

Jackson State University

Faculty Senate Newsletter

Message from the Faculty Senate President

- Resolve to make this your best year yet.
- Focus on what is right and build on that.
- Do your part to make a difference and then relax.
- Above all, maintain your peace, and remember that everything happens as it should.

Welcome back to a new year. Let's greet this new year with hope, anticipation, and resolution that it will be our best year yet. We may have struggles and hurdles, and feel like throwing in the towel many times because of despair, hopelessness, anger, or frustration, but we are still here. As long as we are here there is always hope that our circumstances will improve. In the meantime, all it takes to feel better is to switch our focus and thoughts to what we desire to see rather than giving so much energy and time to that which we do not want in our lives. We also have a tendency to spend more time on the things we want to be different than we do on feeling gratitude and gratefulness for those things that are good and right in our life. It works like a miracle to just take a minute and count our blessings. We will usually find that they far outweigh the things that we do not like in our life.

There will always be issues and challenges to tackle, but our perspective or how we view those issues and challenges dictate how we feel about them and how they impact us. If we view the issues and challenges as something to dread we will react to them negatively and create a chain of negative events that very seldom

result in the outcomes we hoped for. When we view issues and challenges as *opportunities* to improve ourselves as well as our circumstances, they take on a different feel. We know we have what it takes to meet the challenges, and solve the problems, so let's just do our best to address our concerns, and then wait patiently for the results.

Our goal this year is to continue our quest to have our voices heard in decisions that affect us (shared governance). To do otherwise will make us party to our own diminished worth, which will ultimately diminish the quality of this university and the students we produce. We will conduct business in a civil, professional, and intelligent manner that will allow us to maintain our peace and dignity, as well as our mental and physical health. This is a pivotal year to focus on shared governance, so let's seize the opportunity and make it our best year yet.

Mahasin C. Owens-Sabir

Get involved in the Faculty Senate and make a difference.

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Welcome Our New President, Dr. Carolyn Meyers

We welcome our new president, Dr. Carolyn Meyers to Jackson State University. The Faculty Senate is ready to do our part to make your tenure as president as productive and fulfilling as possible.

Our primary issue and concern is that of faculty shared governance. We believe the university as a whole will become a better place once faculty are more involved in the decision making process on is-

suess and policies that affect us. We have patience and we have waited for such a time. We believe that the time might be now.

Your arrival at JSU represents change, and anytime there is change hope springs forth. You have already made history as our first permanent female president. May your time here continue to be one of history making change.

What is Shared Governance?



**Know Your Rights
Read your Faculty
Handbook.**

“Shared governance means and requires the full participation of the faculty, staff, and students on **all matters that directly or indirectly impact the academic environment at the university**. These matters include, but are not limited to curriculum, course content, class schedules, evaluations, representation on other units or bodies, discipline or dismissals of faculty/staff/students, fair academic policy, and fair faculty/staff/student

representation on search committees for University administration. Administrations will act on such recommendation and provide timely and reasonable rationale for any modification or rejection of input received.”

You can read the entire shared governance document on the Faculty Senate web page. The University adopted this shared governance policy in the 2002 handbook. The University also

endorsed the “1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in our current handbook (2002;81).

We are admonished as professors to be “guided by a deep conviction of the **worth** and **dignity** of the advancement of knowledge.” This is our profession, and we should never submit to it being diminished.

Faculty Handbook

*The handbook is our
guide to how to protect
our interest.*

We will submit the completed draft of the handbook with the Faculty Senate’s input to Academic Affairs within the next week. This is the last call for any faculty member to contact your senator for a copy of the draft. Read it carefully to make sure your concerns have been adequately addressed. The handbook and its importance is sec-

ond only to the Faculty Senate. Whereas the Faculty Senate is our governing body that looks out for our best interest, the handbook is our guide to how to protect our interest. However, neither the Faculty Senate nor the handbook can help us if we do not help make them the best that they can be, and use them.

We will receive a copy of the cor-

rected draft once the input has been included, for final adoption by the Faculty Senate.

Your Issues and Concerns



**We will look for fairness
and balance.**

*Submit your issues and concerns
and we will do our best to get
answers.*

Q. What is the one key thing that you can do to protect yourself?

A. Document, document, docu-

ment, this is the most important thing you can do to protect yourself. Do not waste your time on verbal or written sparring over issues, especially trivial ones. The less said verbally the better, get as much as possible in writing. Keep a log

and file of important events and activities that are violations of your shared governance rights. Follow the chain of command, and the grievance steps. If the issue is not resolved, submit a copy of your file to the Faculty Senate.

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2010 - 2011 Faculty Senate Executive Committee

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Faculty Senate Homepage
<http://www.jsums.edu/jsuoaa/senate/>

Spotlight on You *Highlights Faculty Accomplishments*

Send us your accomplishments so we can recognize you for your hard work.

Dr. CoSandra McNeal, Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is Co-PI of the recently funded 3.5 million dollar ADVANCE grant from NSF. She has been a professor at JSU for 14 years since receiving her doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1996. Some of her recent accomplishments include: Outstanding Proposal Community Grant Program recipient; A selected HERS (Higher Education Resource Services) participant; Subject Matter Expert for McGraw Hill Publishing Co. (Learn Smart Sociology Pro-

ject); Facilitator for NSF's Women Faculty of Color from HBCUs Luncheon, and Senior Personnel for NSF's SPICE Program in The College of Science and Technology.

Dr. McNeal is a member of the leadership team led by Dr. Loretta Moore, PI, in the College of Science and Technology that wrote the grant lauded by Dr. Kelly Mack of NSF as "a highly competitive proposal." A key component required by NSF for the ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant is the Social Science component. She worked with another colleague, Dr. Mahasin Owens-Sabir

to craft the Social Science Component. Dr. McNeal is currently working with the College of Science and Technology on another NSF project in The College of Science and Technology to develop computational thinkers in a cyber-enabled environment.

