

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
May 1, 2024 –3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
MCOB Rm 101
MINUTES

Attending: Bret Webb (presiding), Vicki Tate, Donna Streeter, Seema Singh, David Turnipseed, Clay Davidson, Andrei Pavelescu, Marie Migaud, Laura Vrana, Sean Walker, Sinéad Ní Chadhain, and Yvette Getch

Excused: Christina Wassenaar

OLD BUSINESS

Vice President for Research & Economic Development

The search committee has interviewed all finalists (around 9 candidates), and the next step is to decide who (and how many) will be invited to campus. Many of the candidates have backgrounds on the medical/clinical side of academics. Some of the candidates have backgrounds in R1 institutions, while others are from R2 universities, and even a few that have experience transiting from R2 to R1.

thing is given on the
cal chapters. David
and Elizabeth Vanderwaa
at the local chapter
s. Also, Auburn U has a
decide what we, here at
membership drive. Bret
l members be guests at

committees

All ExComm members should review the proposed suggestions for changes in the charges of the standing committees. The current bylaws (2023) need some corrections in text, while the changes in charges should be voted on in the August plenary session.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Proposed focus on faculty salary – what does this mean in reality**

This is an ongoing issue for faculty members. Some progress has been made but request for definite considerations from university administration received the response of “No”.

Sinéad suggested that we should support that Instructor-level appointments receive some attention for consideration of salary alignment since they were left out of the general discussion for raises and equity.

- **Workload study**

There is no universal rule for workload assignment that would work for the entire university, but it should be done at the college level since the colleges are so different.

- **In-person requirement for Senate Plenary meeting**

Vicki requested that the plenary meetings should be required in-person attendance and that the Zoom option should only be given to those who would be away from the university during those meeting times. Also, when doing a zoom attendance, the person should be visual rather than attending as a blackout. Consensus of the group was in support of these requirements.

- **Seema Singh resignation – replacement plan**

Seema and her husband have both accepted employment at the Mississippi Medical Center, so her position as Chair of Academic Development and Mentoring will need to be filled. An email prior to the May plenary session requesting nominations will be send out to membership, will election to be done at the May meeting.

- **Agenda and plan for May 8 PC meeting**

The issues to be brought to the President’s Council meeting next week will be:

Update on the search for VP for Research & Economic Development; what are the planned changes in the responsibilities of the position for the new hire; and where would that person be in the chain of command, with respect to the new position of Chief Economic Development Officer (Mike Chambers)

Where is the university in looking at the salaries for instructor-level faculty since they were left out of previous surveys on salary raises [inversion, compression, and equity].

Update on the tentative enrollment for this fall semester

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Awards**

Chang Humanitarian Award: Sylvia Diaz

Research Partner Award: Breast Cancer Research Foundation

Education Community Partner Award: Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment