Faculty Senate Minutes
September 21, 2009

I. Call to Order

Faculty Senate President Dan Krejci called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. and welcomed new senators to the meeting.


Members Absent: Charlcie Vann

II. Guest Speakers

Dr. William A. Meehan, president of Jacksonville State University, spoke to the senators on several issues. He reported that enrollment is down by 130 students from this time last year at JSU. In comparison, enrollment at the state’s flagship universities is up while enrollment at other regional universities is level or down.

Dr. Meehan also reported that the portion of the university’s revenue that comes from the state of Alabama is now less than thirty percent. Tuition accounts for approximately seventy percent of the university’s revenue. Contracts and grants make up the rest except for the Education Trust Fund monies.

Dr. Meehan stated that graduate enrollment is up and that we now have eighteen degree programs online, which, according to him, is the preferred method of delivery for returning students. He also pointed out other statistics about enrollment by gender, ethnicity, full-time/part-time categories, etc. using the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment’s JSU at a Glance.

Dr. Meehan also thanked the senators for their attendance at the recent freshman convocation, commenting that the casual dress challenge of the senate president showed new students that we are “human.”

The new tuition remission policy, drafted earlier by the senate, already has 170 faculty dependents participating.

Dr. Meehan’s other comments were about the possibility of further proration for the coming academic year. The two percent reduction announced by the state in July pushed our loss of revenue to 21 per cent, and the outlook for 2009-2010 does not look good. He said that he really did not know what to expect in the coming year, predicting a reduction in revenue from the state of anywhere from 6 to 13%. The legislature, in Alabama, appropriates according to estimates of what will come in, not on real money. Representative Canfield, from Vestavia, is proposing a 15-year running average estimate that he claims would eliminate proration in the future. Dr. Meehan touted the idea as excellent, saying that it will create a capital fund for higher education. Under the current system, colleges and universities are the last to receive state funds, receiving only what is left after K-12 and the two-year colleges get their money. Dr. Meehan gave a brief history of the tax system for the state as well as a history of proration.
because of the system. He mentioned also that the Rainy Day Fund used to help lessen proration in 2008-2009 was now depleted and that there will be some new costs associated with the Education Trust Fund including a 3% increase to repay the Rainy Day Fund. SWAPTION, which deals with bond issues, will also possibly cost the ETF millions of dollars as well state initiatives like the Reading Initiative and AMSTI.

Other financial problems for the state and the university include inflation, PACT, no COLAS for retirees, the TRS, and the rising costs of health insurance.

He explained that the 2.5% raise he had hoped faculty would receive for the year was lost after the July cuts and that faculty raises would be a priority for him in the coming year, even with these financial problems.

Dr. Meehan then accepted questions from senators.

Paul Beezley asked how sales of box seats for the stadium were processing. President Meehan answered that there were still seats available, including the club level seats at $500 per seat per season, and that the stadium would be completed next year.

Other information given by the president included that there are eight students enrolled in the Elite Honors Program and that honors students will eventually have group housing; that the cafeteria is doing well after the recent innovations; that sandwich facilities will eventually be housed at Merrill Building and Stone Center; and that in the future, the quad will feature some outside seating for dining.

Dr. Joe Delap was also present on behalf of the office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Rebecca Turner. He did not make any prepared remarks but invited questions. In response to a question from Paul Beezley on travel grant monies, Dr. Delap said that there would be travel grant monies but that they would be adjusted for proration.

Gloria Horton asked if there would be money for the awarding of research grants for this academic year. Dr. Delap referred her to Dr. Turner.

Heidi Dempsey asked Dr. Delap about the possibility of our having a grants officer at JSU; the response was that the strategic plan calls for it, but there is no funding at this time.

### III. Approval of Minutes

Paul Beezley moved the minutes be approved as read. The motion was seconded by Ron Mellen. The motion passed unanimously.

### IV. Old Business

The senators looked at a form to be used for evaluation of the board of trustees to gain information about how they would be evaluated through a Self-Assessment Survey. The survey was designed by a committee and has been sent to the board; the board has not yet approved the document.

President Krejci announced that our recommendations about promotion/tenure have gone forward to the administration and that he will continue to track their progress.

