



Plenary Session

March 16, 2022 –Zoom 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Faculty and Guests

- Adams, Jamie
- Amare, Nicole
- Beebe, Donald
- Borchert, Glen
- Brannan, Lauren
- Broach, Ellen
- Cleary, John
- Copeland, Donna
- Davidson, Clay
- Feldvoss, Joerg
- Fregeau, Laureen
- Gregoricka, Lesley
- He, Jia
- Holden, Shelley
- Hossain, Delwar
- Huang, Ying
- Landry, Jeff
- Lewis, Drew
- Lynch, Colleen
- Manders, Jeannette
- Mark, Patricia
- Migaud, Marie
- Myers, Charlene, excused
- Ní Chadhain, Sinéad
- O'Connor, Tracy, excused
- Pelekanos, Sharon
- Raczkowski, Chris
- Rayner, Jonathan
- Sayner, Sarah
- Shaw, Christy
- Shaw, Thomas
- Shepard, Beth
- Spencer, Edmund
- Swofford, Jim
- Swanzy, Debra

- Thompson, Tara
 - Turnipseed, David
 - Vandewaa, Arie
 - Vandewaa, Elizabeth
 - Vrana, Laura
 - Walker, Sean
 - Wassenaar, Christina
 - Webb, Brett
 - Weber, David
 - Woodmansee, Brenda
 - Clayton, Kristi, guest
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- Meeting called to order 3:05 pm
 - Approval of Minutes for 2/16/22 Meeting: Approved
 - Approval of Minutes for 1/19/22
 - Approval of Agenda for 3/16/22 Meeting: Approved
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- **Guest Speaker:** Kristi Clayton Assistant Director, Student Academic Success
 - Offer Academic support (ex: subject tutoring, writing assistance), career services, second year mentoring, and Success coaching for problems external to academics
 - OneStop- resources for students, including emergency aid, financial resources, tutors, and other academic resources...). The website is www.southalabama.edu/onestop
 - Students with English as second language can access resources from the Academic Success Center
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- **President's Report:**
 - **Presidential Transition-**
 - Ms. Shepard and John Cleary continue to meet with President Bonner outside of the ExCom meetings. Discussions have been mainly about faculty salaries and culture/cost related to increasing the research focus of the university.
 - **Academic Affairs-**
 - Ms. Shepard reported that a group/committee is being assembled to look at the feasibility of and what it would take for the university to achieve R¹ designation.
 - **Provost Search-**
 - Ms. Shepard reports that applications are closed. March 23 committee will look at all of the applicants. Goal for the committee is to reduce the candidate pool to 10-12 candidate to interview via Zoom, and the approximately 3-4 for campus visits by late April. The timeline is to make the announcement of the new Provost by May.
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- **Strategic Planning-**
 - Ms. Shepard reports that the draft of the strategic plan has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The strategic plan is just a skeleton, the major objectives are not there yet; however, Angela Coleman and Dr. Kent say that the document is a working document will continue to evolve as measurable goals and objectives are determined.
- **Strategic Planning-**
 - Ms. Shepard reports there is nothing new related strategic planning to report.
- **Senator Elections-**
 - Ms. Shepard reported that the next plenary will include elections for new Faculty Senate officers. Reach out to the vice president, Delwar Hossain or the secretary, Donna Copeland for any nominations for officer positions. Newly elected senators for each college should be wrapping up and will attend the next plenary meeting.
- **Bylaws Working Group-**
 - Ms. Shepard reports that a working group has been formed to review the Faculty Senate bylaws. The first meeting for the bylaw revisions will be next week. Any revisions made will have to be sent out to the Faculty Senate to review for 30 days before the changes/revisions can be voted on.
- **Reports from Senate Committees:**
 - **Research & Creative Activities-**
 - Sarah Sayner reported that the committee is sponsoring a networking forum on March 30 at the Faculty Club from 3-5 pm. There will be lightning talks by faculty that are conducting interdisciplinary research across the university, and there will be opportunities to network with other faculty. Drinks and food will be served. Anyone planning to attend needs to RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/ehd49srp>
 - **Academic Development & Mentoring-**
 - Shelley Holden reports that the committee is working with the ILC to develop a new faculty-mentoring program. The program will be for faculty at all levels, times of service, etc.
 - **Evaluation Committee-**
 - Chris Raczkowski reports that a survey for what faculty feel is important in the provost candidate search will be distributed next week. He also reported that the end of the year survey will be coming out soon.).
 - **Teaching, Learning, & Technology-**
 - Jamie Adams reported that the committee is working with the ILC to have grades from Canvas automatically populate into PAWS instead of the current practice where faculty are transcribing grades from Canvas to PAWS. The current timeline is testing will be done in May for possible implementation by Summer.
 - **Awards Committee-**
 - Sinéad Ní Chadhain reported that the committee has sent out letters and notifications for nominations.
 - The award categories are:

- **Semoon and Youngshin Chang Endowed Award for Humanitarian Services** - recognizes a student, faculty member, staff member, or alumnus who contributes most to humanity and makes a difference in the community.
- **Outstanding Research Partner** - providing direct support to the research mission of USA faculty through financial, in-kind, personnel, expertise, office space, consulting, or other means.
- **Outstanding Teaching Partner** - providing direct support to the teaching mission of USA faculty, broadly defined, by providing a setting and/or skilled supervision for USA students. This partner enhances the educational mission of the USA faculty by providing internship/externship/field placement to USA students.
- **Outstanding Community Partner** - for an organization/agency that works with USA faculty to address needs of the greater Mobile community through collaborative research and/or service delivery.
 - The committee is also looking for venues for an end of the year Faculty Senate party.
- **Salary & Benefits-**
 - Elizabeth Vandewaa reported that 120 faculty received salary adjustment to bring them to the 25th percentile of their peers. (Instructors and non-tenured faculty are not included in the adjustment. Only tenured faculty are included). Salary adjustments will begin April 1st and will be distributed over 3 years retroactive back to Jan. 1, 2022.
- **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion-**
 - Laureen Fregeau reported that the committee was following HB 292, which passed in Senate. She reported that two changes were made to the bill, including 1) topics that are considered divisive concepts can be taught if they are required for accreditation, and 2) disciplinary actions will have go through established processes.
- **Reports from Caucus Leaders:**
 - USA Libraries adopted ACRL intellectual freedom principles and asked that the Faculty Senate endorse the principles. A motion was made to vote on the endorsement. A vote was taken with the majority (36 yeas, 1 nay, 0 abstentions) voting to pass the Faculty Senate endorsement of the ACRL intellectual freedoms.
- **New Business:**
 - **Board of Trustees Letter-**
 - Ms. Shepard reported that the Board of Trustees wrote a letter in response to the senate requests and recommendations for President Bonner and the

administration. A motion was made for the Faculty Senate to write a letter to ask for the Faculty Senate president and faculty representation on the Board of Trustees committees.

- Faculty Senate brought up concerns about the loss of the Dean of the Honor College as the next group of students are about to graduate. Ms. Shepard reports that the Interim Provost committed to supporting current Honor's College students.

- **Other:**

- None

Meeting Adjournment: MMSA 5:05 pm

Minutes transcribed by Donna Copeland

