

Faculty Senate Meeting

September 16, 2009

Present: Baggett, Bosarge, Brown, Burnham, Byrne, Campbell, Carr, Falkos, Finley, Fisher, Haywick, Hillman, Johnsten, Kahn, Keasler, King, Kingman, Kinniburgh, Langan, Lunceford, McCormick, Madden, Marshall, Perry, Prendergast, Retzlaff-Roberts, Rizk, Romey, Shaw, Shelly-Tremblay, Spector, D. Turnipseed, P. Turnipseed

Excused: Adams, Axsmith, Connors, Estis, Lemley, Pérez-Pineda, Powers, Rowell, Summerlin, Teplick, Toelken, Woodford, Wright

Unexcused: Ambrose, Meyer, O'Connor, Omar, Pacheco, Quereshi

1. The meeting came to order at 3:05 p.m.
2. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
3. Chair's Report

Chair Turnipseed reported that the University Club is now underway, with construction actually in progress.

With regard to the budget, the Chair said he thought Pres. Moulton would say that we don't know what will happen, but that the University will be OK for the next year. The Chair said that hiring has slowed and there are fewer faculty but we will do all right if we stay the course, that he saw no red flags, and that after talking to colleagues at other institutions he thinks that USA is in better shape than many of them.

There will be minimal changes in insurance, some increases in costs, but no such increases since 2004 and these will mostly be inconveniences rather than hardships.

The Chair mentioned that e-learning was being promoted. He said that the Mitchell College of Business was down 8 faculty members, all the other colleges have fewer faculty, and that student numbers are up. We will have to teach more students, with the questions being how and where. Increased use of e-learning is something the Administration is looking at to do more with less.

The Faculty Senate should guide progress and help the faculty be responsible for their own fate. The Senate Technology Utilization Committee and its chair Tom Meyer are working on these issues. The Vice President for Academic Affairs has convened a

committee to consider e-learning issues and Meyer, Turnipseed and Sam Fisher are on it. Judy Burnham, COM, asked what the focus of the VPAA's committee would be. Chair Turnipseed replied that it was multifocused to cover all aspects of e-learning. The committee's specific charge was how to do it, including considering merits of E-College, other platforms, intellectual property, a "hugely broad" charge. The Chair encouraged faculty with questions or issues to send e-mail to him, Meyer, or Fisher.

Martha Jane Brazy of the History Dept., attending as a visitor, raised several questions. She received a letter sent to the faculty about e-learning and wondered if "the train hadn't already left the station." Fisher said he didn't think so but Brazy expressed concerns that online courses and aspects of courses would become mandatory. Mike Spector, Allied Health, asked if there was a goal to put every course online. Chair Turnipseed said no, but there were some courses, especially large service courses for freshmen, where online courses would be one way to serve more students.

Discussion ensued, in which Elizabeth Romey, Education, Diane Keasler, Nursing, Jack Shelly-Tremblay, A&S, Doug Haywick, A&S, and Phil Carr, A&S all participated. Brazy expressed concern that online learning which worked well for professional programs such as nursing would not be appropriate for liberal arts programs such as those in Arts & Sciences. She spoke of fears that the promotion of e-learning could lead to the marginalization of the Arts & Sciences. Chair Turnipseed said that he understood her and others concerns and anger and said that such issues were why the VPAA's committee was formed and the Senate Technology Committee was committed to addressing the issues. He stated that data and facts would be communicated to the Senate and the faculty as they became available.

Chair Turnipseed reported from the Executive Committee's meeting with President Moulton that VP for Health Sciences Franks thinks there will be no flu pandemic this season, but that one is inevitable eventually. Seasonal flu shots are already available and scheduled to be given at University sites. The possibility the University will have to close for an extended period of time for a pandemic or a hurricane was another reason for getting up to speed with e-learning. More discussion ensued with Shelley-Tremblay, Brett Lunceford, A&S, Haywick, and Spector participating.

Chair Turnipseed reported on Homecoming and football. He feels that football is already producing positive publicity and news for the University and wants to make sure that the important role of the faculty is recognized. Faculty will be recognized at the Homecoming game and there will be a faculty tent.

