**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**with President & Provost**

**MINUTES**

**Zoom Meeting**

**October 29, 2020**

**10 a.m.**

**Executive Committee/Senators in Attendance**: Dr. Dawn Bishop-Mclin, Dr. Sophia Leggett, Dr. Okechukwu Anyamele, Dr. Carolyn Howard, Mr. Don Spann, Dr. Patrick Rettger, Dr. André Hines, r. Adelnasser Eldek, Dr. Barbara Graham, Dr. Palaniappan Thiagarajan, Dr. Ella Moore-Boyd, Dr. Thomas Kersen, Dr. Chaiqua Harris, Dr. Consandra McNeil, Dr. Candace Brown, Dr. Jie Ke, Dr. David Mahlock, Dr. LaDonnya Drummond, Dr. Jessica Murphy, Dr. Tzusheng Pei, Dr. Patrice Jenkins, Dr. John Watts, Dr. Thomas Cunningham, Dr. Edmund Marem, Dr. Siddig Fageir, Dr. Jennifer Smith and Dr. Barbara Howard

**Other Attendees:** Provost Alisa Mosley

1. **Welcome:**

The meeting was called to order at 10am by President Dr. McLin. Dr. McLin welcomed all Senators and Faculty in attendance and requested that as Senators enter the room, they indicate their name and the department they represent in the chat section.

1. **Review of Minutes:** The meeting minutes for October 29, 2020 were approved with amendments.
2. **Dr. Alisa Mosley –** Provost Mosley responded to the following academic issues:

**Academic Issus:**

* Accreditation Update, assessment trainings, etc. , Enrollment #’s – Provost Mosley reported that this is a SACCOC year for reaffirmation and that the offsite visit will occur next month. She is hoping to receive feedback within a couple of weeks. The Provost expects faculty qualifications and assessments to be an issue. An onsite virtual meeting is scheduled for March. She reported that Public Policy had a NASPAA visit last month; and Music, Art, and the Psychology departments are expecting visits next year.
* Status of University Scholars, leadership, future directions, faculty development – University Scholars and Development is up and running which targets early career faculty. Research & Sponsored Programs (RSP) unveiled a series of research awards and funding opportunities for distinguished services, teaching, and publications. Dr. Pizzetta recommended someone to work with University Scholars.
* P& T, Changes, Committee update – The Promotion and Tenure process began October 9th. Canvas shells will be open so that the work may be completed off campus. The P & T group is being Co-Chaired by Dr. Brian Anderson, and Dr. Prestephanie McDaniels. The group is working on a preliminary draft which includes discussion on how innovation is considered; and how the opportunity to get patents is included in the P&T process.
* Faculty Evaluations (tenure track, clinical faculty, etc.) – The University expects to be able to do Faculty evaluations next year although this has been a complex year.
* Faculty Evaluations of Chairs and Deans – There will be a draft of the evaluation instrument by November 15t;  and the instrument will be available to all faculty by March 2021.
* Rotation of Chairperson - Provost Mosley expressed that there probably need to be a survey regarding rotation of Chairs. She also shared that a Leadership Development/Training for Deans and Chairs is scheduled for the 17th and 18th.
* Interim Deans, Faculty Positions & Chairpersons, what is status? next steps to fill positions. – The work of the search committees for Liberal Arts and Education will begin January 2021. The search committee has made a recommendation for the Chair of Health, Physical Education & Recreation and the new person will be on board January 2021. Dr. McClug has resigned and her position is expected to be filled January 2021.
* International Students – International students are virtual and face-to-face. Students have expressed concerns about the ability to complete their studies and we have worked to address their concerns.
* Faculty Handbook Committee, Dec. 2020 Draft, who are the members? – Handbook Committee members include; Dr. Etta Morgan, Dr. Glake TTill, Dr. Deidre Wheaton, Dr. Gloria Billingsley, Dr. Isaiah Marshall, Dr. Jean Claude Assad, and Dr. Carolyn Howard. Provost Mosley reported that there may be others not listed. The committee is working on a draft document. Some areas of focus include; ownership of materials created for online learning, faculty overload policy, overload compensation, and mandatory appearances at University rituals.

Provost Mosley also reported that the University has hired in all 5 colleges and shared the list of hires for 2020-2021. She reported that hiring will continue in critical areas.

