



Faculty Senate

Presiding: Stanley E. Stevens

Date: 4-17-07

Secretary: Teresa S. Dalle

Senators Present: Jan R. Acuff, Reza Banai, Melvin L. Beck, Jeffrey S. Berman, Jennifer A. Borek, Joel D. Bumgardner, Laurenda K. Cunningham, Chhabil Dass, Carol O. Eady, Steven Fell, Linda C. Finch, Gary K. Golightly, Wade M. Jackson, William H. Jermann, Candace C. Justice, Walter G. Kirkpatrick, J. Harvey Lomax, 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, Leslie S. Scruggs, Jr., Bette R. Veteto, and Francisco Vivar

Senators Present by Proxy: Laurenda K. Cunningham (Edwin Frank)

Senators Absent: Anthropology (vacant), Jerry L. Anderson (explained), David W. Case, Chhabil Dass, Gary K. Golightly, Candace C. Justice (explained), Balaji C. Krishnan, David N. Lumsden, Albert A. Okunade (explained), Jean-Pierre Reed, Hoke Robinson, Howard S. Tu, Daniel L. Unowsky and Lecolion Washington

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

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

The three hundred and fifty-fourth meeting of the University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, April 17, 2007, in the Entertainment Lobby of the Michael D. Rose Theatre.

04.17.07.01 CALL TO ORDER

President E. Stevens called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. with a quorum present.

04.17.07.02 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

04.17.07.03 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the March 20, 2007, Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

04.17.07.04 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. The Faculty Grievance Committee will get it start today. Currently, there are six members nominated to serve. The Senate has not heard from the university attorney concerning any problems with forming this committee. The committee will go ahead and get started because of faculty interest.
2. A Faculty Forum, an idea originating from the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) Faculty Sub-Council and supported by Dr. Paula Short, will have its first meeting in Franklin, TN, on April 19, 2007. Senators W. Jackson and A. Proffitt will attend. Two topics will be discussed: academic advising and shared governance.
3. Faculty Convocation is scheduled during the week of April 16. A calendar of events has been made available. On April 19, the faculty will assemble and process from the College of Communication & Fine Arts (CCFA) to the Rose Theater. A reception in the Entertainment Lobby will put on by Friends of the Library after the convocation. Robes and hoods may be used for both this event and graduation.
4. Provost's Dean's and Chair's Meeting—President E. Stevens referred to the handout for the library budget. He noted that libraries are consistently at low end for budgeting.
5. Shared Governance- The Senate's ad hoc Shared Governance Committee has now had two meetings. The committee is populated by the Senate's standing committees chairs and has made some progress.

04.17.07.05 REPORTS FROM FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEES

1. Faculty Policies--Senator J. Berman, Chair, had no report.
2. Library Policies Committee had no report.
3. Research Policies Committee--J. Bumgardner, Chair, stated that the committee may be finished with the charge; but additional research is needed.

04.17.07.06 REPORTS OF FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES ON UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Ad hoc Committee on Library Allocations-President E. Stevens, Chair, stated that costs are up for the library but the budget remains flat. Serial acquisitions are up 302% and serial units costs are up 167%. Some journals require that in order to get electronic versions, the library must buy hard copies. The departments of Chemistry and Physics are the biggest users of periodical expenditures.
2. Program Assessment- President E. Stevens stated that the committee had now looked at eight different academic programs. He noted that the committee does not recommend dissolution of a program but rather ways to make improvements. Recently, the committee reviewed the B.A. in Art History and the Ph.D. in Music. The departments made good cases for improving the graduation rates. The committee suggests ideas on how the programs can make a case or do a better job.
3. Effort Certification-E. Stevens stated that other universities are being audited as the government looks at grants in detail, especially any misuse of funds. Effort Certification has become a serious proposition. The University of Memphis may go to Effort Certification for federal awardees only. There may be an on-line tutorial to learn the intricacies. The on-line tool will help with reporting effort not

- hours on grants. Vanderbilt University went through the process and did well. The University of Memphis will emulate their model. The University is looking for after-the-fact confirmation rather than planned approach.
4. Strategic Planning-President E. Stevens reported that a new committee, Strategic Planning Steering Committee, is chaired by Dr. D. Cox, and is involved in planning and decision process. The goal is for transparency throughout the university. The intent is to make it clear how budget proprieties are set.
 5. University Undergraduate Council-Senator W. Jackson stated that the council dealt with individual department and curriculum changes.

04.17.07.07 NEW BUSINESS

1. Committee on Committees (A. Okunade, Chair)
Senator J. Acuff, committee member made the motion for the election of members to the Faculty Grievance Committee (ad hoc Committee of the Faculty Senate). --Senator J.Acuff moved to approve the nomination of members to serve on the Faculty Grievance Committee: Charles Bailey, Phyllis Betts, James Blythe, Susan Magun-Jackson, Edward Perry, and David Spencer. **The motion passed, and all were elected.** Three (3) remaining members of the committee will be chosen later. This committee is chosen because the Senate is changing. Faculty members will serve staggered appointments, from 1 to 3 years.
2. Academic Policies Committee (L. Scruggs, Chair)
Senator L. Scruggs committee motions regarding academic integrity--Senator L. Scruggs moved that all eight recommendations submitted by Academic Policies Committee be adopted in a comprehensive motion. Senator J. Petry asked about the item “student property.” L. Scruggs said that was not addressed by the Academic Integrity Task Force (AIT). The AIT’s final report has not been submitted, so the issue might be included; however, President E. Stevens said that the issue is not in the present task force report. Senator A. Proffitt stated that intellectual property rights is due for an overhaul and that the issue may be covered there.
The consolidation of the eight motions was approved.
Senator L. Scruggs then moved for adoption of the eight motions. **The motion passed and all motions were adopted.**
3. Academic Support Committee (J. Petry, Chair)
Senator J. Petry asked the Senators to look at the list of core questions for a new version of Student Instructional Ratings (SIRS), a teaching evaluation instrument. He moved that they be accepted. The first group of items on page one of the handout given to each Senator were put together by the Academic Support Committee as “core items,” which would go out to the entire university.

