



Minutes of the Faculty Senate

Presiding: Wade M. Jackson (Management Info Systems)

Date: 12-07-10

Secretary: Cynthia G. Tucker

Senators Present: Narahari B. Achar (Physics), Pilar Alcalde (Foreign Languages), Thomas E. Banning (Engr Tech), Jeffrey S. Berman (Psychology), David C. Burchfield (Public Health), Gloria F. Carr (Nursing), Amy L. de Jongh Curry (Biomedical Engr), Antonio de Velasco (Communication), Mark H. Danley (Library), Richard D. Evans (Finance), Tarek R. Farhat (Chemistry), Reginald L. Green (Leadership), Derek E. Hopp (Mil Sci, Navy ROTC), Thomas Hrach (Journalism), Wade M. Jackson (Management Info Systems), William H. Jermann (Elec & Computer Engr), Robert Kozma (Math Sciences), A. Katherine Lambert-Pennington (Anthropology), James M. Lukawitz (Accountancy), Larry W. Moore (Civil Engr), Cedar L. Nordbye (Art), Michael S. O'Nele (Theatre & Dance) Edward H. Perry (Mechanical Engr), Lawrence A. Pivnick (Law), Jose M. Pujol (Earth Sciences), Carol A. Rambo (Sociology), Vasile Rus (Computer Sci), Steven D. Schwartzbach (Biology), Keith D. Sisson (Univ College), Arwin D. Smallwood (History), Sharon A. Stanley (Political Science), R. Jeffrey Thieme (Marketing & Sply Chain Mgmt), Cynthia G. Tucker (English) Gregory Washington (Sch Urb Aff & Pub Pol), Robert R. Wiggins (Management) and Yonghong Xu (Couns, Ed Psy & Res)

Senators Present by Proxy: Linda D. Jarmulowicz (Audiology & Speech-Lang Path) Shaum P. Bhagat

Senators Absent: Leonardo G. Altino (Music), David J. Giacomassi (Crim & Criminal Justice), Billy E. Lawson (Philosophy), Thomas E. Mason (Architecture), Cathy D. Meredith (Instr & Curr Ldrship), and Terra L. Smith (Health & Sport Sci)

TBR Representative: Lawrence A. Pivnick (Law)

Faculty Senate Information Officer: Margaret E. Robinson (Univ Libraries)

Guests: Tom Smith (United Campus Workers/Communication Workers of America), David Cox (President's Office), and Thomas Nenon (Provost's Office)

The three-hundred-and-eighty-sixth meeting of the University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, December 7, 2010, in the Senate Chambers, Room 261 of the University Center.

12.07.10.01 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:50 p.m. with a quorum present.

12.07.10.02 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

12.07.10.03 Approval of Minutes

The minutes from October 12, 2010, were approved.

12.07.10.04 Invited Guest: Tom Smith (United Campus Workers/Communication Workers of America, Local 3865)

Tom Smith described the character, history, mission, and current priorities of the United Campus Workers/Communication (UCW-CWA), a labor union of 1200 members. He reminded us that Tennessee, a Right to Work state, allows neither closed shops nor punishment of workers who choose to join unions. We do not have the right to collective bargaining, but we do have the right to affiliate. The union's current priorities focus on (1) the state's new health insurance plan, (2) the need for a living wage policy and "equal dollar" pay raise, (3) protecting jobs, programs, and state funding as the stimulus monies end, and (4) obtaining due process rights in grievance procedures. For more information, senators were directed to smith@ucw-cwa.org, (865) 387-4408 or (877) 292-3865.

12.07.10.05 President's Report

1. Meeting with Administrative Council (Nov. 19): The discussion focused on budget strategies and planning process. In the interest of greater shared governance, the EC will recommend to President Raines that both the Senate President and President Elect attend these council meetings in the future.

2. Meeting with Chancellor Morgan (Nov. 29): During a recent visit (November 29) to the U of M campus, the newly elected TBR chancellor, John Morgan, met for a brief 30 minutes with Senate President W. Jackson to hear what most concerns faculty at present. Remaining noncommittal, the chancellor simply listened as W. Jackson mention the following: the recent Articulation Agreement's problematic approval of letting students take 3000-level courses at Southwest Community College and transfer that credit to programs at four-year institutions; the need for greater shared governance; and academic freedom, an issue the U of M will deal with in-house. Chancellor Morgan dodged the question when asked for his thinking about creating a separate state governing body for the U of M.

3. University Council for Graduate Studies (UCGS): President W. Jackson, who had to miss the November meeting of UCGS due to a conflict and fears this will happen again, requested we name a senator who can be on call to stand-in for him. C. Nordbye stepped forward, agreeing to go to the meetings in W. Jackson's stead as needed, beginning with the one on December 9th.

At this point, the discussion turned to the question of whether or when and to what extent faculty members are free to share with their colleagues and people off campus what they have learned at these meetings. Currently, state employees may be subject to punishment if, in speaking to the media, they disagree with or criticize university practices, policy, or decisions.

J. Berman explained that as it stands now, the more authority a faculty member has, the greater his or her risk of being found culpable. It's relatively safe if the individual speaks as a private citizen, but not if he or she speaks as an expert or person in authority. J. Berman reminded us that

the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has sent the state board the language that would give faculty protection from possible penalties for speaking their minds in public.

