



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 2/20/2024

Time: 11:00am

Venue: Virtual/Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Dr. Candace Carter-Stevens, Dr. Oko Elechi, Dr. Mary Shepherd, Ms. LaTonzia Evans, Dr. Shelly Garlotte, Dr. Christine Campbell, Ms. Theresa Rash, Dr. Zainul Abedin

AGENDA ITEM #1: OPENING

CALL TO ORDER and REMARKS; REVIEW OF MINUTES/APPROVAL; REVIEW OF AGENDA/APPROVAL

The online/Zoom meeting was called to order at 11:03am.

Carter-Stevens suggested adding Technology Infrastructure discussion to new business items of today's agenda. (The agenda was later approved with this addition. (Motion: Shepard; Second: Rash))

Carter-Stevens inquired about the approval of minutes from the previous meeting of 2/6/2024. Minutes were approved. (Motion: Shepard; Second: Rash)

AGENDA ITEM #2: OLD BUSINESS

A. FACULTY SENATE VACANCIES

The subject of Faculty Senate Officer vacancies was re-introduced, continuing from the 2/6/2024 meeting. Carter-Stevens agreed to serve as Faculty Senate President. This officially creates a vacancy for Vice President. It was noted that there are qualified people among the Faculty Senate. Carter-Stevens nominated LaTonzia Evans for Vice President, and Evans agreed to accept the position. For the vacancy of Parliamentarian, Carter-Stevens suggested and nominated Theresa Rash. Christine Campbell inquired about the responsibilities of Parliamentarian, which were explained. Campbell volunteered and agreed to serve as Parliamentarian.

B. UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATES ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI ADOPTION PROPOSAL – PARENTAL LEAVE VOTE

Carter-Stevens opened discussion about two documents previously emailed to Faculty Senate members for review in preparation for discussion: 1. Parental Leave Committee Findings and Proposal.pdf; 2. Resolution in Support of Parental Leave Policy Adoption Draft.docx. The resolution was screen-shared to the meeting participants. Carter-Stevens asked for any issues or concerns, but none were expressed. One question was asked prior to voting regarding the availability of parental leave to all genders, and Carter-Stevens explained that it would be. All present voted in favor of the resolution. (Carter-Stevens relayed earlier in the discussion that while Dr. Ikenga is not present, his vote is in favor of the resolution.)

OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

AGENDA ITEM #3: NEW BUSINESS

A. FACULTY SENATE CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS / FACULTY HANDBOOK

Carter-Stevens stated that the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws contains items that are no longer relevant. She would like to revise the Constitution and Bylaws first and later revise the Faculty Handbook, eventually having them both approved. The goal is to complete the revision of the Constitution and Bylaws by our full faculty meeting in Fall 2024 and the Faculty Handbook by our full faculty meeting in Spring 2025. (Both need to be approved at a full faculty meeting.) After a discussion about why so much time has passed since the last Faculty Handbook revision in 2013, it was stated that we should simply work with what we have and move forward towards a revision. This will be revisited at our next Faculty Senate meeting.

Next Faculty Senate meeting will be March 12, 2024.

B. TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Faculty members are using personal hotspots, devices, and cellular service to have internet access when it is not functional on campus (Wi-fi and/or Ethernet). This is problematic and improvements are needed.

Carter-Stevens has inquired about Garlotte's access to upload Faculty Senate minutes to the website but has received no response.

AGENDA ITEM #4: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carter-Stevens congratulated LaTonzia Evans for being recognized as the 2023-2024 Humanities Teacher of the Year. Also, congratulations was extended to Daniel Splaingard for a recent achievement.

AGENDA ITEM #5: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27am.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Discuss revision of Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws and Faculty Handbook at next meeting.
2. Garlotte needs ability to upload Faculty Senate Minutes documents to our website.