



Faculty Senate

Presiding: Patricia M. Stevens

Date: 10-03-06

Secretary: Teresa S. Dalle

Senators Present: Jan R. Acuff, Jerry L. Anderson, Reza Banai, Jeffrey S. Berman, Laurenda K. Cunningham, Chhabil Dass, Linda C. Finch, Robert J. Frankle, Wade M. Jackson, William H. Jermann, Walter G. Kirkpatrick, Balaji C. Krishnan, Leonard R. Lawlor, J. Harvey Lomax, David, N. Lumsden, Susan Magun-Jackson John M. Malloy, Sanjay R. Mishra, Dave A. Nofsinger, Albert A. Okunade, Edward H. Perry, John R. Petry, Alan W. Proffitt, Margaret Quinn, Jean-Pierre Reed, Leslie S. Scruggs, Jr., Stanley E. Stevens, Howard S. Tu, Bette R. Veteto, Francisco Vivar, and Lecolion Washington.

Senators Present by proxy: Jennifer A. Borek (Trey Martindale).

Senators Absent: Joel D. Bumgardner (explained), David W. Case, Carol O. Eady, Steven Fell, Gary K. Golightly (explained), Candace C. Justice (explained) and Daniel C. Swan.

T.B.R. Rep: Vacant, to be elected at this meeting.

Guests: David Cox (President's Office) and Chrisann Schiro-Geist (Academic Affairs).

The three hundred and forty-eight (348th) meeting of The University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, October 3, 2006, in room 404, University Center (Senate Chamber).

10.03.06.01 CALL TO ORDER

President Pat Stevens called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. with a quorum present.

10.03.06.02 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

10.03.06.03 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 5, 2006, meetings were approved as written.

10.03.06.04 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President P. Stevens welcomed a new senator from math, Bette Veteto. President P. Stevens then reported on meetings with President Raines and Provost Faudree. She stated that she is now on the work team for Spectrum. The Library Commons project is continuing, and the next Senate meeting will take place in Room 226 of the McWherter

Library so that Senators can visit the Library Commons area. President Shirley Raines responded to the September 5th recommendation concerning the Senate's reaffirming its right to approve any changes in University undergraduate degree requirements by stating that she was "supportive of this measure and requirement, unless designated to some other group by virtue of Senate vote." President P. Stevens called attention to the handout entitled Quick Activities for **Einstein's Dreams** (see handout attached to the October 3 agenda) that gives instructors ideas for introducing the book in the classroom. The book was the one chosen this year from Memphis Reads program. For more information about The University of Memphis Reading Program visit: <http://memphisreads.memphis.edu/>.

10.03.06.05 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

President-Elect E. Stevens moved to rescind the previous charge concerning Supplemental Instruction because the Senate had earlier in 2004 approved a motion on the issue. That motion for rescinding was approved.

10.03.06.06 COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES REPORT

A. Okunade asked that the Senate approve the nomination of faculty members to serve on the Division of Business and Finance's university standing committee, Fee/Refund Appeals. (See the handout entitled Committee on Committees Motion dated October 3, 2006). The names were approved.

10.03.06.07 REPORT OF FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES ON UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES

President P. Stevens reported on activities of the Enrollment Management Council, stating that a final report is due soon.

President-Elect E. Stevens stated that the Undergraduate Curriculum Council (UCC) will change its by-laws to allow him to be a voting member. He stated that the UCC wants to parallel the Graduate Council. Also, it has invited as ex-officio a student member. The committee is concerned about low graduation rates and is trying to find out why students are not completing degrees. It is a liaison with the Provost's Committee on Advising. President-Elect E. Stevens reported on a change to transfer credit, stating that there now needs to be written approval from the Dean if courses are not specified by TBR. TBR is assessing the General Education (Gen Ed) requirements in the system to determine if Gen Ed courses fulfill the goals, and that there exists a handout that outlines the issues.

President P. Stevens stated that we have an ad hoc committee that needs a copy of the handout.

President P. Stevens reported on some policy changes reported by the Policy Review Board. She stated that the no-smoking policy in buildings requires that smoking outside must take place 20 ft away from buildings. She also mentioned a concern about security in rooms with key punch access. The issue of intellectual property has been reviewed and sent to President Shirley Raines. President P. Stevens explained that policy reforms come across via email to those on the committee.

J. Berman stated that the faculty last year indicated a need for a timely way to be informed of issues so that feedback can be forthcoming. He asked whether issues could

be forwarded to faculty. President Stevens inquired whether the Senate would be interested in seeing policy changes. The Senate members responded affirmatively.

