



Minutes of the Faculty Senate

Presiding: Thomas E. Banning (Engr Tech)

Date: 10-3-17

Secretary: R. Jeffrey Thieme

Senators Present: Thomas E. Banning (Engr Tech), Reza Banai (Sch Urb Aff & Pub Pol), Brennan K. Berg (KWS), Eugene H. Buder (Comm. Sci. Disorders), Charles W. Crawford (History), Gerald Chaudron (Univ Libraries), Coriana L. Close (Art), Lorinda B. Cohoon (English), Jill A. Dapremont (Nursing), David M. Gray (Philosophy), Tiffany G. Johnson (Univ College), Donna R. Jones (Law), Kristen P. Jones (Management), David M. Kemme (Economics), Henry A. Kurtz (Chemistry), Erno Lindner (Biomed Engr) Jeffrey G. Marchetta (Mech Engr), Gray Matthews (Communication), Meghan E. McDevitt-Murphy (Psychology), Peter L. McMickle (Accountancy), Sanjay Mishra (Physics), John T. Mueller (Music), Esra Ozdenerol (Earth Sci), George E. Relyea (Public Health), Sandra Richardson (Bus Info Tech), Michael Sances (Political Science), Steven D. Schwartzbach (Biology), Sandra Richardson (Bus Info Tech), Sajjan G. Shiva (Computer Science), Mark Sunderman (Fin, Ins, & Real Estate), R. Jeffery Thieme (Mrktng & Suply Chain Mang), Laura C. Taylor (Social Work), William P. Travis (Health Studies), Joseph C. Ventimiglia (Sociology), Francisco Vivar (Foreign Lang & Lit), Jin Yang (Journalism)

Senator Present by Proxy: Mohd Hasan Ali (Elec & Comp Engr) Madhusudhanan Balasubramanian, Mary K. Boudreaux (Leadership) William J. Jacob, Michael K. Chisamore (Architecture) James Williamson, Leigh Falls Holman (Couns, Ed, Psy & Res) Stephen A. Zanskas, Michael R. Duke (Anthropology) Clare L. Boulanger, James C. McCutcheon (Crim & Criminal Justice) Amaia Iratzoqui, Brian A. Waldron (Civil Engr) Stephanie Ivey, DeAnna N. Owens-Mosby (Instr & Curr Ldrship) Laura Baylot Casey, Máté Wierdl (Mathematical Sciences) Irena Lasiecka

Senators Absent: Robert A. Hetherington (Theatre & Dance), Laura C. Taylor (Social Work), Military Sciences (vacant)

Faculty Senate Information Officer: Jeffrey S. Berman (Psychology) appointed this meeting

Guests: M. David Rudd (President Office), Karen Weddle-West (Provost Office), Katherine Taylor Schaffzin (Board of Trustees Faculty Representative), Lawrence A. Pivnick (UMAR liaison), Martha Robinson (Lambuth liaison), Gloria Fulton Carr (Faculty Ombudsperson), Lynda Wray Black (Faculty Athletic Committee)

The four-hundred-and-forty seventh meeting of the University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, October 3, 2017, in Senate Chambers of the University Center, room 261.

10.3.17.01 Call to Order

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

10.3.17.02 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with modifications. Under the heading of Announcements there will be no handouts from Dr. Ray or Mr. Anderson.

10.3.17.03 Approval of Minutes

The minutes for September 5, 2017, were approved as written.

10.3.17.04 President's Report

President Banning informed the Senate that the following ad hoc committees are populated and will begin work this month: Information Technology Services/Faculty Senate (ITS/FS), Alumni Faculty House, Campus Family Friendly Environment Committee, and Paid Parental Leave (PPL) Policy Development. President Banning briefly described the nature of work for each committee. He reported that the financial justification for the Paid Parental Leave policy will be presented to the UofM Board of Trustees (BOT), Governance and Finance Committee tomorrow morning, October 4, 2017.

President Banning reported that the University commencement ceremonies will change beginning in December 2017 in an effort to reduce their length. The Sunday Commencement will be split into three ceremonies, with each lasting approximately an hour and thirty minutes. The biggest impact of the change will be on the platform party (i.e. President, Provost, Deans, etc.) as they will have an all-day commitment. NOTE: The three ceremonies will include college hoodings (doctoral and masters).

President Banning informed the Senate that he will be giving a presentation on the Faculty Senate's recommendation on the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) to the BOT Governance and Finance Committee tomorrow. The recommendation centers on a retiree's ability to withdraw ORP funds.

President Banning informed the Senate that University President Dr. Rudd will be presenting the financial analysis part of the Paid Parental Leave policy to the BOT.

10.3.17.5 New Business

President Banning informed the Senate that the Executive Committee (EC) is putting forth a motion to endorse University President Rudd's position on Freedom of Speech. Senator Kurtz, speaker to the motion on behalf of the EC, provided background information on the motion.

