

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

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**Plenary Session**

**January 19, 2022 –Zoom 3:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

Present: Faculty and Guests

- Prakash, Aishwarya  
Rayner, Jonathan  
Raczkowski, Chris
- Sayner, Sarah
  - Shaw, Christy, excused
  - Shaw, Thomas
  - Shepard, Beth
  - Spencer, Edmund
  - Strickland, Jason
  - Swanzy, Debra
  - Thompson, Tara
  - Turnipseed, David
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- Vandewaa, Elizabeth

- μ The contact tracing team is following the current the CDC guidelines/recommendations about quarantine and isolation (which is based on a decision tree) and is based on the individual. Julie Estes has asked for faculty patience on getting notifications. The COVID dashboard is updated

○ **Reports from Senate Committees:**

- Fringe Benefits Committee: Dr. Vandewaa reported a change in price of prescriptions with the new drug plan. She reports that the Fringe Benefit Committee meeting in February.

○ **Reports from Caucus Leaders:**

- none

○ **Reports from University Committees:**

- Handbook & Policy Committee- The NTT policy revisions were passed. Also, the DEI inclusion policy language was approved and updated in the 18 434.8 18 book

- μ A motion was made to suspend the rules to conduct an electronic vote. A poll vote taken and 39 yeas, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions.
  - μ Title IX statement- a statement was added a paragraph to the FS handbook to address faculty members and sexual or romantic relationships with students enrolled in their classes or with students whom they otherwise evaluate, grade or supervise. Ms. Shepard opened up the floor for discussion. A motion was made to suspend the rules to conduct an electronic vote. A poll was taken and 36 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.
- o Chair Review Policy-
  - μ Dr. Spencer reported that the committee received a request to amend the policy to clarify the process for department chair review where the annual review report will only be shared with the dean and with the department chair under review.
  - μ Ms. Shepard reported that the FS needs to make revisions or vote. Recommendations were made for any faculty suggestions for revision be sent email to the chair of the committee, Edmund Spencer to take back to the committee.
- o University Planning & Development Committee Chair Nomination & Election-
  - μ Ms. Shepard reports that we need to fill a position on the FS executive committee and the Faculty Development & Planning Chair position because a senator stepped down. The floor was open for nominations.
  - μ Thomas Shaw, Debra Swanzy, and Sinead Chadhain were nominated. All candidates have until Friday 1/21/22 to consider accepting or not their nomination. If elected, this person will serve until the end of the election year. Nominations were closed and the majority approved suspending the rules to electronically vote for or elect one of the nominees for office.
- o Critical Race Theory Legislation Resolution-
  - μ Ms. Shepard asked the senate if there were any objections to discuss the “Resolution from the Faculty Senate on the Anti-CRT Bills before the Alabama Legislature” since it was not included on the approve agenda. Dr. Vandewaa discussed a penalty clause in the bill for any educators that teach divisive concepts (race, gender, sex, etc.). The FS drafted this resolution to take a stand on the legislation.
  - μ A motion was made to vote on the resolution as is. A majority 33 yeas, 1 nay, and 3 abstentions voting to approve the resolution as is. Ms. Shepard will send the resolution to the president who has 30-days to respond, according to the bylaws.
- o Letter of No Confidence to the Board of Trustees-
  - μ A letter was recommended by the FS in the November meeting addressing concerns with the process for the presidential search. A poll vote was conducted to consent whether the senate approves discussion on the draft of the letter.
  - μ A majority of 23 yeas, 8 nays, and 6 abstentions of FS members consent to discuss the draft of the letter and voting will take place at the special session on February 2, 2022, session at 3:00 pm.

- o **Other:**

- o None

Meeting Adjournment: MMSA 5:38 pm

Minutes transcribed by Donna Copeland