W. Jackson reported on several issues from the Standing Committee on University Assessment. He stated that the committee is looking at graduate rates, and that a white paper report is coming out soon. Concerning external reviews, Provost Ralph Faudree has indicated that he wants peer reviews. At the next meeting, the committee will report on Economics and low producing programs. Low producing programs are defined as 10 or fewer undergraduates, 5 or fewer masters, and 3 or fewer doctoral students graduating in a five year average period. J. Berman stated that the current structure suffers from a lack of representation of faculty from the department affected. Vice-Provost, Academic Affairs, Chrisann Schiro-Geist stated that low producing programs are identified by Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR). In Economics, there are two degrees: BS and Bachelor of Business. Together they graduated ten. The department chair was brought into the discussion of that issue. J-P Reed asked to know and understand the process. The Standing Committee was created to anticipate problems before getting to the TBR. There was a question of how TBR came up with the number of 5 for the Master's. Dr. Schiro-Geist said it has been a back and forth issue in which we have input. R. Frankle stated that the issue continues to come up.

10.03.06.08 FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

Each month, each chair of a standing committee will bring up a comment, charge, suggestions. President Stevens asked that we have a motion limited presentations to five minutes. Each person can speak only twice during a meeting. The motion passed.

- Academic Policies Committee—L. Scruggs reported on academic misconduct.
- Academic Support Committee—J. Petry presented two motions dealing with SIRS. (See document entitled Motions, Oct. 5, 2006, from the Academic Support Committee). He explained that the problem with on-line SIRS is a low response and an often negative slant. In discussion, J. Berman asked what role the Faculty Senate played in on-line SIRS. It was stated that there has been no role of the Faculty Senate. J. Harvey stated that the committee met with the Provost and stated the concern of lack of faculty participation. It was suggested that the issue be taken to the Senate first. The low rate of participation was acknowledged. It was also pointed out that no institution has had 50% participation. After speaking with the Provost, the Committee decided to go ahead to go forward with the motions because it felt that it was not prudent to base tenure and promotion on on-line SIRS. The Provost asked how long the Senate must wait to do this. It was noted that the AAUP recently did a study of faculty evaluations critical of SIRS evaluations. There was a question about the rationale for on-line SIRS. It was also noted that on-line SIRS may go on-line and be viewed by everyone, including students. President Stevens stated that data for the past two years on SIRS will be available, and J. Petry said that the data are now available. The only argument that has been presented to justify on-line SIRS is that it is cheaper than paper evaluations. A. Okunade state his concern about how 2006 SIRS might influence faculty evaluations. Vote was taken on the two motions. The first motion passed by acclamation. It was decided to strike the last sentence of the

second motion, and it passed by majority. There was some discussion of the possibility of looking into another instrument that could replace SIRS and actually evaluate teaching.

- Administrative Policies—There was no report.
- Faculty Policies Committee—J. Berman stated that last year the committee brought to the Senate’s attention several motions, including faculty involvement in decision making (See Resolution of the College of A&S Graduate Council). He pointed out a pattern of the Administration’s not consulting faculty when decisions are made. The Faculty Policies Committee met and decided that they needed some indication of whether Provost Faudree was interested in shared governance. A proposal was made and seconded to send the following amended proposal/recommendation to Provost Faudree: “The Faculty Senate wishes to engage in a discourse with the provost on the principles of shared governance at the university. The goal of these discussions would be to develop formal procedures that ensure independent, systematic, and broad-based faculty input for all decisions affecting the faculty and university community. The faculty Senate would appreciate a response from the provost before the next senate meeting regarding his willingness to participate in such discussions.” R. Frankel asked that the Senate agree on some principles before meeting with the provost. J. Berman stated that his committee came up with several principles common to successful programs. The proposal passed with amendments.
- Library Policies—L. Cunningham stated that the committee was discussing better ways of disseminating information to the faculty.
- Research Policies Committee—J. Bumgardner reported that faculty authored materials policy is under review. No other recommendations have been made.

10.03.06.09 CHARGES-- An additional charge will be made to the Faculty Policies Committee on outside employment.

10.03.06.10 ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

- For the latest information on housing sales and rental, faculty resources visit the Provost web page <http://academics.memphis.edu/provost>
- Research Support Service Brown Bag Lunch Discussion AY 2006-07, Faculty Incentives: How to Maximize your Income through Sponsored Programs, Thursday, October 12, 1-2 pm. Location to be determined.
- Faculty Senate Brown Bag, February 22, 2007, Rose Theatre Entertainment Lobby

10.03.06.11 ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Dalle, Secretary