



## Plenary Session

April 20, 2022 –Zoom 3:00 pm

## MINUTES

### Present: Faculty and Guests

- Adams, Jamie
- Almalouf, Philip
- Amare, Nicole
- Bates, Robin
- Batten, Lynn
- Beebe, Donald
- Black, Michael
- Borchert, Glen
- Brannan, Lauren
- Brock, Casey
- Bunch, Jaclyn
- Cleary, John
- Copeland, Donna
- Davidson, Clay
- Donaldson, Amanda
- Garand, Kendrea
- Getch, Yvettee
- Fregeau, Laureen
- Gregoricka, Lesley
- Godang, Romulus
- Hartin, Charles
- He, Jia
- Holden, Shelley
- Hossain, Delwar
- Khan, Zoya
- Lewis, Drew
- Lin, Mike
- Lynch, Colleen
- Manders, Jeannette, excused
- Meola, David
- Migaud, Marie
- Min, Hosik
- Minto, Elizabeth
- Myers, Charlene
- Ní Chadhain, Sinéad

- Pavelescu, Andrei
  - Pelekanos, Sharon
  - Pettaway, Kimberly
  - Pfleeger, Jenna
  - Raczkowski, Chris
  - Rayner, Jonathan
  - Rich, Tom
  - Richardson, Joe
  - Sayner, Sarah
  - Sehgal, Mukul
  - Shaw, Christy, excused
  - Shaw, Thomas
  - Shepard, Beth
  - Simmons, Jon
  - Spencer, Edmund
  - Swofford, Jim
  - Swanzy, Debra
  - Thompson, Christina
  - Thompson, Tara
  - Turnipseed, David
  - Vandewaa, Elizabeth
  - Walker, Sean
  - Wassenaar, Christina
  - Webb, Brett
  - Weber, David
  - Williams, Ashley
  - Woodmansee, Brenda
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- Meeting called to order 3:02 pm
  - Approval of Minutes for 3/16/22 Meeting: Approved
  - Approval of Agenda for 4/18/22 Meeting: Approved
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- **Presidential Transition-**
    - Continuing to meet with the President and Interim Provost monthly to discuss issues relevant to faculty. Topics discussed this month:
      - R-2 to R-1 Exploratory Group
      - Strategic Plan
      - Transparency and Communication
      - Instructor/NTTF salaries

- **R-1 Working Group-**
  - AA, Dr. Pardue, and Dr. Powers are working through these lists to create a group to explore the feasibility, need, and cost of increasing research designation.
  - Group should be formed soon
  - Work will begin and the goal is a report of some kind to the President sometime in Fall 2022- group should work “expeditiously”
- **Administration Searches-**
  - Provost
    - 70+ completed application candidates
    - 3 finalists have been chosen
    - Campus interviews April 26, 27, and 28
    - Public forums with the candidate in the afternoon of each day (time forthcoming)
    - ExComm will meet with each candidate for 45 mins
- **Government Relations Update-**
  - CRT-Aimed Legislation
    - Not passed
    - Could resurface in a special session this summer, yet to be seen
  - State and Federal Appropriations
    - Increase in state and federal appropriations
    - Most earmarked money for USA in a decade
- **Strategic Planning-**
  - Objectives and measurements of each pillar will be developed by a subcommittee/working group
  - There will be opportunities for stakeholder input and feedback
  - AK emphasized this is and will remain a dynamic working document
- **FS Bylaws Revision**
  - In process
  - Expect proposed revisions later in May to be discussed at the August plenary meeting
- **Second Year Experience, Faculty Fellows Opportunity**
  - The program provides faculty with a \$2,500 stipend for working directly with up to five students throughout their second year.
  - Also includes participation in a Faculty Learning Community designed to guide and support faculty efforts.
  - Program description, expectations, and responsibilities are included on the forms following.
  - Faculty can self nominate using this [form](#).
  - On Thursday, April 28, from 4:00-5:30 pm at the USA Faculty Club Q&A opportunity for interested faculty. Serving heavy appetizers from Jerusalem Cafe
- **Faculty Senate Officer Elections:**
  - Ms. Shepard reported and shared the nominations (proposed slate) for officers for the upcoming faculty senate year and asking for nominations from the floor.