There was discussion concerning item 4, “The tests and other assessments adequately evaluated how well I learned the course material.” There was a motion for new wording: “The test and other assessments were appropriate.” The justification is that some tests determine holes in learning and not what was

learned. Senator H. Lomax offered a friendly amendment: a change from “The tests and other assessments” to “The tests or other assessments,” which takes into account the various ways of assessing. The change was accepted as a friendly amendment. Another wording was proposed by Senator L. Finch: “The tests or other evaluation methods adequately assessed how well I learned the course material.” The wording differs from the original by the use of “or” and “evaluated instead of “assessed.” A vote was taken on this with 14 for the change and 12 opposed. **The motion passed.**

Senator J. Petry commented on item 5: “The instructor had a positive attitude.” The Task Force suggested instead the following wording: “The instructor was enthusiastic when presenting course material.” Senator W. Jackson (Academic Support Committee member, said that they were trying to make it applicable to on-line and face to face courses.

Senator J. Berman said that SIRS has been used as measure of teaching effectiveness, but in reality it is just students’ perceptions. Senator J. Berman ask the question: “It would be appropriate to have a caveat that the instrument is not necessarily a measure of teaching effectiveness.” Senator A. Proffitt said that SIRS is used for many things, and someone must decide what it is—its purpose and goals. President E. Stevens said that suggestions on its use can be done as a motion on its own. No action was taken on the prior mentioned statements.

Senator J. Petry stated that the new item 7 was a concern. That item is this: “The instructor was concerned about whether I learned the material.” Some senators suggested that because of large classes, the personalized “I” may perhaps not apply. Senator H. Lomax moved to change the wording back to the original: “The instructor was concerned with whether the students learned the materials.” **The motion passed.**

There was a motion to readopt the original wording of item 5 because of the difficulty of deciding on the issue of positive attitude for web courses. It was stated again that this is a core group of questions, and various members of the task force are working on items that apply to different types of courses, including web courses, lab courses, and others. There was a question of whether the Senate can adopt number 5 in its original version for on-site courses and put in a footnote for on-line courses with an appropriate alternative substituted. W. Jackson moved that number 5 be dropped for on-line courses. **The motion passed.**

There was a question of when various departments come up with their own questions for SIRS. Senator J. Petry stated that the core questions for SIRS will be sent out this week. Senator J. Berman proposed that the student evaluation form should have a caveat stating that it is not necessarily a measure of teaching effectiveness but of student perception. President E. Stevens asked that this be referred to the committee. It was moved, seconded and **passed** that the committee handle the description of limitations on the of the evaluation instrument.

Senator A. Proffitt asked if the departments had been given the task of coming up with their own questions. Senator J. Petry stated that the Chairs were notified that they would be given opportunity to come up with own items, but the Deans had not.

4. Administrative Policies (R. Banai, Chair)

Senator R. Banai presented a motion on Green Power.— He stated that the Student Government Association (SGA) referendum passed in favor of adoption of Green Power Switch. Senator R. Banai moved to accept the following statement: “The Administrative Policies Committee echoes the initiative of the University of Memphis Environmental Action Club and recommends the purchase of units of green power (TVA) and expansion of campus-wide green projects including recycling, energy auditing with a per semester student fee as a revenue source. The Committee recommend a per-semester student fee which is in par with the amount assessed by peer institutions in Tennessee that are already using some green power on their campuses paid for by student fees, including UT (\$5), MTSU(\$8) and TN Tech (\$8). Furthermore, the Committee recommends the U of M Campus Sustainability Committee, with participation of student-led Environmental Action Club, oversee campus-wide project funding with a potentially significant revenue source and commensurate with the University of Memphis sustainability mission statement. Finally, the Committee recommends further investigation of the fee to reflect the consideration of cost-efficiency-environmental impact of green power on campus.”

As a point of information, President E. Stevens provide the following information. The referendum was adopted by the SGA, at its April 4-5, 2007 election. The students approved \$10 a semester fee. There was concern of who will oversee the funds; it was suggested that possibly by David Cox’s Sustainability Committee would. Dr Chrisann Shiro-Geist said that there is always a recommendation of how monies will be spent when a new fee is added. Senator J. Petry said that students are asked to pay \$10 a semester, but faculty are not being asked to do anything. Senator Banai said that students have shown an interest in sustaining the campus and were motivated. Senator H. Lomax asked if the Senate wanted to endorse the Environmental Action club, of which we know very little. He moved that the issue be sent back to the committee to consider the concerns expressed by the Senate. **The motion passed, and it was referred back to committee.**

04.17.07.08 OLD BUSINESS

Charges

CHARGE	TITLE	COMMITTEE	STATUS
Intellectual Property	Intellectual Property Student Property	Research Policies Committee	Complete??
Green Power	Green Power Switch	Administrative Policies	Motion phase

		Committee	
Grievance Process	University Grievance Process (members)	Committee on Committees	Continue
Shared Governance	Shared Governance	Ad hoc Committee on Shared Governance	New
SIRS	On-Line SIRS	Academic Support Committee	Continue
Academic Integrity	Academic Integrity	Academic Policies Committee	Motion phase complete

2. Other

04.17.07.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

Faculty Scholarship Week and Twentieth Annual Faculty Convocation April 15-19, 2007. Calendar of events can be found at:
<http://academics.memphis.edu/provost/convocation-2006.html>

04.17.07.10 ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.