

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

Plenary Session

August 19, 2020 – Zoom – 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present Faculty and Guests

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| x Adams, Jamie | |
| x Amare, Nicole | x McKinney, Dawn |
| x Beebe, Donald | x Myers, Charlene |
| x Bunch, Jaclyn | x O'Connor, Tracy |
| x Cesarini, Pat | x Pai, Sachin |
| x Chow, Al | x Pelekanos, Sharon |
| x Cleary, John | x Ponnambalam, Ananthasekar |
| x Cloutier, Robert | x Raczkowski, Christopher |
| x Donaldson, Amanda | x Rayner, Jonathan |
| x Copeland, Donna | x Rinehart, Jason |
| x Broach, Ellen | x Sayner, Sarah |
| x Estis, Julie | |
| x Feldvoss, Joerg | |
| x Fregeau, Laureen | |
| x Gecewicz, Chimene | |
| x Halbrooks, Johns | |
| x Hossain, Mohammad | |
| x Keshock, Christopher | |
| x Jordan, Kimberly | |
| x Lemley, Trey | |
| x Lewis, Drew | |
| x Lin, Mike | |
| x Lynch, Colleen | |
| x Manders, Jeannete | |
| x Magnin, Sara | |
| x McCready, Susan | |

- John Cleary reported that this is the first FS Plenary meeting for the academic year and that for the fall semester all meetings will be by Zoom.
- John shared the FS vision for the upcoming year to include the following goals:
 - Transparency
 - Communication
 - Faculty governance
- John requested that all caucus leaders, chair of a FS committee, and or a representative of the FS on a University committee get in to one of the three forms in Google Drive the Monday before the scheduled FS Plenary meeting to provide a quick update on what the committee is doing, whether the committee met or not, and whether they have a report for the next FS Plenary meeting
- Updates:
 - Enrollment: John reports that enrollment looks positive and is up over last year by 1.55%, which is about 215 students.
 - x Freshmen were about even, transfers were a little bit lower, graduate enrollment was up, and undergraduate retention was up a bit.
 - x John reports that there are some weaknesses, 40% decrease in international students, which is approximately 150 students. September 1, 2020 will be when the official numbers will be available.
 - x There are 900 more students and there were more admittance letters given but the yield on those students is down.
 - x Another area of concern John reported is that of student voids. Student voids are when the student has an unpaid balance on a certain date are (kicked out) but many of them return. Voids have been up this year, although there has been more leniency and administration are working with financial services to reduce the number of voids.
 - x John reports that the forecast is between being down 3% to up 1%, which is promising. The student credit hour count is down but the head count is up. Last year the census count was 14,397 students, and the forecast is between 13,965 to 14,540.
 - x John took questions related to enrollment, including the 900 students that John reported were due to local recruitment due to COVID-19. Students were accepted even if they had not taken the ACT (they were accepted on high-school GPA). Applications were accepted with new fees that resulted in an increase yield.
 - x John answered questions related housing and meal plans and he reported that there are currently 1900 students (and that is strong considering the circumstances), John reported that he did not have numbers as how that compares to last year.
 - Budget: John reported that the University got a 2.7% from the state, which is approximately 2 million dollars. Administration is concerned that there could be a reduction by the end of August, but it has not happened and are certain that it will not happen.
 - There was also a \$1 billion adjustment by identifying positions that were vacant and had not been filled.

University Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer (Dr. Paul Frazier), Asst. Dean of Diversity and Inclusion & Assistant VP for Medical Affairs (Franklin Trimm), The chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee (Dr. Mike Mitchell).

FS is free to create adhoc committees and only takes a simple majority vote at the meeting,if after a year the committee can be elevated to a standing committee with a faculty member bringing it up for a vote with a 2/3 majority vote. A vote was called, and the motion carried by a majority vote.

John asked if any faculty are interested in serving on the Diversity and Inclusion committee, to let Beth know.

- o Other

Changes to the bylaws are being proposed including formatting and a section on what to do if an officer can no longer serve.

John reports that a name change of the Technology Committee to the Teaching and Learning Committee is also proposed. John reported that he will get those proposed bylaw changes to the senators.

A faculty Bill of Rights has been discussed and a draft is being developed.

Adjournment: MMSA 429 pm

Minutes transcribed by Donna Copeland