

3-5-2009

Campus Board Meeting : 2009 : 03 : 05 : Supporting Documents

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**USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate
Report to the Campus Board
5 March 2009**

SACSual feeling:

Faculty efforts to comply with SACS requirements have been laudable, but especially that of faculty from CAS and those on the General Education Committee, ably guided by Prof. Jay Sokolovsky from Anthropology.

We are confident that the “dry run” on 9 March and the visit from the SACS site team will be successful and remove the university from probationary status.

Budget concerns:

Members of the Faculty Senate are in the process of discussing with their college faculties the principles and priorities to be employed as the budget reductions force hard choices on the campus as a whole and on the individual colleges. We support the principle of “shared governance” to ensure participation of the faculty in budget decisions.

Technology Fee:

The Faculty Senate has equity concerns about the procedures established by the USF System to distribute the monies generated by the technology fees collected from USFSP students. Rather than permitting each campus to received directly the fees produced from that campus, all fees will go to a system-wide fund and distributed on a competitive basis. This is contrary to an earlier precedent for fees generated by online courses.

Online Forum:

The Faculty Senate sponsored the Final Friday Forum on 27 February. This initial meeting was designed to permit faculty who have offered their courses online to discuss the advantages and problems encountered in such courses. The event was marked by substantial faculty participation in both presentations and discussions. A subsequent meeting will focus on a number of theoretical and pedagogical issues.

IFC meetings:

The heads of the Faculty Senates within the USF System are now meeting on a regular basis to discuss common and individual issues affecting faculty members within the system. The January meeting at USF Sarasota-Manatee discussed concerns about system relations among the various campuses and entities within the system. Our next meeting will take place on the USF Polytechnic campus in Lakeland. The group will likely meet on the St. Pete campus in late April or early May.

Bencor vs. FICA:

The Faculty Senate has grave concerns about switch to Bencor rather than FICA for OPS and part-time employees. While this shift has resulted in savings to the USF budget, the change may substantially disadvantage these employees at the time of their retirement. As the last six months have shown, funds such as Bencor may very well erode in value, leaving these employees in a fiduciary predicament at retirement age.