* Status of JSU Global? international student enrollment? – Dr. Henry Cunningham has been hired as the Interim Director.
* Pay Equity Study – President Hudson gave permission for Dr. McLin to research 3rd party entities who might conduct such study. President McLin expressed that the discrepancy in pay for Coordinators should be addressed prior to a pay equity study.
* Research, Faculty support, Incentives, seed money, etc. –Dr. Cassandra McNeil from the Sociology department has returned to JSU and will be working to engage faculty across disciplines on research opportunities. She has established a small committee who are working on the idea of how we serve our citizens in the Delta. She will be located on the 4th floor. A summer program to push faculty research forward is being considered. A Symposium for graduate student research is being planned; and overall innovation grants to help promote a process of effectiveness.
* Student Enrollment – Currently there are 6,921 students enrolled. Provost Mosley expressed that we need to be clear of the value proposition of coming to JSU for students. Additionally, she expressed that some departments enrollment numbers are up but some are trending down.
* Library needs, databases, secondary dataset, journals, etc. – Provost Mosley reported that she is open to approving databases but will be looking at usage.
* Spring/Fall 2020 & Spring 2020 Commencement Exercises - – A virtual experience is planned for Fall 2020. For Spring 2021, currently the plan is to offer a face-to-face commencement in May outside at the stadium contingent upon circumstances. Doctorate students will not be hooded in the Fall but will be invited to be hooded at the Spring Commencement. Speakers who were invited to speak at the Spring 2020 Commencement will be invited to speak at the 2021 Commencement.
* Dr. Cunningham expressed that because graduate education is changing and more competitive. He requested that the University consider a one semester course release for faculty. He shared that he is working with English As a Second Language and will be reaching out to faculty to identify what areas faculty would like to see as the focus. Some areas of consideration are; scholarly writing and public speaking. The Provost expressed value in these efforts.
* Dr. Kersen suggested that JSU set up a permanent Tenure & Assessment plan so that we no longer keep recreating the wheel. Provost Mosley responded stating that she would like to see all departments discuss accreditation/assessment monthly and that the Annual Faculty/Staff Seminar be a more effective tool for getting everybody involved.

1. **Budget Mr. Don Spann:** Mr. Spann reported that we have received a copy of the University budget that was reported to IHL Board of Trustees in the amount of $135,251,227.00 for this academic school year. He reported that this budget will be shared with the full senate. The Executive is considered using the Faculty Senate budget to show appreciation to Faculty Senators; however this request has been denied by Ms. Harrison and the Interim President. Mr. Hudson shared that the budget can be used to purchase items for academic support. We are waiting for additional information regarding how the funds may be used. The concern is that we don’t lose the funds for this year. It was reported that the funds may be used for conferences.
2. **Covid-19: Mr. Bolden / Smaller COVID Committee/Facilities/ Reporting Protocols/Dashboard:** On 10/28 Mr. Bolden reconvened a smaller COVID committee meeting. The committee discussed what reopening would look like, contract tracing, reporting of cases, etc.. Faculty expressed concerns regarding cleaning and student access to campus. It was suggested that once a space is cleaned, the cleaning crew provide documentation in the room indicating when the space was cleaned. It was reported that the University is looking at activating/updating the card swipe system and campus lighting to improve safety on campus. It is expected that students returning to campus will double in the Spring and faculty will have the option of conducting face-to-face classes. In an effort to prepare for this increased on campus activity, faculty are required to complete documents and submit to the Provost. This documentation will better prepare faculty for a safe return to classrooms. Dr. Leggett will share with the Faculty Senators a document she is currently using. President McLin reported that Student Affairs has a policy for contract tracing and this policy will be shared with the Faculty Senate. She reported that there are quarantine spaces on campus for students, however most students choose to quarantine off campus. Students may be required to get tested prior to returning to campus. The goal is to provide a safe campus environment and ensure that we are prepared for face-to-face classes. If faculty members have COVID questions they should direct them to Dr. McLin or other COVID committee members.
3. **Committees: Standing Committees (Budget, Research, The Curriculum & Teaching Committee, The Faculty Life Committee ) & Google Form:** President McLin will be sending out two google documents to faculty senators. The first document will be a form to solicit concerns, issues, and/or suggestions for improvement. The second form will list our standing committees and provide an opportunity for Senators to join. Committees include the following Standing and Special Committees (Chairs in parenthesis); **Standing** - Budget (Span), Research (Leggett), Faculty Life (Hines), Curriculum & Teaching (Howard); **Special -** Website (Span/Co-Chair-McLin).

Dr. Howard reported that the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee has been meeting. She requested that proposal be sent directly to the committee web address in an effort to expedite the process. The process has been changed so that proposals can be processed in a week instead of months.

1. **New Business: Faculty Hall of Fame:** President McLin reported that the Provost and Interim President expressed support for the idea of establishing a Faculty Hall of Fame.
2. **AOB:**

* **Final Exams** – Faculty who expect to use the physical space for exams must complete the appropriate forms and submit to the Provost. Provost Mosley will send out an official schedule for final exams this afternoon.
* **Center for Undergraduate Research** – The Provost expects that there will be seed money for faculty for the Undergraduate Research Symposium. She also shared that she is reviewing the idea of faculty being compensated for serving as mentors.
* **Good News** – Dr. Barbara Howard shared that the Department of Education Administration Foundation on Research received a stellar award for their program review.

Provost Mosely shared that the University has the opportunity to receive APOU funding.

Provost Mosley shared that we will begin sharing our good news on our social media.

* **2020 Faculty Participation Certificates** – Dr. Barbara Howard expressed that although she has reached out to the previous Secretary, she has not been able to get information on the 2020 certificates. Dr. André Hines volunteered to reach out to Dr. Payton to request the certificates.

1. **Adjournment:** Dr. Howard moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spann. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

**Submitted November 15, 2020 by Dr. André Hines, Secretary**