Motion from EC regarding free speech:

The Faculty Senate supports University President Dr. Rudd's upholding of the principles of free speech, civility, and the recognition of diversity at the University of Memphis.

Discussion ensued. Senator Cohoon moved to amend the motion to read as follows:

The Faculty Senate supports the principles of free speech, civility, and the recognition of diversity at the University of Memphis, and as part of this support, affirms the importance of vigorous debate and the right to peaceful protest.

Motion to amend adopted by voice vote on October 3, 2017.

Amended main motion adopted unanimously by voice vote on October 3, 2017.

Note: The motion has been provided to the Office of the President.

President Banning reported that the Senate would vote on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program motion. NOTE: Due to time constraints at the September 5, Senate meeting the motion was not presented. Senator Schwartzbach was speaker to the motion for support of DACA.

Motion from Senator Schwartzbach

WHEREAS President Trump has rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program protecting the hundreds of thousands of young immigrants brought into this country as children, commonly referred to as “dreamers;” and

WHEREAS this policy shift directly impacts some of our students who are remarkable men and women making significant contributions to our campus, our community and our country: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate supports and encourages the university to make all efforts possible working with other universities and our elected representatives to ensure that DACA ³dreamers² can remain on our campus and in our country.

Adopted by voice vote unanimously on October 3, 2017.

Note: The motion has been provided to the Office of the President.

President Banning reported to the FS the rationale for initiating the following charge to the Senate Research Policies Committee:

The Office of Sponsored Programs has indicated to faculty that the University of Memphis will no longer accept fixed-cost research contracts. This is a major change and potentially affects many faculty and departments. As we strive to increase research and faculty productivity, this policy seems counterproductive on the surface. This committee is charged with examining why this policy was implemented and also the effects it may have on faculty. In addition, a recommendation should be made to support this policy or not by the Faculty Senate.

The report from this charge should be submitted to the Executive Committee by November 27, 2017 and ready for presentation to the Faculty Senate meeting on December 5, 2017.

University President Rudd requested that the Senate Research Policies Committee coordinate with Andy Myers, Vice President Research and Jeannie Smith, Interim Vice President Business and Finance. President Banning, on behalf the FS, agreed to the coordination.

President Banning reported to the FS the rationale for initiating the following charge to the Senate Administrative Policies Committee:

Previously the University set a minimum Postdoctoral Assistant pay at \$47,500 due to a Federal mandate. Since that time the Federal rules have been rescinded and there are no state requirements for this action. The charge to this committee is to examine why this policy is still in effect and its advantages or disadvantages to faculty and departmental productivity. A recommendation should be formulated for Faculty Senate consideration on supporting this requirement or formally voicing opposition to it.

The committee is to have its report submitted to the Executive Committee by November 27, 2017 and ready for presentation at the Faculty Senate meeting on December 5, 2017.

10.3.17.06 Guest Speaker Lynda Wray Black

President Banning introduced the guest speaker from the School of Law, Professor Lynda Wray Black, Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), and chair of the Faculty Athletics Committee. President Banning yielded the floor to Prof. Black to give to her annual report to the Senate on Faculty Athletic Committee (FAC). Prof. Black brought to the Senate's attention the distributed FAC web page showing the committee membership list (which included ex-officio members) and minutes. Prof Wray reported that UofM student athletes continue to do well academically. Also, unlike our sister or peer institutions, the UofM has a very open dialogue between academic and nonacademic units when it comes to student athletics. Prof. Black extended to the Senate on behalf of Thomas (Tom) Michael Bowen, Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, an open invitation to visit with the FS. Prof. Black informed the Senate that the FAC has an advisory role to University President Rudd as it relates to intercollegiate athletics. Furthermore, the Committee submits advisory reports to the University President. Prof. Black stated that any concerns, be it positive or negative, about student athletics be sent to her. NOTE: Contact information: Lynda Wray Black Esq, (Law), email: lspanpls@memphis.edu; telephone number: 678-3225. At this point, Prof. Black opened the floor for questions. There were none. Prof. Black asked that the hardcopy of the webpage distributed to the Senators be sent electronically after the meeting. NOTE: The FAR, Prof. Black, is appointed by University President M. David Rudd. President Banning thanked Prof. Black for coming and sharing this information to the FS.

10.3.17.7 Announcements

President Banning announced the upcoming Uof M, Board of Trustees (BOT), meeting October 4, 2017. Email: trustees@memphis.edu For more information visit: www.memphis.edu/bot/. NOTE: The following announcements were stricken: Handout from Dr. Darrell Ray, Vice President for Student Affairs and Handout from Mr. Kenneth Anderson, Director Office of Institutional Equity.

10.3.17.8 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.