



Faculty Senate

Presiding: Stanley E. Stevens

Date: 1-23-07

Secretary: Teresa S. Dalle

Senators Present: Jan R. Acuff, Reza Banai, Melvin L. Beck, Jeffrey S. Berman, Jennifer A. Borek, Joel Bumgardner, Laurenda K. Cunningham, Chhabil Dass, Carol O. Eady, Steven Fell, Linda C. Finch, Wade M. Jackson, Candace C. Justice, Walter G. Kirkpatrick, J. Harvey Lomax, David, N. Lumsden, Susan Magun-Jackson, Wade M. Jackson, John M. Malloy, Dave A. Nofsinger, Albert A. Okunade, Edward H. Perry, John R. Petry, Alan W. Proffitt, Margaret Quinn, Jean-Pierre Reed, Hoke Robinson, Leslie S. Scruggs, Jr., Daniel L. Unowsky, Bette R. Veteto, Francisco Vivar, and Lecolion Washington

Senators Present by proxy: Jerry L. Anderson (Larry W. Moore)

Senators Absent: Anthropology (vacant), David W. Case, Gary K. Golightly (explained), William H. Jermann (explained), Balaji C. Krishnan, Sanjay R. Mishra (explained) and Howard S. Tu.

T.B.R. Rep: Charles J. Biggers (absent)

Guests: David N. Cox (President Office), Chrisann Schiro-Geist (Academic Affairs), Thomas Nenon (Academic Affairs), and Robert J. Frankle (chair, Faculty Senate ad hoc Gen Ed Committee)

The three hundred fifty-first meeting of the University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, January 23, 2007, in the Entertainment Lobby of the Michael D. Rose Theatre.

01.23.07.01 CALL TO ORDER

President E. Stevens called the meeting to order at 2:40 pm with a quorum present.

01.23.07.02 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was modified and approved to allow Provost Ralph Faudree to share his findings on SIRS at the beginning of the meeting and to allow J. Petry to submit a motion from the Academic Support Committee regarding Student Instructional Ratings (SIRS).

Motion: The members of the Academic Support Committee made a motion that the on-line administration of SIRS be resumed in the spring semester, 2007.

The motion passed unanimously.

01.23.07.03 GUEST SPEAKER - Provost Ralph Faudree

Provost Faudree spoke to the Senate in support of the motion and reported on two concerns about using on-line SIRS (Student Instructional Ratings). He provided each Senator with a handout titled, *SIRS (Summer 2006 and Fall 2006)*. He stated that while using paper SIRS, the university had a 60% return rate, but with the first use of on-line SIRS, the university reported only a 19.8% response. This fall, however, that was increased to 40.4%, a positive increase and more than had been anticipated. The second issue concerned scores decreasing with response level. Provost Faudree stated that this has not been proven to be true. Studies at other universities show no significant change, and two UoM studies did the same. In spring 2006 (paper implementation of SIRS) and summer 2006 (on-line implementation of SIRS), the University looked at 50 random-teacher courses taught by the same faculty and found that the mean difference of the average of all scores was 0%. Most were freshman and sophomore courses. The university looked at fall 2005 (paper implementation of SIRS) and fall 2006 (on-line implementation of SIRS) returns. Randomly chosen courses with the same faculty member showed the difference between scores on paper and on-line SIRS was .01% with scores actually higher on the on-line version. The standard deviation was .09, and the average score did not change. The good students tended to respond at a higher level. Provost Faudree stated that a committee on SIRS would revamp SIRS and have a different instrument by fall 2007. The new version would take into account different modes of instruction with some questions determined by the faculty member of the course. He suggested that the University could continue with on-line SIRS in spring 2007 with a big revamping in the fall. There was a concern expressed about small classes (small classes defined as 5 or fewer students enrolled) not being counted in the on-line, but Provost Faudree stated that the university will count all responses unless there is only one student. There was also a question of how SIRS would be used for tenure and promotion during the transitional period. Provost Faudree stated that each department had the right to decide how they viewed this. He again pointed out that the move from 20% to 40% response was a rapid movement and that the movement would increase. Some ways of encouraging students to respond might be to allow students who respond to register a day earlier. Provost Faudree was asked if he would release the list of courses that were part of the study to prove that there were no differences in on-line and paper. He responded that he would. There was also concern about the difference between totally on-line (web courses) and on-site classes since many current questions on SIRS are not applicable to web courses. Faudree again stated that the objective was to come back with an instrument for lecture courses and a different one for on-line and for clinical courses and other types, not just one instrument. Provost Faudree was also asked if there is a place where faculty could list things that worked to get response. He stated that there was a website where that could be posted. The Provost concluded his presentation with a brief questions and answers session.

