



## Minutes of the Faculty Senate

**Presiding:** Jeffrey S. Berman (Psychology)

**Date:** 12-8-09

**Secretary:** Cynthia G. Tucker (English)

**Senators Present:** Narahari B. Achar (Physics), Pinaki S. Bose (Economics), David C. Burchfield (Public Health), Gloria F. Carr (Nursing), Amy L. de Jongh Curry (Biomedical Engineering), Guiomar Duenas-Vargas (History), Richard D. Evans (Fin, Ins & Real Estate), Tarek R. Farhat (Chemistry), Edwin G. Frank (University Libraries), Reginald L. Green (Leadership), Derek E. Hopp (Military Science, Naval Science), Richard L. Irwin (Health & Sports Science), Wade M. Jackson (Management Info Systems), Robert Kozma (Math Sciences), Stephen J. Leierer (Counseling Education and Psychology Research), James M. Lukawitz (Accountancy), David N. Lumsden (Earth Sciences), E. Trey Martindale (Instruction & Curriculum Leadership), Michael S. O'Nele (Theatre & Dance), Edward H. Perry (Mechanical Engineering), Lawrence A. Pivnick (Law School), Hoke Robinson (Philosophy), Vasile Rus (Computer Science), Stephan J. Schoech (Biology), William T. Segui (Civil Engineering), Sharon A. Stanley (Political Science), Robert J. Thieme (Marketing & Supply Chain Management), Joseph C. Ventimiglia (Sociology), Kathryn S. Whitted (School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy), Robert R. Wiggins (Management) and Amanda J. Young (Communication)

**Senators Present by Proxy:** Linda D. Jarmulowicz (ASLP), Caroline A. Royal-Evans; Thomas E. Mason (Architecture), James F. Williamson

**Senators Absent:** Leonardo G. Altino (Music), Thomas E. Banning (Engineering Technology), Robert P. Connolly (Anthropology), Jaime M. Ferran (Foreign Lang & Lit), William H. Jermann (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Candace C. Justice (Journalism), Cedar L. Nordbye (Art), Keith D. Sisson (University College), and Yaschica D. Williams (Criminal Justice)

**TBR Representative:** Wade M. Jackson (Management Info Systems)

**Faculty Senate Information Officer:** Margaret E. "Bess" Robinson (University Libraries)

**Guests:** David N. Cox (President's Office); David H. Ciscel (University of Memphis Association of Retirees, UMAR), Stanley E. Stevens (Faculty Athletic Representative), and Robert H. "Bob" Eoff (Vice President, Communications, Public Relations, & Marketing)

The three-hundred-and-seventy-seventh meeting of The University of Memphis Faculty Senate was held Tuesday, December 8, 2009, in the Auditorium, Room 124, E.C. Ball Hall.

### 12.8.09.01 Call to Order

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

## **12.08.09.02 Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

## **12.08.09.03 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved.

## **12.08.09.04 President's Report**

1. Computer Science's Senator: The Faculty Senate welcomed Vasile Rus, Computer Science's newly elected senator.
2. New Information Officer: The Faculty Senate welcomed Margaret (Bess) Robinson (University Libraries) as its new Information Officer.
3. Ombudsperson: History and Update: During the summer of 2009, Provost Faudree asked that the Faculty Senate not only select a new Ombudsperson but also provide the oversight for the office. The first of these responsibilities was effectively taken out of our hands when the provost realized that E. W. (Bill) Brody's post-retirement contract allows him to continue in this role for another four years.

This turn of events has raised the issue of who has selected the ombudspersons historically. Provost Faudree maintains that the Ombudsperson has always been chosen by the faculty. The senate records indicate that the provost has made those appointments.

Seeing no profit in taking this point of dispute any further, the senate moved on to the equally troubling obstacles that prevent us from meeting our oversight obligations. President J. Berman explained that the current Ombudsperson, Bill Brody, has provided us with a report cast in general terms, one that broadly describes his methods and guiding philosophy in filling this role but giving no indication of how many cases he's has or how successful he's been in resolving grievances. Nor is he willing to visit the Faculty Senate and speak about what he does, claiming that this might jeopardize his effectiveness by compromising his work's confidentiality.

This leaves the Faculty Senate in a purely nominal oversight role and suggests that we ought to remove ourselves from it entirely. The discussion brought out a collective frustration with how the provost has handled this matter as well as agreement that we should withdraw from this thwarted oversight office. There was strong feeling that we not capitulate quietly but voice our dissatisfaction with a no-confidence vote or a similar action and let the full faculty know how this has been managed.

It was agreed that the Faculty Senate withdraw from its oversight role, see what kind of response this brings from the provost, and visit this issue again at our meeting in February.

4. Meeting on Task Force for Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness: President J. Berman's meeting with Provost Faudree produced an agreement that the teaching assessment task force will be run by the Faculty Senate. The provost will send us suggestions of names we might want to have on the committee.

5. Faculty Response to the Tenure and Promotion Criteria Drafts: President J. Berman shared the faculty Survey on Proposed Revisions to Tenure and Promotion Guidelines with the senate. The summary of the faculty survey was provided to the Executive Committee by Information Officer M. Robinson, chair Faculty Input Committee. A total of 73 survey responses were received. The full results are available in the Faculty Senate Office.

