



Minutes of the Faculty Senate

Presiding: Lawrence A. Pivnick (Law)

Date: 12-06-11

Secretary: Cynthia G. Tucker (English)

Senators Present: Narahari B. Achar (Physics), Pilar Alcalde (Foreign Lang & Lit), Jeffery S. Berman (Psychology), Shaum P. Bhagat (Comm. Sci. Disorders), David C. Burchfield (Public Health), Gloria F. Carr (Nursing), Mark H. Danley (Univ Libraries), Dipankar Dasgupta (Computer Science), Richard D. Evans (Fin, Ins, & Real Estate), Michael M. Grant (Instr & Curr Ldrship) Thomas Hrach (Journalism), Wade M. Jackson (Mang Info Systems), A. Katherine Lambert-Pennington (Anthropology), Anita Jo Lenhart (Theatre & Dance), Gladius Lewis (Mechanical Engr), James M. Lukawitz (Accountancy), David G. Matthews (Communication), Larry W. Moore (Civil Engr), Cedar L. Nordbye (Art), Lawrence A. Pivnick (Law), Jose M. Pujol (Earth Sci), Kevin M. Sanders (Music), Steven D. Schwartzbach (Biology), Arwin D. Smallwood (History), Sharon A. Stanley (Political Science) R. Jeffery Thieme (Mrktng & Suply Chain Mang), Cynthia G. Tucker (English), Junmin Wang (Sociology), John L. Williams (Biomed Engr), James F. Williamson (Architecture), Yonghong Xu (Couns, Ed, Psy & Res)

Senators Present by Proxy: Reginald L. Green (Leadership), Robert Kozma (Mathematical Sciences) Hongqiu Chen, Billy E. Lawson (Philosophy) Pleshette DeArmitt; Terra L. Smith (Health & Sports Sci) Yuhua Li, Gregory Washington (Sch Urb Aff & Pub) M. Elena Delavega, and Robert R. Wiggins (Management) Carol Danehower

Senators Absent: Thomas E. Banning (Engr. Tech), Tomoko Fujiwara (Chemistry), Economics (vacant), Elec. & Computer Engr. (vacant), Edward J. May (Military Sciences, Naval Sci.), K. B. Turner (Crim. & Criminal Justice), Univ. College (vacant)

Guests: David N. Cox (President's Office), Melanie S. Murry (Office of Legal Counsel), Cecil C. Rousseau (University of Memphis Association of Retirees-UMAR)

The three-hundred-and-ninety-fifth meeting of the University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, December 6, 2011, in the Senate Chambers, Room 261 of the University Center.

12.06.11.01 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. with a quorum present.

12.06.11.02 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was modified and approved to add under the heading Invited Guest, David N. Cox (on Campus Sustainability) and Melanie S. Murry (an Open Forum on Legal Issues).

12.06.11.03 Approval of Minutes

The minutes from our November 8 meeting were approved as submitted.

12.06.11.04 Invited Guests

1. Campus Sustainability: President Raines could not be present. David N. Cox, Executive Assistant to President Raines, made a short presentation, urging faculty to go to the university's new Sustainability webpage (<http://www.memphis.edu/bluegoesgreen/plangoal.php>) and tell their stories of what they are doing to further our mission of "going green." There is a university sustainability plan. The webpage where everyone can access and write what your project is with sustainability is: <http://www.memphis.edu/bluegoesgreen/contactus.php>

2. Open Forum on Legal Issues: Melanie S. Murry, Associate University Counsel, spoke about how the faculty can benefit through the legal counsel's office. For example, the Office of Legal Counsel is available to conduct seminars for individual faculty members or department on a wide range of subjects such as, FERPA, contracts, copyright, conflict of interest, university policies and general legal issues. She also informed the senators that university Office of Legal Counsel consist of 3 staff attorneys, herself and attorneys Sheryl "Sheri" Lipman, University Counsel and Billy Mueller, Asst University Counsel.

Counsel Murry explained how the university's Office of Legal Counsel is working to help us faculty deal with situations where students become disruptive or are obviously disturbed or distressed. The university has a Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), a group of people from different units on campus who, pooling their various expertise, sit down and determine what needs to be done when such problems are sent to them. The U of M has been revising its code for student behavior, and once TN Board of Regents approves these new rules, the BIT will have more authority to help with these problems. The BIT group consists of these individuals:

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students - Chair, Stephen H. Petersen
Director of the Center for Counseling, Learning and Testing (or designee) - Carl E. Gilleylen & Robert "Bob" J. Maichrowicz
Director of Police Services (or designee) - Bruce C. Harber
Associate Dean of Students for Judicial and Ethical Programs - Benjamin "Ben" Morton
University Legal Counsel (or designee) - Melanie S. Murry or Sheryl "Sheri" H. Lipman
And on a case by case basis, other faculty or administrators as needed.

Counsel Murry informed the members that Bruce Harber and his staff are actively engaged in keeping the campus safe. Police Services must publish on behalf of the institution an annual report disclosing campus security policies and three years worth of selected crime statistics to comply with the Jeanne Clery Act. [NOTE: The "Clery Act" is named in memory of 19-year old- university freshman Jeanne Ann Clery who was raped and murdered at Lehigh University. The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (20 USC § 1092(f) is federal law, originally known as the Campus Security Act].