President E. Stevens stated that if there were any other reports from the Senate they would be addressed later in the meeting.

01.23.07.04 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 28, 2006, were approved.

01.23.07.05 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. President E. Stevens announced that three Senators were not returning for the spring 2007 session. Those Senators are Leonard Lawlor, Daniel Swan, and Robert Frankle. President E. Stevens then introduced the new senators: Melvin Beck (Biology), Hoke Robinson (Philosophy), and Daniel Unowsky (History).
2. President E. Stevens then reported on his meeting with the Provost. He stated that an *ad-hoc* committee on shared governance had been established. The Provost stated that he looked forward to working with the committee. Also, President E. Stevens notified Provost Faudree that the Senate had voted that all standing committees that now send reports to the Provost will also send them to the Senate; Provost Faudree agreed to this procedure.
3. At his meeting with President Raines, President E. Stevens discussed the issue of having standing committees, not just academic committees, report to the Faculty Senate. The President stated that she agreed to this. It was also mentioned that the Tennessee legislative reception would not be held any more since it is too costly. President E. Stevens announced that the Marcus Orr Faculty Senate Lectureship in Higher Education Committee had selected Dr. Alan Lightman as speaker this year; the event will be co-sponsored by Memphis Reads and others. President Stevens also stated that Dr. Paula Short, TBR Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, would meet with the Faculty Senate at the next meeting. He discussed whom she might meet with while on campus, including faculty groups. The focus of her visit is to meet with the Senate. President Stevens wants to know what issues Senators wish Dr. Short to address (for example, TBR and the issue of shared governance), and he invited the Senators to contact him. He reminded everyone that Dr. Short's responsibilities include academic affairs and student affairs.
4. President E. Stevens announced that First South Credit Union wanted to make a presentation to the Faculty Senate, but the Executive Board decided not to allow that since all vendors could then ask for meetings with the Senate.
5. President E. Stevens stated that the Committee on Committees had a motion concerning membership on the revived *ad hoc* IT Committee.
6. President E. Stevens announced that the *ad hoc* Senate Committee on Shared Governance is putting together documents but have not had a meeting. The committee will ask Dr. David Cox about how to proceed. Dr. Cox will make a presentation at a later date.

7. There were no other concerns brought up.

01.23.07.06 SPECIAL REPORT

L. Cunningham reported on the Web of Knowledge and other library resources, stating that the University now has unlimited access. In addition, the Music Department now has new databases including some streaming audio. In response to a question of how to access the databases, L. Cunningham suggested going through the library website and then to the database and not to go directly to any particular database website because you may be asked to pay. The library already pays fees for use. The databases held by the library are available to faculty, students and staff, that is, anyone with a UUID. In response to a question concerning access by RODP classes, L. Cunningham stated that she was not sure about this.

01.23.07.07 REPORTS FROM FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEES

President E. Stevens asked if there were any reports from the Senate Committees. Dr. R. Frankle reported that the *ad hoc* General Education Committee preferred to issue one report by the March 1st deadline. Dr. R. Frankle continues to chair the committee despite having retired in December. There were no further reports.

01.23.07.08 REPORTS OF FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES ON UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES

President E. Stevens, chair of the *ad hoc* Committee on Library Allocations, asked the library for data on the allocations system and how it worked, including funds for books, electronic media, and other allocations. The committee will report as information comes in.

President E. Stevens reported on Effort Certification. He stated that there were many problems with this and that the University of Memphis has legal responsibilities and could lose federal funding if the report is not done properly. There are some problems getting this done, but the process will get simpler.

President E. Stevens reported on the Policy Review Board. One policy the committee is looking into is web advertising, especially with what types of advertising. President E. Stevens also suggested that everyone visit the McWherter Library, Library Commons area, which runs 24/7. Progress is being made on putting in an eating area.

Concerning the University Undergraduate Council (UUC), W. Jackson has attended only one meeting since taking President. E. Stevens place. He reported that each college is dealing with the issue of general education.

01.23.07.09 OLD BUSINESS

1. J. Berman reported on a postponed motion from the Faculty Policies Committee on the grievance process. Earlier, the Faculty Policies Committee had made a recommendation that there be another type of grievance procedure. The Committee looked at how other universities deal with grievance and extracted from that information some principles about how a policy might work at this university.

Motion: There are four parts to the motion as indicated numerically.