- Nominations were for Sean Walker, faculty from engineering for the University Planning & Development Committee.
- After closing nominations, Ms. Shepard called for the two faculty running for the University Planning & Development to stand up and address the senate to let the senate know why they are qualified for the position.
- After question and answer (two question maximum) session with the two candidates, a vote was conducted by secret ballot for those present and by poll for those on Zoom. By majority vote, 31/20 Sean Walker is confirmed as the chair for the University Planning & Development Committee.
- Ms Shepard called for a confirmation vote for any non-contested positions. Motion made and second motion to confirm all nominees for
  - President: Delwar Hossain
  - Vice-President: Jaclyn Bunch
  - Secretary: Donna Copeland
  - Academic Development: Shelly Holden
  - Evaluation: Chris Raczowski
  - Environmental Quality: David Turnipseed
  - Research & Creative Activities: Sarah Sayner
  - Teaching & Learning: Jamie Adams
  - University Policies Handbook: Sinead Ni Chadhain
- **Reports from Senate Committees:**
  - **Academic Development & Mentoring-**
    - Shelley Holden and guest discussed details about an academic mentoring program for matching mentors with mentees in pods (or a group of people that can work as a mentor or a mentee).
    - The website for more information is [bit.ly/Meple](http://bit.ly/Meple)
  - **Awards Committee-**
    - Sinéad Ní Chadhain reported that the committee has sent out letters and notifications for nominations.
      - The award categories are:
        - **Semoon and Youngshin Chang Endowed Award for Humanitarian Services** - recognizes a student, faculty member, staff member, or alumnus who contributes most to humanity and makes a difference in the community. The winner of this award is Corinne Ellis from Hats for Health Program.
        - **Outstanding Research Partner** - providing direct support to the research mission of USA faculty through financial, in-kind, personnel, expertise, office space, consulting, or other means. This award goes to Donna Pritchard and Shelly Thompson from North Mississippi Medical Center.
        - **Outstanding Teaching Partner** - providing direct support to the teaching mission of USA faculty, broadly defined, by providing a setting and/or skilled supervision for USA students. This partner enhances the educational mission of

- the USA faculty by providing internship/externship/field placement to USA students. This award goes to WKRG.
- **Outstanding Community Partner** - for an organization/agency that works with USA faculty to address needs of the greater Mobile community through collaborative research and/or service delivery. This award goes to David Akridge and Marcie McNeal of the Mobile County Public School System IT Department.
    - The awards will be given out at the next FS plenary committee meeting.
  - **Evaluation Committee-**
    - Chris Raczkowski reported that the end of the year survey will be coming out soon.).

- **New Business:**
  - **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee-**
    - Delwar Hossain reported about the DEI charge that was drafted by the committee and shared with the faculty senate.
    - Charge for the Committee:
      - This Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee represents the faculty at the university level in matters related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Its activities include but are not limited to recommendations and policy that can enhance USA's success at addressing faculty interests and knowledge in diversity, equity, and inclusion.
    - Dr.Hossain opened up the floor to discussion about the drafted charge for the committee.
    - Motion and second to approve moving the adhoc committee as a standing committee.
    - A vote was conducted to decide to move the adhoc committee to a standing committee and the majority 41 yea/1 nay and 0 abstentions approved the committee as a standing committee.
  - Nominations for chair of the committee will be taken by the FS secretary and a vote will be taken at the next meeting.
  - **Affiliated Research Scientist Policy**
    - Dr. Hossain reported that a policy was sent from CAD to the faculty senate for approval. The policy was sent out to the FS prior to the meeting for review prior to the FS plenary meeting.
    - A motion that was seconded to move to table the discussion of the policy approval until the next meeting.
    - A motion was made for the FS president to bring someone to the FS plenary meeting to discuss the policy.
  - **Faculty Concern-**
    - A motion was made to censure a faculty senator for negative comments made about a good standing senator during a FS plenary meeting. Discussions ensued. A motion was made to table the discussion and with one opposed.
- **Other:**
  - None

Meeting Adjournment: MMSA 4:56 pm

Minutes transcribed by Donna Copeland