



John J. Sachs USA Faculty Senate Chair's Report

For April 15, 2009 Faculty Senate Meeting

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
April 8, 2009 3:00 PM  
College of Education**

- 1) The Senate Executive Committee meeting on April 8, 2009 primarily focused on reviewing the potential candidates for the various positions which are open on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. On Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at our Senate Meeting the Executive Committee will provide a list of candidates who are interested in filling the positions and solicit additional nominations from the floor. After the nomination procedure we will hold our elections, which I am sure will be extremely exciting.
- 2) The Senate Executive Committee had a long discussion regarding the Forum that President Moulton will be leading at the Mitchell Center on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The committee believes that the current international economic crisis has had a significant impact on USA and the Forum will provide President Moulton an opportunity to communicate with the Faculty and staff regarding the impact of USA's response to the 2009 proration, and the current outlook for USA during 2010.

**Meeting with President Moulton, April 8, 2009 2:00 PM**

David Turnipseed, Chair Elect and John Sachs, Chair of the Faculty Senate met with President Moulton prior to the Senate Executive committee Meeting to discuss some new information coming out of Montgomery. The financial information provided to President Moulton was better than expected, but there still will be a significant financial shortfall during the 2009-2010 academic year. Of course the information provided to President Moulton regarding what is currently being discussed in Montgomery has not been finalized. President Moulton has indicated on numerous occasions that he prefers to make decisions regarding USA's operational budget based upon facts and specific figures rather than speculations.

Another item that we discussed with President Moulton was the article that appeared in last weeks Vanguard. This article focused on the cost of recruiting football players i.e., staying at the Battle House. We indicated to President Moulton that this type of activity seems to be at odds with the current situation where the faculty has experienced significant cuts in their travel allocations. President Moulton acknowledged that this situation was not ideal and that the recruitment process for athletes and faculty needs to be reviewed.



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### **Final Comments from the Chair**

I believe that the Faculty Senate has made some important progress during the 2008-2009 academic year. We have strengthened the Non-Reappointment Process after a year and half of working with the Deans and two Vice- Presidents for Academic Affairs. While the Non-reappointment process has been strengthened and faculty will no longer be in the dark as to how they are progressing towards tenure, we the Executive Committee believe that the Senate needs to continue our efforts to enhance the overall transparency of the Tenure process.

The Faculty Senate has also passed the "Extension of Pre-Tenure Probationary Period for Extreme Life Events". This resolution has been forwarded to the Vice-President of Academic Affairs and will be reviewed by the Dean's Council. We hope that the administration will understand that this resolution is specifically designed to provide support to any of our colleagues who are confronted with a significant life event which could have a detrimental impact upon their professional career.

During our April Senate Meeting we will also be voting on a Resolution which will allow the various colleges to hire an individual with a terminal degree in their area (e.g., MFA) as an Assistant Professor or Assistant Librarian. This Resolution will provide the various colleges with more flexibility in hiring prospective faculty.

In the very near future the building of the University Club will be completed and the operational procedures for the University Club are almost completed. This facility will hopefully become an integral part of the University community.

The 2008-2009 academic year has been quite eventful and a learning experience for me. The University has experienced tremendous growth of the physical facilities and student population. Unfortunately, the International Economic Crisis has filtered its way down south, and has had a negative impact across the University. Of course the faculty at large is well aware of the negative impact of the economy on USA because of the hiring freeze and restrictions on travel and purchases. On the positive side USA has not implemented some of the drastic measures already in place at other universities across the nation. Even though the next couple of years will also be financially challenging, I believe that USA will successfully weather the storm.

In conclusion, I want to thank the faculty for trusting me to represent them and I sincerely wish USA all the best in the near future and beyond my retirement years.