (use last assignment?). There currently is not a consistent way to report students who do not attend class or stop attending class.
  - The EXCOM recommended that there be a guide developed to standardize the way faculty report the last day a student attended class.
- **Adobe Acrobat Pro:**
  - VP finance (Scott Weldon) was not aware we did not have this.
  - Administration is working on a solution (working on pricing) because they understand the need for Adobe Acrobat because individual departments are buying it.
- **Bookstore:**
  - John Cleary reported that if faculty inform students to go to a specific source (example Amazon), it is a violation of university policy.
  - Faculty can guide students to look for less expensive options for books.
  - John Cleary did request that the bookstore look into not marking books up more than their contractual agreement of 28% beyond what they pay for it.
- **Simulation Center:** They are their own academic center, and they will have faculty representatives on the Faculty Senate by spring.
- **Student Registrations:**
  - John Cleary requested that faculty check the system to make sure that classes are listed how they will be taught.

        - About 58% of students have re-registered for spring. John Cleary reported that we are usually over 70% at this point in the semester.
            - Thoughts on some of this could be the late return to Spring classes students like to wait to register (from the time we end Fall there is almost a 50-day delay); also, students may be waiting to see how classes will be offered in the spring.
            - Points of interest-
                - Springhill College is offering 50% reduction in tuition form Fall 2021.
                - Coastal Community College is offering buy one class and get one free.
                - Future of online education, Academic Affairs to look at aspects of online education as far as pricing, competition, etc.
    - **Professional Development Activity:**
        - Dr. Frazier has put together some opportunities for faculty and staff during the week of December 1st.
            - The first one will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 called "Framing and Maintaining a Research Agenda."
            - The second one is the Race Research and Justice virtual conference that will be held on December 5th. See the following link for more information: https:// tm_source= d79335- EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_09_24_05_32_COPY_02&utm_ medium=email&utm_term=0_382a2d7aad-0c22d79335-

- **University Committee Reports**
    - No reports
- **Senate Committee Reports:**
    - **Diversity and Inclusion Committee**
        - Suggestion available to assist in hiring diverse faculty.
        - Training is available—see the Digest.
        - Faculty Senate asking for training information to be send directly to faculty inbox rather than Digest.
    - **Faculty Senate Awards Committee:** Jason Rhinehart requested for faculty to provide nominations for the Faculty Senate awards.
        - See the Digest or the Faculty Senate webpage for information.
- Reports from Caucus Leaders
    - **Concerns with increasing student incivility and Zoom etiquette.**
    - https://www.csmonitor.com/Technology/2020/1117/Online-exams-raise-concerns-of-racial-bias-in-facial-recognition

  - College of Nursing faculty would like to form a committee to explore penalties for incivility and Zoom guidelines.
  - Patricia Mark would like to be involved with student incivility.
    - E-mail etiquette and professional behavior
    - Zoom etiquette
    - Asked for all interested faculty to contact her.
- Other Business
  - **Commencement Ceremonies:**
    - Plans to evaluate for Spring.
  - **Remote Proctoring Services:**
    - USA has 3 university remote proctoring services.
    - https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/usaonline/proctoring.html
  - **Building under construction near the intramural fields:**
    - Storage and transportation facility for hospitals

Adjournment: MMSA 4:21 pm

Minutes transcribed by Donna Copeland