Overall effective communication between all parties (professors, staff and administrators) will help identify those students who present a safety risk. If students are being disruptive in class and

we cannot control the environment, faculty should ask them to leave and inform the Associate Dean of Students. If they refuse to leave, we can call 911(which goes to campus police services). Issues of academic misconduct should be addressed to Associate Dean Benjamin “Ben” Morton, Student Affairs Office of Judicial and Ethical Programs.

12.06.11.05 President’s Report

1. Invitation to Office of Student Affairs: President L. Pivnick reported that he has had several conversations with Dr. Stephen Petersen, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and he hopes to have a representative from Dr. Peterson’s staff visit the Faculty Senate soon and explain how his unit is dealing with students who are disruptive or emotionally disturbed.
2. Grade Changes by Deans and Chairs: President L. Pivnick addressed the matter of grades being changed by deans and chairs, an issue of great concern to a number of faculty. He noted that this is made possible by a provision in the Faculty Handbook Chapter 5-Instuction, Undergraduate Grade Appeals-Step 3.
3. Control of the Faculty Handbook: Our Faculty Policies Committee is looking into the question of who has control of the Faculty Handbook. The senate does not have the human resources to take on the demanding mechanical tasks of keeping the handbook up-to-date. What we want is final authority over what goes in the handbook and, with that authority, the means to address the two issues of greatest concern: (1) the lack of a historical archive that shows what policy changes are made and when they are made; and (2) the practice of using multiple links to lead faculty to the information that ought to be immediately accessible. President L. Pivnick will research these matters and bring his report to our next senate meeting.

12.06.11.07 Committee on Committees Nominations

Committee on Committees, chair, C. Nordbye presented the following named faculty for ratification to served on the ad hoc Faculty & Staff Lounge Committee: Lawrence A. Pivnick, Richard D. Evans, Cedar L. Nordbye and James F. Williamson.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on December 6, 2011.

President L. Pivnick will serve as committee chair. President L. Pivnick informed the body that former Faculty Senate President Carol Crown had declined to serve on the ad hoc Faculty Lounge Committee. NOTE: The senate under Dr. Crown leadership established the former faculty lounge in the old university center. The proposed new lounge would be for the use of both faculty and staff.

C. Nordbye reported that nominations are still being sought for seats on two Business & Finance Standing Committees. The Facilities & Services Committee and the Fee/Refund Appeals Committee.

12.06.11.08 Old Business

Survey of Faculty on Tenure & Promotion Language: The Senate returned to this issue, and several largely stylistic changes in wording were proposed and accepted. The motion now reads as follows:

Item 1: (Please circle one): I am (A) Tenured, (B) on Tenure Track, or (C) Non-Tenure Track

Item 2: Please indicate which of the following you support:

(A) “As departmental, college, and university standards for tenure evolve, the expectations for faculty members seeking tenure will also evolve. When a faculty member applies for tenure, he or she does so under the guidelines and criteria in effect at the beginning of the year of his or her mid-tenure review.”

(B) “Departmental, college, and university standards for tenure evolve, but when a faculty member comes up for tenure, he or she does so under the guidelines and criteria in effect at the time of his or her hire.”

Motion: Moved that the Faculty Senate adopt this modified language.

Adopted by unanimous voice vote on December 6, 2011.

President L. Pivnick asked the body when would be the ideal time to send the survey to the faculty, this month (December) or next month (January). The senate’s ad hoc Faculty Input Committee, chaired by T. Banning to send out the survey in January 2012.

Adopted by show of hands on December 6, 2011.

12.06.11.10 Announcements

1. Centennial Anniversary (2012): For more information visit www.memphis.edu/centennial/

2. Dr. Mary V. Battle (English), former Faculty Senate secretary, has been awarded emerita status in honor of her many years of service

3. President Raines & Dr. Canady’s Holiday Party: This traditional event will be held on Monday, December 12, from 9:30-11:30a.m. in the Atrium of the Administration Building

4. Annual Holiday Brunch & Silent Auction: U of M’s Association of Retirees (UMAR) will hold this yearly event on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, in the UC Ballrooms B & C (3rd floor) from 9:30 am to 1 pm. For more information contact: Connie Thiemonge, cthmonge@memphis.edu or 901, 678-1333

5. 100th Fall Commencement: This landmark event will take place on Saturday, December 17, 10:00 am and 2:00 pm in the FedEx Forum. For more information go to www.memphis.edu/commencement

6. Celebrating a Century of Women: To nominate a woman (past or present) who made a difference to the U of M, go to <http://memphis.edu/women>. The deadline is Saturday, December 31, 2011

7. Holiday Closing: The U of M will be close for the winter 2011 holidays at 5 pm on Friday, December 23 and reopen at 5 am on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Additional information can be found at <http://bf.memphis.edu/hr/holidays.php>

8. Next Faculty Senate Meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2012

12.06.11.11 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned 4:02 p.m.