6. Visit by Interim Vice President for Business and Finance David Zettergren: VP Zettergren has accepted our invitation to speak to our body when we meet on February 2, 2010. This will give us an opportunity to ask about budget-related matters. The standing committees can either formulate questions at their next meeting on January 12 or generate them by email. In either case, their questions should reach the senate office no later than January 22.

### **12.08.09.05 Guest Speaker: Robert H. (Bob) Eoff, VP for Communications, Public Relations and Marketing**

VP R. Eoff took questions from the Faculty Senate Standing Committees and gave the following responses:

1. From the Research Policies Committee: *How do you decide what research to feature in your public relations efforts?* Faculty, departments, and programs alert Eoff's office. The decisions on what to publicize are typically handed up, not handed down.

2. From the Faculty Policies Committee: *How should faculty respond to media inquiries. What processes and/or procedures can a faculty member use to receive acknowledgment for significant contributions to the university and the community?* Eoff would prefer that faculty respond by saying, "Let me get back to you," and then call Eoff to be coached. As to getting their contributions acknowledged, faculty need only contact his office to be assured recognition in *Update, This Week, Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter*.

3. From the Academic Support Committee: *What process is in place for your office to identify as well as promote excellence and innovation in teaching among University of Memphis faculty?* This question wasn't in his preserve. Stated that the image of the UofM is changing, the community is learning what we (university community) do.

4. From the Libraries Policy Committee: *What can your unit and the University Libraries do---together or separately---to enhance, improve, and publicize our library holdings and activities?* Eoff's office relies on the library staff to keep it apprised of activities and achievements. The Uof M Library website will be placed back on the university's home page due to Dean Ford. With the web system, Luminis (LCMS) upgrade things are moving faster and forward.

5. From the Academic Policies Committee: *Given that the University wants to go green, wouldn't it make sense to offer classes Monday/Wednesday instead of Monday/Wednesday/Friday comparable to the Tuesday/Thursday arrangement and thereby allow us to greatly reduce the energy usage in classrooms on Fridays? Another green effect would be the large number of students coming to campus twice instead of three times each week.* Eoff observed that this was an academic, not a marketing issue.

6. From the Administrative Policies Committee: *Web pages are the point of entry for the vast majority of students searching for undergraduate and graduate programs. Departments and programs beg and borrow uncompensated time from students and faculty minimally qualified to prepare ad hoc web pages. What assistance can your office supply to departments, programs, and individual faculty to improve web page construction, design, and maintenance across the University of Memphis. University?* Anyone needing assistance can contact his offices and received assistance or guidance from Allecia Powell, University Webmaster who will be happy to help.

7. From the Executive Committee: *The University has announced that incoming students will be guaranteed internships some time during their four years at the university. What plan does the University have for fulfilling this promise? Will the task fall to the departments and their faculty?* Shannon Blanton Undergraduate Programs and Dixie Crase Academic Internships are leading the task force (fifteen persons) charged with planning the strategy. They would be the people to ask.

8. From the University of Memphis Association of Retirees (UMAR): *UMAR offers a wealth of experience and information, and its members are interested in documenting the history of the institution. How will retired faculty and staff be able to become involved in planning and documenting our history for the centennial celebration?* Departments, units, and faculty---both active and retired---should dream big and let Eoff's office know what they want to see this celebration include. Linda Bonnin, Assoc. VP Communications, Public Relations, and Marketing, in Eoff's office is in charge of events and special functions. Bobby Prince, Assoc. VP for Development, in Eoff's office will be in charge of fund-raising efforts at the corporations and foundations level.

#### **12.08.09. 06 New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **12.08.09. 07 Standing Committee Reports**

Academic Policies Committee: The committee has finalized a survey that will be sent out to get faculty views on the length of the time for students to "late add" into a class without faculty approval. President J. Berman reminded the committee that the final survey instrument should be submitted to the Faculty Input Committee for execution.

Academic Support Committee: No new work, on their charge to examine concerns about the procedures and validity of SETE.

Faculty Policies Committee: The committee continues to work on evaluate the feasibility of online voting on senate matters.

Research Policies Committee: The committee has investigated how overhead funds are being used and has heard no complaints or recommendations for change.

Administrative Policies Committee: The committee has contacted the Graduate Student Association for a sense of its members' satisfaction with their contracts (graduate student employees) and heard no complaints.

Library Policies Committee: The committee has formulated three motions related to ways the university funds library needs, and these will be brought to the Faculty Senate at our next meeting.

### **12.08.09.09 Announcements**

President Raines's annual Holiday Open House will be held on Tuesday, December 15, from 9:30-11:30 in the Administration Building's second-floor atrium.

Commencement exercises will be held on December 19 in the FedEx Forum as follows:

10:00am: College of Arts & Sciences, College of Communication & Fine Arts, University College, Law School, and doctoral hoodings for these colleges.

2:00 pm: Fogelman College of Business & Economics, Loewenberg School of Nursing, School of Audiology & Speech Language Pathology, School of Public Health, and doctoral hoodings for these colleges.

Faculty Senate standing committees will meet on January 12, 2010. The Faculty Senate will have its first spring meeting on February 2, 2010.

The Marcus Orr Faculty Senate Lecture in Higher Education Lecturer will be Mary Burgan, Professor of English (now emeriti) at Indiana University and former General Secretary of the AAUP (1994-2004). Her lecture will take place on Thursday, February 4, 2010, in the Fogelman Executive Center. The room will be announced after the holiday break.

### **12.08.09.10 Adjourn: 4:10p.m.**