1. The Faculty Policies Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate establish a standing Faculty Grievance Committee whose purpose shall be to provide an avenue of appeal for faculty who feel mistreated in their relationship(s) with other faculty members or with administrators of the University of Memphis.
2. The Faculty Grievance Committee shall provide counsel to faculty members bringing a grievance, decide to accept or reject submitted grievances, investigate grievances, mediate when called upon, and make recommendations to the president of the university.
3. The Faculty Grievance Committee shall develop its own set of rules and procedures under which it will operate.
4. The Faculty Grievance Committee shall consist of nine faculty members serving staggered terms and selected by the Faculty Senate.

There was a motion that proposal #2 use the word *advice* rather than *counsel*. The motion on changing the word passed unanimously.

Proposal #2 now reads as follows:

The Faculty Grievance Committee shall provide advice to faculty members bringing a grievance, decide to accept or reject submitted grievances, investigate grievances, mediate when called upon, and make recommendations to the president of the university.

In discussion of the issue, there was a question about the relationship of the Faculty Grievance Committee to the University's Faculty Ombudsperson. J. Berman said that the two were entirely separate. In response about the question of how the faculty member approaches a committee with a grievance, J. Berman stated that the procedure would be decided by the committee and that details were left to the committee itself. J. Berman felt that the Faculty Ombudsperson was part of the administrative structure. R. Frankle stated that there were some cases in which going through a Faculty Ombudsperson was inadequate. Some faculty believe that the Faculty Ombudsperson, selected by the Provost, represented the administration and its interests. Dr. D. Cox asked about the implications of moving recommendations directly to President Raines. It was stated that unless a certain type of problem exists, the grievance does not go through channels and is instead called conflict resolution. The faculty committee has only recommending power. Changes include what gets to be defined as grievance and the process that follows that before it goes before the President. It gives the faculty member a hearing. There was the question about whether the ombudsperson should stay in place and what the role of the ombudsperson is. R. Frankle said that an ombudsperson was not adequate in some situations and that many

universities had both. In e-mails sent to President E. Stevens, Dr. E. W. Brody, the current Faculty Ombudsperson, suggested adding a mandatory review to the existing process. It was noted that some faculty never get the grievance hearing, so this suggestion would not work.

The motion passed in its four parts with one negative vote and one abstention.

1. Charges

CHARGE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	STATUS
Intellectual Property	Intellectual Property Student Property	Research Policies Committee	Continue
Green Power	Green Power Switch	Administrative Policies Committee	New
Grievance Process	University Grievance Process	Faculty Policies Committee	New
Shared Governance	Shared Governance	Faculty Policies Committee	Continue
SIRS	On-Line SIRS	Academic Support Committee	New
Academic Integrity	Academic Integrity	Academic Policies Committee	New
Standing Charge	Description of Committee Responsibilities	All standing committees (6)	Continue

3. Other

01.23.07.10 NEW BUSINESS

A. Okunade, chair of the Committee on Committees, brought the following motion to the floor: The Committee on Committee proposes to repopulate the IT committee for the University with four from the previous committee and two new willing to serve.

MOTION: Move that the Faculty Senate approve the nomination of the following faculty members to serve on Faculty Senate *ad hoc* Information Technology (IT) Committee:

One or three additional prospective members need to be identified and nominated (to maintain an odd number of members).

Michael Gootzeit (Economics)
 Charles Camp (Civil Engineering)
 Rick Fisher (Journalism)

Previous members of the committee who have indicated an interest in and willingness to serve on the re-started committee are the following:

Maurice Crouse (History) a non-Senator
Clif Mims (Instruction and Curriculum Leadership) a non-Senator
Michael O'Nele (Theatre and Dance) a non-Senator
Thomas Stafford (MIS), a non-Senator

Members of the present Senate or associates thereof, who have indicated an interest in and willingness to serve on the re-started committee, are the following:

Jeffrey Berman (Psychology) a Senator
Charles Biggers (Biology) faculty representative to the TBR

The motion to accept all names passed unanimously.

01.23.07.11 ANNOUNCEMENT/EVENTS

1. On February 20, 2007, Dr. Paula Short, Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) of the TBR will visit the campus. The meeting will take place in the FIT Bldg. (The Zone)
2. The Marcus Orr Faculty Senate Lectureship in Higher Education speaker is Dr. Alan Lightman, who will speak on February 26, 2007, at 7 pm, in the Rose Theatre. His topic is "The Physicist as Novelist: Similarities and differences on how scientists and artists view the world."
3. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training takes place on February 12-13, 2007. Contact Prof. Joy Clay at 678-3359. Reservations are required. Register NLT by February 2.

01.23.07.12 ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.