

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA**  
**Faculty Senate**

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**Faculty Senate Plenary Meeting**  
**Oct 16, 2024, 3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**MCOB 265**  
**MINUTES**

Present (In-house): G. Abeynanda, J. Adams, R. Bates, C. Baughn, M. Black, G. Borchert, C. Brock, G. Brower, W. Cutchen, C. Davidson, T. Davis, B. Dzwonkowski, L. Fleck, Y. Getch, R. Godang, C. Hauff, P. Henning, Y. Huang, G. Hudson, Z. Khan, B. Merritt, M. Migaud, S. Ni Chadhain, A. Pavelescu, B. Rabideau, J. Richardson, J. Robertson, A. Shea, A. Stenson, D. Streeter, V. Tate, E. ter Horst, L. Vrana, S. Walker, C. Wassenaar, B. Webb, and C. Wu.

Present (Zoom): S. Davis, A. Donaldson, J. Huang, A. Marass, T. McDonald, D. Meola, J. Miller, K. Pancione, C. Rawlinson, R. Thomas, and D. Turnipseed.

Excused: J. Bunch, J. Ellzie, S. Ferguson, C. Holliday, N. Holliday, M. Lin, B. Minton, T. O'Connor, J. Pfleeger, C. Shaw, J. Swofford, and C. Thompson.

Unexcused: Y. Coronado, C. Gavrilita, W. Kilgo, C. Raczkowski, M. Sehgal, and A. Williams.

Guests: J. Estis (Speaker), C. Selwyn (Parliamentarian), T. Cole.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm with President Christina Wassenaar, presiding and Vice President Bret Webb, co-presiding. Quorum was met.

**I. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS:**

Approval of Minutes: Approved by a majority of quorum.

Approval of Agenda: Approved, as amended, by a majority of quorum.

Presentation: Julie Estis (Exec. Dir., Academic Enhancement) gave an update on the LevelUP Quality Enhancement Plan (QEL2 (x)40 (t)2 (e on )- <</MCID 21 >>BDC M 3(

It started with determining an area of focus for the QEP, developed a logic model to outline what LevelUP would be about the aims for the project, and how we would measure it.

The first year of implementation and development was in the 2023/2024 academic year. This included developing all of the learning resources and materials for faculty to use in their courses.

The QEP is a continuous improvement process, rather than a research model where you would have on plan until it is completed.

We are currently in year 2 of implementation of a 5-year cycle, allowing for engaging others in this work and continuing the implementation, support, assessment, and revision for the process.

Dr. Michelle Hale is the Project Manager who will help faculty with the materials to be embedded within their courses and support them as they implement the LevelUP activities.

100% of all colleges were involved in the first year of LevelUP, with 20 of our academic programs implementing our Ready, Set, Go student learning activities.

The project is grounding a lot of their work in those Nace career readiness competencies that employers value the most.

The student learning activities follow a Ready, Set, Go framework. The models that have been developed so far are available on Canvas, and are ready for faculty to plug them into their courses.

President's Report [*Full report distributed*]:

- Christina requested assistance from the Senate on finding the appropriate faculty to serve on the Professional Development (PD) committee. In her President's Report there is a link to a nominate form that interested volunteers can self-nominate or suggest someone else for the committee or possible working groups.

- Evaluation (Davidson) *[Full report distributed]*
  
- Faculty Development & Mentoring (Black)
  - MéPLE will have a program by Don Davis (Georgia State U.) who specializes in positive psychiatry. He has a lab called the Humility and the Advancement of Positive Psychology Lab (i.e. HAPPY Lab).
  
- Faculty Salaries & Benefits (Pavelescu)
  - Andrei reminded the senators that the Benefits Open Enrollment ends soon. There are some web links that would provide helpful information.
  
- Research & Creative Activities (Migaud) *[Full report distributed]*
  
- Sustainability & Environmental Quality (Turnipseed) *[Full report distributed]*
  
- Teaching, Learning, & Technology (Vrana) *[Full report distributed]*
  - TL&T Com., Evaluation Com., and FD&M Com. have all been working together to respond to the University's *ad hoc* Committee of Teaching Effectiveness (AHETEC) with suggestions and recommendations for how we might expand on other metrics in addition to student perceptions of



- Research Round Table @ Huddle – Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Faculty Club. The purpose is to have discussion on research topics and networking activity. There will be free food while drinks will be available for purchase.
- Andrei reminded us that the health enrollment period is currently underway. There is a tool where you can compare the plans.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm

Minutes submitted by Vicki Tate, Faculty Senate Secretary