4. Old Business

- A. Proposal to amend the Faculty Senate Constitution to allow a Senator, if elected, to serve two consecutive three year terms. The proposal was put to a vote and passed unanimously.
- B. Proposal to amend the Faculty Senate Constitution to allow a Senator, if elected, to serve two consecutive one year terms as Faculty Senate Chair. To serve a second term, the Senator would be required to run for election at the end of his/her first term and be elected through the Senate's normal election process.

Spector asked if this would apply only to the Chair. Chair Turnipseed said yes in order to get the proposal through quickly enough to be presented at the Board of Trustees December meeting. The other officers could be included later. Vicki Tate, present as Parliamentarian, stated that the Policy & Handbook Committee must write a formal resolution, bring it to the Senate for discussion, and the resolution could only then be submitted for a vote the following meeting. Turnipseed said that the Committee would do that but he wanted to go ahead with the vote to save time. Haywick asked when this proposal would go into effect and if it would apply to this year's Chair and Chair Turnipseed said it would go into effect in March and would take effect next year.

Chair Turnipseed put the proposal to a vote and it passed unanimously.

5. New Business

- A. Campus move to "electronic learning" – it was agreed that the discussion on this matter had taken place earlier in the meeting.

6. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr) – Carr said that the Committee is concerned about a change in the Faculty Handbook stating that the Committee is responsible for coordinating the University's Mentoring program since such a program has not existed since 2006. After some discussion, Chair Turnipseed suggested that the Committee rewrite its charge. Carr agreed and Turnipseed said he would discuss it with President Moulton or VPAA Johnson.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Haywick) – Haywick said the Committee had not met but he would have a full report for the next meeting.
- Evaluation (Amy Prendergast) – No report.
- Planning and Development (Sheryl Falkos) – Falkos described plans for a contest involving Jag auto license plates with a signed first game day football as a prize. A raffle had been planned for another football but since that is not allowed, other

plans must be made, perhaps for a silent auction. Faculty will be recognized at halftime during the Homecoming game. Parking is another issue that will be addressed by the Committee.

- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher) – No report.
- Salary and Benefits (Julie Estis) – Estis was not present, no report.
- Technology Utilization (Tom Meyer) – Meyer was not present but Burnham reported that there would be a presentation about iTunes University at the Mitchell College of Business on Monday, October 5th at 3:00 p.m.

7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Elizabeth Adams) - Adams sent a report by e-mail: This Fall is our first semester with all Allied Health departments in the new building. It is nice to have all departments in a common space. We have the building dedication ceremony tomorrow morning at 9:30. The biggest issue that we're facing right now is parking, particularly for our department (Speech Pathology & Audiology). We run a speech and hearing clinic and our patients are having difficulty finding places to park. There are designated "patient parking" places; however, with the shortage for faculty and student parking spaces, the patient parking fills up with non-patient parkers. To complicate things, our patients have been receiving parking tickets that are not being rectified. I had hoped to bring this issue up with the Senate, but will pursue it at a later meeting date.
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw) – Shaw reported that Arts and Sciences faculty were especially concerned that the proposed technology solutions would not be an adequate substitute for face to face classes. He also reported that reassigned time was a concern.
- Continuing Education (Vickie McCormick) – No report.
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan) – No report.
- Education (Dennis Campbell) – No report.
- Engineering – Peter Byrne reported that the groundbreaking for the new Engineering building had taken place.
- Libraries (Vera Finley) – No report.
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts) – No report.
- Medicine (Judy Burnham) – Dr. William O. Richards, from Vanderbilt, has been appointed new Chair of Surgery. Dr. Dean Naritoku has been appointed Chair of Neurology. Dr. Michele Schuler has been appointed as Director of University Biologic Resources. She was Acting Director. Medical Simulation Labs are operational at Children's and Women's Hospital and USAMC. New Clinical Skills Lab is operational in MSB. Medical Center site of the Biomedical Library

has moved from Mastin Building to 3rd floor of the hospital and now includes consumer health resources.

- Nursing (Diane Keasler) – The new Health Sciences building was dedicated on September 16, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. There are problems with insufficient parking. An iTouch system has been started. The Simulation Lab celebrated the birthday of its Sim robot. Nursing has started a grant cycle and plans to submit a number of new grant proposals.

The Senate adjourned at 4:16 p.m.