**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Zoom Meeting**

**September 23, 2021**

**10 a.m.**

**“Hear our Roar”**

**Re-envisioning the Faculty SENATE, Open Communication, Academic Excellence, & Respect**

**Executive Committee/Senators in Attendance**: Mr. Don Spann, Dr. Okechukwu Anyamele, Dr. Carolyn Howard, Dr. Sophia Leggett, Dr. Patrick Rettger, Dr. André Hines, Dr. Candace Brown, Dr. David Mahloch, Dr. Barbara Howard, Dr. Jae Young Ko, Dr. Chaiqua Harris, Dr. Tony Latiker, Dr. LaDonnya Drummond, Dr. Barbara Graham, Dr. Mohammad Sadik Khan, Dr. Doreen N. Myrie, Dr. Li-jing Chang, Dr. Kenyatta Stewart, Dr. Jessica Murphy, Dr. Jennifer Wiles, Dr. Chandar Lewis, Dr. NingNing Wang, Dr. Edmund Marem, Dr. Etta Morgan, Ms. Ella Moore-Boyd, Dr. Kimberly Harris, Dr. Candias Maiden, Dr. Anwar Ahmad, and Dr. Kenyatta Stewart

1. **Welcome** - The meeting was called to order at by Vice President Leggett in Dr. McLin’s absence. Dr. Leggett welcomed all Senators and Faculty in attendance. She requested that all Senators and Faculty sign in using the Chat.
2. **Review of Minutes** - The meeting minutes for August 2021 were approved pending any corrections.
3. **Committee Reports:**

**Dr. C. Howard: Curriculum & Teaching –** Dr. Howard indicated that the Cirriculum and Teaching committee met and discussed the following items: 1) Polling faculty pertaining to the recommendations to the draft faculty handbook. She indicated that a presentation will be announced by Dr. McLin when she returns; 2) The committee felt that the Teaching Initiative led by Dr. Pizzetta should include more faculty involvement in the planning and implementation process; and 3) There should be alignment of the Senate Curriculum and Teaching Committee with the University Committee.

**Mr. Spann: Website & Budget –** No Website report. Mr. Spann reported that the Executive Committee decided to purchase 50 portfolio’s for the Senators. These portfolios are expected to arrive around October 27th. The cost of the portfolio’s was $1,466.44 leaving a balance total of 5$5,699.50. These items will be distributed to Senators when they arrive.

**Dr. Leggett: Research –** Dr. Leggett reported that the committee met via email and will be deciding on a meeting date and time for next month. She indicated that Dr. Whitaker will be attending today’s meeting and encouraged Senators to ask questions and make comments. Dr. Leggett also encouraged Senators to review the Research proposal and send any comments to the faculty senate email address.

**Dr. Hines: Faculty Life –** Dr. Hines reported that the Faculty Life Committee met on September 14th and reviewed and updated the draft presentation for faculty handbook and promotion and tenure recommendations. The special meeting to present the recommendations is scheduled for October 1st and 1:30pm.

1. **New Business:**

* Recommendations to President Hudson: University Budget Committee – Dr. Leggett reported that the letter recommending the University Budget Committee be reinstated has been sent to President Hudson. She shared that this will be an advisory committee.
* Voting – The following items were voted on:

1. Senators-At-Large – Dr. Rettger opened the nominations for Senators-At-Large. The nominations were: Barbara Graham, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Darryl Harris, and Dr. Kersen. Dr. Anyamele moved to close the nominations; it was seconded by Dr. C. Howard. Senators voted in the Chat room. The results of the votes were; Dr. B. Graham (11), Dr. Kersen (10), Dr. D. Harris (9), Dr. Lewis (8), and Dr. Taylor (5). The Senators-At-Large for FY2021/2022 are Dr. B. Graham, Dr. Kersen, and Dr. Harris.
2. By-Law Changes– Senators voted in the chat to accept the By-Law changes (17 in favor of and 2 against).
3. Covid 19 Resolution – Senators voted in the chat to accept the Covid 19 Resolution (16 in favor of, 2 against, and 1 abstention).
4. **Unfinished Business:**
5. **Covid Taskforce, Portal, etc. –** Dr. Leggett reported that the Covid Taskforce Portal is active and available to faculty, staff, and students. She reported that there are contact tracers identified and the Taskforce continues to meet.
6. **Faculty Contracts –** Dr. Leggett reported that all faculty should have received their contracts via email from the Provost and the signed contracts are due back to the Provost by October 15th. If faculty have not received their contracts, they should contact the Provost directly.
7. **Intercollegiate Athletics Committee:** Faculty of the Game – Dr. Newkirt-Turner will announce a “Faculty of the Game” who will be awarded 3 game tickets. This is an incentive to encourage faculty to participate in games.
8. **FedEx: Faculty Speaker Series, Dr. James Minor, 10/7/21 @ 10am & Mini-grant criteria end of September –** The 1st speaker in the Faculty Speaker Series is Dr. James Minor. He will present at 10am on October 7th on Shared Governance and Transparency. The criteria for the Mini-grants will be ready by the end of the month and is being developed by Dr. McLin, Dr. Leggett, Mr. Spann, and Dr. Hines.
9. **United Faculty Senate Associations of Mississippi –** The next United Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi is 9/30/21 and will be attended by Dr. McLin. Dr. McLin will provide an update at our next meeting.
10. **High Flex Classrooms/Technology Software Issues (TurnItin/Plagiarism) –**Dr. Leggett reported that the High Flex software continues to be an issue and the bill for the TurnItIn software has not been paid; however, Academic Affairs is working to resolve this issue.
11. **Strategic Plan –** President Hudson will roll out the updated Strategic Plan in a virtual event on September 28th.
12. **Pay Study -** Dr. Leggett reported that the Pay Study bid process has begun.
13. **School of Public Health & Social Work Concerns –** Dr. Leggett reported that the School of Public Health has received their of Letter Accreditation; however there continue to be concerns. She indicated that the Faculty Senate has received concerns from the Department of Social Work.
14. **Division of Research Concerns: 1030am; Dr. Whittaker attend via Zoom –** Dr. Whittaker indicated that he was invited to the meeting but was not given an agenda. He proceeded to provide the following Research Department updates:
    1. He continues to advocate for more research programmatic activities for HBCU’s. He indicated that there is a proposal through the White House for $42 million that is now going to the Senate. He indicated that the HBCU’s must compete with other University’s for funding but he is trying to position JSU to take the lead in advocacy for HBCU’s.
    2. Dr. Whittaker is looking at the future of automation and is participating nationally regarding technology. He continues to attend Homeland Security and FEMA meetings. He indicated that we occasionally receive small contracts and we need to conduct more training. There will probably be training for faculty and staff next semester. Other companies are paying for the trainings.
    3. FEMA/DHS – Last week there were initial conversations requesting support to build JSU’s infrastructure and increase our ability to do cluster hires using an interdisciplinary approach.
    4. MS Emergency Management & FEMA are partnering to provide internships to increase job readiness skills for students.
    5. Currently the Research department is looking at how to align the academic community with the research department.

Dr. Leggett expressed concerns with Canvas and other infrastructure problems. Dr. Whittaker responded indicating that for the past 2 years the State has been updating our fiber optics and bandwidth and now the challenge is to put other processes in place. JSU is contemplating using CARES funds to complete this process. He indicated that JSU has just completed an assessment of our fiber infrastructure and has identified where our gaps are. This process will take time but we are on track to see success by next month.

Dr. Anymele asked if the research policy had been voted on by the Cabinet; Dr. Whittaker responded, yes and indicated that the document has been forwarded to legal.

After Dr. Whittaker left the meeting, Dr. Hines expressed concern and disappointment regarding Dr. Whittaker’s statement that he was invited to the meeting but was not given an agenda because the Faculty Senate agreed that he would be asked to speak on specific items. Dr. Leggett responded indicating that Dr. Whittaker had received specific items to speak on. Dr. Hines also indicated that if there was no feedback from faculty on the research policy we can assume the faculty agreed with the policy.

There was discussion regarding the expectation that faculty return to work for orientation and other activities prior to the beginning of the contract period and faculty receiving late contracts. It was suggested that concerns be put in writing and sent to the faculty senate website.

1. **For the Good of the Order**

* Senators were reminded of the Special Meeting scheduled for October 1st at 1:3pm
* Senators were encouraged to attend the 1st FedEx Series training by Dr. James Minor October 7th at 10am
* Senators were reminded to complete the ballot by October 8th

1. **Adjournment -** Dr. Anyamele moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Carolyn Howard. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21am.

Submitted October 19, 2021 by Dr. André Hines, Secretary