

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Plenary Meeting
August 21, 2024- MCOB- 3:00-5:00 p.m.
MCOB 265
MINUTES

Present (In-House): J. Adams, R. Bates, C. Baughn, M. Black, G. Borchert, C. Brock, G. Brower, J. Bunch, C. Davidson, S. Davis, T. Davis, A. Donaldson, J. Ellzie, L. Fleck, Y. Getch, R. Godang, C. Hauff, G. Hudson, M. Lin, D. Meola, B. Merritt, M. Migaud, J. Miller, B. Minton, S. Ní Chandhain, T. O'Connor, A. Pavelescu, J. Pfleeger, B. Rabideau, C. Raczkowski, J. Richardson, C. Shaw, A. Shea, D. Streeter, J. Swofford, V. Tate, E. ter Horst, R. Thomas, C. Thompson, L. Vrana, S. Walker, C. Wassenaar, B. Webb, and C. Wu.

Present (Zoom): P. Henning, N. Holliday, A. Marass, and K. Pancione.

Excused: Y. Coronado, W. Cutchen, S. Ferguson, J. Huang, Y. Huang, Z. Khan, T. McDonald, C. Rawlinson, J. Robertson, and D. Turnipseed.

Unexcused: G. Abeynanda, S. Bessette, B. Dzwonkowski, C. Gavrilita, C. Holliday, W. Kilgo, M. Sehgal, A. Stenson, A. VandeWaa, and A. Williams.

Guests: Beth Davis (BCRFA), Sidney Raine (SWAPTE), Tamekia Cunningham-Abrams (FPHC), and Michael Chambers (Chief, Economic Development Office).

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm with President Christina Wassenaar, presiding. Quorum was met.

I. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS:

Presentation of the 2023/2024 Faculty Senate Award Winners:

Semoon and Youngshin Chang Endowed Award for Humanitarian Service: Angela Nocera [not attending]

Outstanding Research Partner: The Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama (BCRFA) – accepted by Beth Davis

Outstanding Community Partner: Southwest Alabama Partnership for [(O)2S (at)210 (ndi [((:)2 (n

Approval of Minutes: Approved by a majority of quorum.

Approval of Agenda: Approved by a majority of quorum.

President's Report (Wassenar): Written report was sent to all members prior to Plenary meeting.

Additional information presented in the meeting:

It is becoming clear that there is a "bottleneck" around the sharing of information within the campus community. Most faculty do not have a lot of access to information from senior leadership at this university. A proposed program to help with this would be to have a series of monthly meetings between various levels of faculty with senior members of Academic Affairs administration. This would help the upper echelons of administration to know what faculty are doing in terms of teaching and research. The Deans will not pick the faculty to be included in the discussion meetings.

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There have been a number of people wanting to come and present before the Senate. If there are any topics that the senators would like to hear about information, please submit requests to someone on the Executive Committee.

For those faculty who have offices near the area where the new College of Medicine is being built and are having problems with the pounding noise or vibrat

- The proposed committee charge will be: “The committee addresses the well-being of the university community by advocating for policies, initiatives, and changes that facilitate success and retention of all faculty. Through dialogue, collaboration, and information-gathering, the committee strives to amplify faculty voices and address concerns to promote a supportive, thriving academic community for all.”
- After a discussion about the procedures to move forward with the changes in committee name and charge, it was decided to make a motion to this effect, under New Business in this session.

(Turnipseed): No report available.

(Davidson):

- There is plan to put out a faculty survey in the near future to find out what issues faculty are concerned about, e.g. evaluation criteria for faculty at various statuses (instructor, tenured, and non-tenured), what are the workloads for each of these positions, what are the differences between medical and academic schools, etc.
- There was an acknowledgement that the annual survey was not done last spring. There is consideration for changing it by splitting it into smaller sections on specific themes and putting out mini-surveys throughout the year.

(Pavelescu)

- Over the summer Andrei met with the Executive Director of Institutional Research
- There was a long discussion about receiving some education on the meaning of the new high deductible in our health plan.

- On Oct. 29th at 3:00 pm will be the 3rd annual USA Research & Technology Showcase. Speaker will be Lt. Gen. Joe Hartman, from the U.S. Army Cyber Command.

Mr. Chambers came to talk about I-Corps (NSF Innovation Corps).

- The University has access to \$100,000 in participant support money from I-Corps.
- The University has done the program for students on a regular basis for the last six years.
- This year there will be a faculty-only program which last 4 weeks.
- The purpose is to take a concept, or a product, or technology that is STEM-related and use the \$5,000 grant to go to conferences or to interview people.
- The money would have to be spent by the end of this year (2024) because the money will not be available in January.
- It is possible to collaborate on this, but the team, as a whole, will only get a total of \$5,000.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Donna Streater wanted to highlight a problem with using Canvas in courses. If you blueprint your course over, or if you copy your course over from a course shell, your discussions will automatically default where your students cannot reply. To avoid this problem, you will have to go into every one of your