12.07.10.06 President-Elect's Report

L. Pivnick reported that he, too, was able to meet with John Morgan and that his impression was favorable. The new Chancellor of TBR said, he regret that faculty wasn't given a chance to participate in the Chancellor Selection process and the he would like to have faculty involved in all levels at TBR.

President-Elect L. Pivnick closed his report by making this motion:

Motion: We agree to invite Chancellor Morgan to address our body and answer questions at the earliest possible Faculty Senate meeting of the spring 2011 term.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on December 7, 2010.

12.07.10.07 Committee on Committees Motion

A. de Jongh Curry, chair put forward the nominations of individuals who have expressed an interest in serving and agreed to be nominees (individual motions were combined by general consent):

Motion: Move that the Faculty Senate elect Nicole R. Robinson, (Music) to serve as the faculty representative on the Tenure and Promotion Appeals Committee.

and that the Faculty Senate elect Jeffrey Wilson (Education-Leadership), Natalie Parker-Lawrence (Communication), Laurie MacGillivray (Education-Instruction & Curr Ldrship), Mary E Whitaker (School of Public Health), Kas Saghafi (Philosophy), Brona Pinnolis (Law) to serve as the faculty representatives on the Academic Freedom and Responsibility Committee.

and that the Faculty Senate elect Mary V. Battle (English), Susan Wood (University Libraries), David G. Westendorff (School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy), Alistair Windsor (Mathematics) to serve as the faculty representatives on the ad hoc Marcus Orr Faculty Senate Lecture in Higher Education Committee.

and that the Faculty Senate elect Joseph C Ventimiglia (Social Work), and Gisele Goldstein (Mathematics) to serve as the faculty representatives on the President's Panel Hearing.

and that the Faculty Senate elect Laura Baylot Casey (Education-Instruction & Curr Ldrship) to serve as the faculty representative on the ad hoc Shared Governance Committee.

and that the Faculty Senate elect Wade M. Jackson (Mgmt Info Systems) to serve as faculty representative on the ad hoc Legislative Liaison Committee.

The above motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote on December 7, 2010.

12.07.10.08 Academic Policies Committee Motions

R. Wiggins, chair presented the following motions:

1. Academic Freedom in Teaching.

Rationale: In the interests of standardizing courses across sections, some departments have begun unilaterally dictating all course materials (syllabi, books, lecture slides, and lecture notes) to all faculty teaching some courses, leaving zero degrees of freedom in teaching the course. In some cases, all faculty teaching the course are involved in the selections. In others, only some faculty teaching the course are involved. In at least one case, none of the faculty members teaching the course were consulted.

Motion: All faculty involved in teaching a specific course on a regular basis must be involved in selecting all course materials.

The motion was amended and now reads:

In accordance with policy 5:02.03.00 on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, be it resolved that any faculty member involved in teaching a specific course on a regular basis has the right to be involved in selecting all course materials.

Adopted by voice vote with 2 nays and 1 abstention on December 7, 2010.

2. Online Student Verification

Rationale: In the interests of increasing educational opportunities for students in the Memphis area and beyond, The University has greatly increased their on-line class offerings. Currently or in the near future, students will be able to get their entire undergraduate (and in some cases graduate) degrees on-line. At the present time, students take their exams on-line from their home or office. There is no way currently to verify that person getting credit for the class is indeed the person taking the exams.

Faculty teaching on-line courses should be allowed to require students in their courses to take exams at a registered facility where the identification of the student taking the exams can be verified.

The motion was amended and now reads:

Faculty teaching online courses should have the option to require their students to take exams at a facility where the identification of the student taking the exams can be verified.

Adopted by voice vote with 1 nay and 1 abstention on December 7, 2010.

12.07.10.09 Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

12.07.10.10 New Business

There was no new business.

12.07.10.11 Announcements/Events

1. The Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots effort runs through December 12. Those who wish to contribute can drop off their unwrapped toys in the University Center next to the information desk or at the Naval ROTC office, 120A Hayden Hall. Those who wish to make money donations can contact Gunnery Sergeant Kammer or Captain Wickham about sending checks: 678-2370. All donations will stay in the local area.

2. The U of M Holiday Celebration will be held in the 2nd floor atrium of the Administration Building on Thursday, December 9, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. The staff senate will be collecting donations of canned food items to benefit the Mid South Food Bank.

3. Winter Commencement will be held at the Fed Ex Forum on Saturday, December 18, as follows:

10:00 a.m. College of Arts & Sciences, College of Communication and Fine Arts, University College, and School of Law, and doctoral hoodings for these divisions.

2:00 p.m. Fogelman College of Business & Economics, College of Education, Herff College of Engineering, Loewenberg School of Nursing, School of Audiology & Speech Language Pathology, School of Public Health, and doctoral hoodings for these units.

4. The university offices will be closed for winter break from December 24, 2010 – January 2, 2011. More information is available at <http://bf.memphis.edu/hr/holidays.php>.

4. President Wade Jackson is seeking talking points to be used at the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) Senate Education Committee Meeting in 2011. Please send your suggestions to him at wjackson@memphis.edu.

5. In announced the passing of Dan S. Murrell, Emeritus Professor of Law, on December 5, 2010, President-Elect L. Pivnick paid tribute to our late colleague.

6. Cedar Nordbye is putting together an ad hoc committee on a Livable Wage and asked that anyone interested in serving contact him at cnordbye@memphis.edu.

7. The Faculty Senate's next meeting will be held on February 1, 2011.

12.07.10.12 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.