

Delta State University
Faculty Senate
Thursday, October 8, 2009
3:30 p.m., Union 302

Members present:

Nina Baghai-Riding	Miriam C. Davis	Ellen Green
Jeannie Falkner	Tony Grice	Catherine Hayes
David Hebert	Lawrence Magee	Douglas Mark
Dan McFall	Eckward McKnight	D. Allan Mitchell
Debarashmi Mitra	Robyn Moore	Brett Oleis
Stephen Patton	Anjanette Powers	Patricia Roberts
Duane Shuttlesworth	Subramanian Swaminathan	
Tricia Walker		

Guests:

Garry Jennings, Director of the Madison Center, President Mississippi AAUP
Ann Lotven, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Teresa Houston, Director of Business Services

Prior to the beginning of the meeting of the Senate, President Roberts recognized Dr. Garry Jennings President of AAUP for the state of Mississippi for remarks relating to the current dire financial crisis in academia and the plan to offer an open forum on the topic in Cleveland

I. Agenda Approved.

II. Minutes from the September 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Approved.

III. President's Report

President Roberts submitted a written report related to the current financial and budgetary crisis and possible reductions in funding at DSU and in Mississippi. She deferred her remarks until the heel of the agenda.

IV. Report from Staff Council

Christie Montesi (proxy) reported upon a change in the structure of the Staff Council and hence forth there will be a representative from each unit. The Council is currently seeking nonmonetary methods as a means of staff recognition

Report from Graduate Studies Council

No report

Report from BPAC

No report

Report from the University Budget Committee

President-Elect McKnight and Senator Mitchell reported that the committee has held its organizational meeting at its October meeting will take up the review of Colleges, Schools, Departments, and Units based upon reports generated by each through a report designed and approved by those entities in conjunction with the Provost's office and the UBC. Review of Athletics will also be undertaken this year. Information about the committee's work is posted and available to all members of the university community at the UBC website.

V. Committee Reports:

Committee on Elections:

Chair Mitchell reported the results of the Merit Pay Appeals Committee will also be available on the Senate website

Committee on University Standing Committees:

Chair Falkner stated that some faculty and staff had missed the Spring deadline for requesting committee assignments and that it has been determined that the best method of addressing this issue is to allow a onetime opportunity for those who failed to meet the deadline to select a committee and sign up. An ongoing evaluation of the continued necessity of committees is underway - as some committees have not meet in an extended period of time and some turned in no minutes or annual reports.

Committee on Technology:

Chair Swaminathan stated that he, Secretary Hayes, and the Graduate Assistant to the Faculty Senate, Mr. Leroy Nesbit have continued in their work to locate and archive old Senate minutes on the Senate webpage and this work will be ongoing this year. He reported success in some previously "lost" years. Work will continue on the site to add additional information for the university community

Committee on University Services:

No report

Committee on General Academic Affairs:

No report

VI. Provost Question Time

President Roberts ask Provost Lotven about planning for proactively protecting the integrity of funding for academics and faculty positions during this budgetary crisis. Dr. Lotven responded that meetings were occurring now and that President Hilpert will be making an announcement tomorrow about the latest budget cuts announced by the Governor's office. She also discussed that to date no scholarships, academic programs or faculty positions had been directly affected, but that indirectly all programs were affected by cuts (example: Library funding); she reiterated that her role as Provost is as the liaison between administration and faculty and the academic units, that we must attempt to grow

our way out of these difficult budget issues with grants, contracts, partnerships, and efficiencies. Discussion followed a question related to raises for Deans. Dr. Lotven's remarks centered on the adjustment of some salaries to equal those of others.

VII. Old Business:

President Roberts and Senator Swaminathan reported that the International Student Task Force was agreed to by the Academic Council and that Dean of Graduate Studies Nylander will chair the first meeting held this week

President Robert's asked for additional input related to the 2010-2011 university calendar

VII. New Business

Resolution Calling for Adoption of the 2008 IHL Textbook Taskforce Guidelines and to Determine the feasibility of Developing a Textbook Rental Program at the Jimmy R. Williams Bookstore

Following discussion it was agreed that this Resolution shall be held over to the Regular meeting of the Senate, November 12, 2009

Discussion Related to Textbook Issues

President Roberts recognized Teresa Houston, Director of Business Services and liaison to Follett. Discussions ensued related to new and future offerings by Follett which could decrease costs to students for textbooks and textbook issues in general

Discussion Related to Public Forum

President Roberts opened discussion related to possible participation in a public forum suggested by Dr. Garry Jennings. Suggestions were made that the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce be ask to participate, as they did at a forum last year, and that Dr. Hank Bounds, members of the Legislature, and others be included in the invitation. Following discussion it was concluded that the Senate would participate in a public forum on the funding and budget crisis at Delta State.

Announcements

Senator Swaminathan reported that it has been discovered that deposits into ING investment accounts during February 2009 were inadvertently incorrectly applied to investor accounts. He stated that the issue seems to have been corrected by HR and ING; however, those using ING should carefully check their accounts for errors.

President Roberts announced a meeting of the Senate Executive Council would convene immediately following adjournment of the Senate.

VIII. Adjournment.

Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hayes, Secretary