At this point in the meeting, Miriam Hill recommended that we become involved in the One Can Campaign, a program to collect canned goods on behalf of the Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center. George Cline, who is working with the program, was introduced and spoke more about it. He asked that
the first collection be completed by October 15 and that we do a second round of collections in the second semester of the academic year. In the future, he would like to see the collection of canned goods done during the fall convocation and again in the last week of January. Because of the short time frame before the October 15 deadline, President Krejci suggested that we not do a formal recommendation this year; Paul Beezley then suggested a “sense of the senate” recommendation instead, putting it in the form of a motion. Benjie Blair seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Bryant Whaley, president of the Student Government Association, said SGA would also be working with the One Can campaign.

President Krejci introduced Bryant Whaley to the senators and invited him to address the senate. He began his remarks by saying he wants to work with the Faculty Senate to “get things done.” He went on to discuss a proposal for a $100 Student Activity Fee that he wishes to get students to vote for through an online voting process. Paul Beezley asked what the vote threshold for passing the proposal would be, and Miriam Hill asked if the fee would affect part-time students and distance learners. The answer to Dr. Hill’s question was yes.

Other questions raised were how the money from the fee would be monitored (through Clint Carlson’s office) and what the rationale for raising the fee according to incremental increases in student enrollment was (David Dempsey), what legal justification do you have that the monies will go where they are supposed to (Miriam Hill), and a concern about the money being put into the account it is earmarked for (Paul Beezley). Senator Beezley also asked Mr. Whaley what the Faculty Senate could do to assist. The response was to mention the proposal to our students to help get the word out for the October 19 vote.

Dr. Meehan said the Board of Trustees would also have to approve the fee once the students vote to adopt it. He also stated that the fund for the money can be set up so that the money will go to what it is supposed to, mainly a student recreation center, including a state-of-the-art gym and intramural facilities.

Mr. Whaley invited senators to the SGA open forum on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Theron Montgomery Building auditorium that will address this and other issues.

V. New Business

Committee assignments were discussed. Because all senators did not respond to the survey sent during the summer about committee preferences, President Krejci sent a sign-up sheet around during the meeting. He also encouraged those who were not sure what the functions of each committee were to go to the senate web site for that information. The committees are Admissions and Scholarship, Honors, Welfare, Policies, and Elections.

Senators next discussed the new calendar for May and summer terms, recently revised by the Council of Deans. It contains four terms that will begin in May (4, 6, 8, and 12 weeks respectively), three terms that begin in June (4, 6, and 8 weeks), one July term (4 weeks), and one August term (to be scheduled as needed). President Krejci will recommend standardizing how faculty members are paid for summer terms throughout the colleges.

David Dempsey commented on not being allowed to teach in both May and June, and Heidi Dempsey pointed out the inequity of students being allowed to take a seven-hour course load in a term while faculty were allowed to only teach one course in a short term. To her, this indicates the belief that faculty cannot handle the same workload as students. President Krejci asked her to put her thoughts in writing and have the Welfare Committee look at this issue.
Jerry Griffin wanted to know how the new short-term schedule was a simplification of the old one, and President Krejci said the new schedule cuts down on the number of terms.

David Dempsey asked if the new schedule addresses the days the courses will meet. The answer was “no.”

The proposed terms were distributed to the departments during the summer so that feedback could be received before the terms were adopted.

President Krejci announced that he sat with the Academic Committee members at the Board of Trustees meeting in July and that the chair, Randy Jones, wants to come to a Faculty Senate meeting; he and other members of his committee will attend the October meeting. The Academic Committee, according to President Krejci, seems legitimately concerned about academics at JSU.

At the next Board of Trustees meeting, President Krejci will do a presentation for the board about tenure/promotion, tuition remission for faculty, and other issues the faculty senate has been working on to the board. The presentation will include materials from only those recommendations already approved by the senate and sent forward. Merit pay may also be a possible issue.

David Dempsey brought up some contradictory language concerning academic warning and asked that it be looked at. He was asked to bring the matter before the Admissions and Scholarship committee.

Benjie Blair announced that approximately 40 students have reported flu symptoms. They have been asked not to report back to class until at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. He reminded everyone of flu shots on Thursday at TMB. Faculty will need to bring their PEEHIP cards and the form to the auditorium.

**VI. Announcements**

Gloria Horton announced that she had United Way pledge forms for those who needed them. She also reminded senators of the Academe reception for new faculty on Tuesday, September 29.

It was announced that Gordon Stone would be at the Faculty Senate meeting in November.

Allison McElroy asked where those in the Art Department might get IDEA short forms and was told to contact Tienhan Ma. She announced her art show in Hammond Hall on Tuesday, September 29, from 12-1.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, President Krejci called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Beezley made the motion, which was seconded by Greg Pass. Senators cast their votes by exiting the room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Horton, Secretary