

Meeting convened at 7:00 on 1/22/2008

I. Chair's Report

Williamson summarized discussions with Dr. Stocks regarding succession in administrative roles at the University of Mississippi. The hope is that the University will move away from the pattern of using interim appointments rather than conducting formal searches when positions become open.

Williamson also summarized discussions with Dr. Eftink regarding the Athletic Department's commitment to put \$25,000 of Athletics money into the graduate student budget. The Chancellor wants to increase this. Dr. Eftink is also interested in non-traditional course review and wants to handle this with an External Affairs Committee.

Finally Williamson emphasized that if any faculty are teaching courses that make use of the upcoming Presidential Debates they should be sure to let Andy Mullins and Noel Wilkins know. This could be a good way for faculty to get good publicity.

II. Committee Reports

Governance: Jay Watson gave a summary discussion of Lawrence Gerber's visit on December 11th. Gerber, an AAUP vice-president made the following points:

1) Legitimacy of the governance process is validated by faculty's ability to choose their own representatives.

2) The nationwide rise in contingent faculty threatens a deprofessionalization of teaching.

3) Growth areas on campus tend to be the areas where faculty influence and oversight are weakest. On our campus indicators of this might be overuse of interim appointments of administrators and outreach taking responsibility for curricular matters.

4) Moving from principles to procedures is a political process. Faculty bodies can have different roles in fostering shared governance. An activist AAUP might complement a collaborative faculty senate with more direct approaches.

5) Faculty participation in governance should have rewards. Incentives for participation in faculty evaluations could be helpful.

The Governance committee is moving towards bringing a resolution to vote in February.

III. Agenda Items

Chatham Ewing presented a draft resolution in which the faculty senate would endorse on-campus daycare in support of the efforts of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women. After some discussion, the sense of the Senate was that the resolution should be distributed to Senate members through e-mail and come up for a vote at the next session.

Dr. Williamson established a special task force to investigate, examine, and make

recommendations on environmental and/or 'green' concerns.

The committee will examine the student, staff, and

faculty awareness, recycling programs, planning of growth at the university concerning effects on our campus 'green' areas, as well as plans to increase such environments. Several senators expressed interest.

Anne Fisher-Wirth presented the idea of a new environmental studies major which would be cross disciplinary and a potential draw for students. This major would enable students to engage in new and exciting ways with current environmental challenges facing the students, the University, and the world. There was some discussion and commentary on how the program might benefit students from different disciplines ranging from Engineering to English. Several senators expressed interest in participating in the new program.

IV. Old Business

As the November minutes were not available at the beginning of the meeting, they will be reviewed along with the January minutes.

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V. New Business

There was some discussion on the sudden and, at times, inconvenient impact that the push to ready for SACS accreditation has imposed.

Williamson mentioned the draft resolution he had recently circulated through e-mail regarding linking University service to merit raises.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.