



**Presiding:** Edward H. Perry

**Date:** 03-17-09

**Secretary:** Linda C. Finch

**Senators Present:** Thomas E. Banning, Mary V. Battle, Jeffrey S. Berman, Joel D. Bumgardner, Richard D. Evans, Donald R. Franceschetti, Edwin G. Frank, Wade M. Jackson, Linda D. Jarmulowicz, William H. Jermann, Candace C. Justice, Stephen J. Leierer, David N. Lumsden, James M. Lukawitz, E. Trey Martindale, William C. McKeown, Frances Pearson, Richard L. Petersen, Catherine Phipps, Lawrence A. Pivnick, Susan L. Roakes, Hoke Robinson, William T. Segui, Margaret Vandiver, Tracy White, and Seok P. Wong

**Senator Present by Proxy:** Jean-Pierre Reed (Joseph C. Ventimiglia)

**Senators Absent:** Robert P. Connolly, Thomas D. Cox (explained), Jaime M. Ferran, Economics (explained), Nicholas V. Holland III, Walter G. Kirkpatrick, Balaji Krishnan (explained), Management (vacant), David A. Nofsinger, Stephan J. Schoech (explained) and Michelle L. Stockton.

**T.B.R. Faculty Subcouncil Rep:** Jeffrey S. Berman

**Guests:** Gene Plunka (English Department), David Cox (President's Office), Thomas Nenon (Provost's Office)

The three-hundred and seventy-first meeting of The University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, March 17, 2009, in the room 124, the Auditorium, E.C. Ball Hall.

#### **03.17.09.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:44 p.m. with a quorum present.

#### **03.17.09.02 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

#### **03.17.09.03 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved to approve the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of February 17, 2009.

#### **03.17.09.04 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Perry presented the following items.

1. *Budget Update –Latest from President Raines*  
Governor Phil Bredesen is scheduled to present the State of TN FY 2009-2010 budget address on March 23, 2009. After that presentation, the President Raines will have a clearer understanding of the University of Memphis budget forecast.
2. *Marcus Orr Lecture Series*

President E. Perry sent a memo to President Raines last week requesting funding and has received confirmation of \$5000 for the Senate-sponsored fall lecture. Senator M. Battle, chair of the Faculty Senate Marcus Orr Lecture Series reported that Mary Burgan, author of *Whatever Happened to the Faculty*, will be contacted as the speaker for the fall 2009 series. The topic would be shared governance; the date has not been announced but will probably be in September.

3. *Faculty Opinion Survey*

A few changes in wording of some items occurred from online senator feedback. The survey was sent to faculty via email on March 3, 2009. As of Monday, March 16, over 350 responses were received. As of today, over 500 responses were received out of approximately 850 full time faculty members. Results will be reported next meeting. Discussion occurred that there should be a faculty survey each academic year to allow faculty input on current issues and topics.

**03.17.09.05 PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT**

No report.

Of note: Senator J. Berman will attend the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS), April 3-5, 2009 at Fall Creek Falls State Park and the TBR Faculty Subcouncil, April 17, 2009 at TBR Central Office meetings.

**03.17.09.06 OLD BUSINESS**

The change in the criteria for faculty appeals related to Tenure and Promotion remains with the President of the university.

**03.17.09.07 NEW BUSINESS**

President E. Perry and the Senate welcomed Dr. Joseph Ventimiglia (Sociology) to complete the spring term of Dr. Jean-Pierre Reed, who is on leave this semester.

**Committee on Committees-Senator B. Krishnan, Chair**

No nominations at this time

**Academic Policies Committee-Senator M. Vandiver, Interim Chair**

The Academic Policies Committee presented the following motion related to students' adding of classes. Dr. Gene Plunka, Professor (English Department) presented support for this motion.

**Motion:**

**“The Faculty Senate moves that the last time to add a class shall be the end of business on the first Tuesday of semesters that begin on Saturdays and shall be the end of business on the first Monday of semesters that begin on Thursdays.”**

**Rationale:**

Under the current arrangement, students are able to add a class after having missed an entire week of classes. This is disruptive for professors and for students already in the class and is disadvantageous to the student adding the course, as he or she starts well behind the rest of the students. Registration begins months before classes start, providing ample time for students to work out their schedules. The proposed change would give students a reasonable opportunity to

drop and add courses while making the beginning of the semester. It will help students get off to a good start in the semester and will relieve a burden on the faculty.

There was much discussion with concerns voiced that included: students having ample opportunity to make class decision when classes that only meet once per week; issues related to adding versus dropping classes; full time enrollment implications when students drop a course and not able to add a course. There was consensus there is need for data in order to accurately examine this issue to include: obtain numbers of students adding classes during the first week of classes, obtain information about how this situation is handled at other universities, and obtain faculty opinion about the increased effort added to workload.

Senator M. Vandiver made a request to withdraw the motion and stated that the issue will be further studied by the committee. **The motion was withdrawn without objection.**

### **03.17.09.08 OTHER BUSINESS**

David Cox (President's Office), communicated to the Faculty Senate that the Strategic Plan is in the final stages. Two of three groups working on this effort are chaired by Faculty Senators emphasizing the importance of faculty input into the University's Strategic Planning Process.

