

John J. Sachs USA Faculty Senate Chair's Report

For November, 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Faculty Senate Meeting

**Current Events**

- 1) The search for the SVPAA committee consists of representatives from all areas of the university. Three senators are representing the Senate and one senator is representing their college. The committee reviewed 36 applications, and interviewed 11 candidates via one hour and fifteen minute video-conferences. Five candidates were selected and three candidates have already been interviewed on campus. Unfortunately, two candidates removed themselves from the search. Consequently, the search committee decided to invite three additional candidates for on campus interviews.
- 2) The status of the University Club – The Policy and Procedures at Hoc-committee which consists of Wayne Davis, Vice President of Financial Affairs, John Smith Vice President of Student Affairs, Chris Willis, Director of Facilities Management, Joseph Busta, Vice President Development/Alumni Affairs, Robert Shearer, Assistant to the President, David Turnipseed, Chair-Elect, Faculty Senate, and John Sachs, Chair, Faculty Senate met on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The initial policies and procedures for utilizing the building were proposed by David Turnipseed and John Sachs. The responses from the other members of the committee were very supportive and we are moving into the second stage of finalizing the policies and procedures.
- 3) On Thursday November, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, I addressed the faculty at large at the President's Fall meeting. I indicated that President Moulton and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee have improved the level of communication during the past couple of years. In addition, I indicated that if we want to continue to improve the communication between the faculty and the administration that it is extremely important for the senior Faculty to become more involved with the Faculty Senate.

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

- 4) The executive committee reviewed the major issues that were discussed at the various town hall meetings, as well as the benefits of conducting town hall meetings. The committee believes that the meetings provide the Senate Executive Committee an opportunity to share information and obtain input from the faculty at large. Some of the major issues that were brought up at the town hall meetings were:
  - a) The concept of a Fall Break and or changing the academic calendar to facilitate a smoother orientation for new faculty. The concept of a Fall break and modifying the calendar to accommodate the orientation of new faculty has been discussed with the administration and various options are being considered.
  - b) The process that led to the Non-reappointment Resolution proposed by the Faculty Senate was reviewed as well as the benefits for faculty were identified. The senate will be voting on the Non-reappointment Resolution at our November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Senate Meeting.

c) Some faculty were concerned that our University Health Care System's Pre-existing Condition Policy functions as a disincentive/deterrent to potential faculty to take a position here at USA. The administration realizes that this is a problem, and that USA is keeping the overall costs of USA Health Care System significantly lower and that USA is able to avoid raising our premiums and co-pays.

d) Some faculty in the Colleges of Nursing and Health Sciences had some concerns about the planning of the new Health Science Building and the planning for the move to the new building. Robert Shearer, Assistant to the President is working with the Deans of the College of Nursing and Allied Health regarding these issues.

e) Some faculty indicated they had some concerns about campus safety and accessibility.

f) Some faculty would like to see an increase in the impact of the faculty senate in the governance of the university.

### **Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting with President Moulton**

1. Last week a memo was sent to the entire faculty regarding cuts in travel and a freeze of sabbaticals. The Senate Executive Committee communicated to the President that we were surprised by the announcement because we were not part of any discussion regarding cuts in Travel and freezing of sabbaticals. In addition to not being made aware of this fiscal decision, we were unable to provide any input which may have altered the size and scope of this cost saving measure. The President indicated that we were correct that we should have been kept in the loop and that this should not happen in the future.
2. The Executive Committee indicated that there still are some concerns regarding campus safety and accessibility. President Moulton indicated that they are trying very hard to make sure that the campus is safe and accessible and that it is extremely difficult and very expensive to light the entire campus. On the other hand he does want to make sure that campus is safe and secure e.g., the installation of the Campus Warning System. In addition, I have been contacted by the administration to select faculty senators who wish to participate in a campus walk through with students and the administration for the express purpose to identify any specific areas of need.
3. The Salary and Fringe benefits committee identified that there is a lack of consistency with directed studies in terms of faculty loads and compensation. President Moulton directed the VP of Academic Affairs to look into this issue.

4. The Executive Committee suggested to the administration that the University may want to work proactively to avoid problems that other major universities have experienced when student athletes get into trouble in the community. More specifically develop programs to try to help student athletes avoid problems. The President indicated that there are major rules and regulations dictated by the NCAA that the USA is in full compliance, and that the coaching staff already have some procedures in place. On the other hand President Moulton indicated that there may be some additional measures that could be implemented and that our suggestion will be brought to the attention of the Athletic Department and Coaching staff.

Respectfully submitted

John J. Sachs, Chair  
Faculty Senate