Thomas Nenon (Provost's Office), reported on successes of the Academic Assessment office, including the Early Intervention Program. Discussion related to the need for consistent faculty feedback related to student referrals. This issue is being examined and will be addressed by the assessment office next year.

T. Nenon discussed changes that will occur in academic status policy. Currently, the student must have 24 graded hours with a 1.65 GPA before being suspended. Until the GPA reached this low level, student transcripts continue to be marked "in good standing." Beginning fall 2009, the new academic status and retention policy will be:

- GPA less than 2.0 after 7 graded hours will result in an Academic Warning
- GPA less than 1.00 for one (1) semester will result in an Academic Warning and student must participate in success strategies including tutoring.
- GPA less than 1.00 for the second semester will result in Probation and will require student participation in a variety of success strategies that include study skills, scheduling and planning with mandatory attendance. Non attendance can result in the student being "dropped" from classes.
- GPA less than 1.00 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester will result in student suspension

T. Nenon reported other Academic Assessment Initiatives:

- Improving math outcomes in algebra
- Use of math software for math placement
- Faculty sharing "get together" to discuss concerns/issues
- Integration/linking of campus visits with career interests/preparation
- Increasing student responsibility for tracking advising
- Use of new software for tracking student advising
- Purchase of Hobson's recruitment software

Other: Transfer students should first be advised through the Transfer office then move to specific program/department/college.

### **03.17.09.09 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Administrative Policies Committee-Senator W. McKeown, Chair**

The Central Avenue Streetscape Improvement, a study of Central Avenue was presented. This joint street improvement project between the University and the City of Memphis is proposed to promote student safety by decreasing jay walking, slowing traffic, and creating more efficient traffic patterns via the addition of a boulevard, narrowing traffic lanes, and fencing along North Central Avenue. All decisions are not yet final on the project. Prior to the meeting the committee shared a pdf file titled, Central-Ave-Pres.pdf, with the Senators for review.

#### **Library Policies Committee-Senator R. Petersen, Chair**

Senator R. Petersen stated that Dean Sylverna Ford, University Libraries reports there will be a 30% cut to serial holding and that the library is not immune to budget cuts. Although there has been an increase in library budget of \$150,000 over the past 2 years, the increase has come from cuts in holdings. Senator R. Petersen also reported on the project to reduce Library Subscriptions and encourage Senators to inform their colleagues that a communication regarding Library Subscriptions will be forthcoming. The time frame for library budget cuts are:

- April 10, 2009 Each department will determine a 30% decrease in library funds
- April 24, 2009 Comments about library cuts will be solicited (unclear how this will be implemented)
- May 2009 Cancellation of identified subscriptions/holdings will begin
- December 2009 Cancellations will be completed

Senator E. Frank identified the library is approximately \$300, 000 in deficit at present. Senator L. Pivnick reminded the senators that library cuts have been supported by Deans and that faculty should to express their need for a library with appropriate holdings. There was presentation of costs for Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) membership indicating the University may be unable to afford membership when up for renewal.

**Additions to Summary Reports** filed by Faculty Senate standing and ad hoc Committees, Summary Reports are now available on Faculty Senate website:  
<http://www.memphis.edu/facultysenate/committees.php>)

### **03.17.09.08 ANNOUCEMENTS/EVENTS**

**2008-09 Faculty Senate**, the last meeting for the 2008-2009 Faculty Senate will be April 7, 2009. Senators returning for the 2009-10 Faculty Senate, should consider which committees they want to serve on for next academic year.

**Women's History Month 2009**, Throughout March, the University of Memphis will observe Women's History Month with a number of special events, including film, art, and inspirational rhetoric. The calendar includes: March 6 –April 9 – “SnapShots: Memphis Women at Work,” Germantown Performing Arts Centre. March 18 – “In Her Own Words: Inspirational Speeches from the Women's Rights Movement,” 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Ned R. McWherter Library Rotunda

on the U of M campus. More information about these events or others during Women's History Month is available by calling 901-678-2770. All events are free and open to the public.

**EAP Awareness**, March is EAP Awareness Month. One of the EAP seminars that will be held in the room 177B, Administration Building, "Money 1 to 1", focus will be on assisting couples and managing their money and reducing their debt, March 24, 2009, 1:00-2:00 pm. To register for the seminars and obtain more information on the events in March, e-mail [mawllmsn@memphis.edu](mailto:mawllmsn@memphis.edu).

**Distinguished Teaching Award**, Funded and sponsored by the University of Memphis Alumni Association, this annual award recognizes excellence in teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level. The four recipients of the 2008-2009 Distinguished Teaching Award are: John Amis, Department of Management, Teresa Dalle, Department of English, June Entman, Humphreys School of Law and Remy Debes, Department of Philosophy. 2008-2009 Senators who were finalists: Jeffrey Berman (Psychology), Thomas D. Cox (University College), and Sharon A. Stanley (Political Science).

#### **04.15.08.09 ADJOURN**

President E. Perry adjourned the meeting ended at 4:08 p.m.