
USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Meetings:
Minutes

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USFSP Faculty Council Meeting : 2003 : 01 : 09 : Minutes

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

Faculty Council Meeting
January 9, 2003; 9:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Present: Bob Dardenne, Jim Fellows, Margaret Hewitt, Steve Micklo, Tina Neville, Mark Pezzo, Jim Spence
Guests: Ralph Wilcox, Gary Olson
Absent: David Naar

Campus update from Dr. Wilcox:

AVP retirements: Dr. Wilcox introduced Gary Olson who will be the acting Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Olson will remain in this position for the next six months. Dr. Wilcox hopes to have a Budget Director hired fairly soon, which will help in the transition in the Administration and Finance area.

Public Employees: As of January 7, 2003, USFSP employees are public employees not state employees. By July 1, the university budget is to be removed from the state budget and moved to the USF Board of Trustees. One possible change with the shift to public employee status is that faculty may shift from a nine-month to a twelve-month pay plan. Paychecks for faculty may be distributed on a monthly basis rather than on a bi-weekly schedule.

Tenure at USF: Dr. Wilcox circulated an article from a recent issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education. Dr. Wilcox said the article wrongly claimed that USF was trying to curtail tenure and strongly recommended that USF provide a national response to clarify our position on tenure. It was noted the article could have a negative impact on the 70 or so searches under way.

Summer pay: Dr. Wilcox said that one budget move for USF will be to reconsider the structure of summer pay. He promised that no changes are in store for the coming summer, but said that USF's summer pay is generous in comparison to many other universities and has been a large drain on the budget. Dr. Fellows noted a rumor that summer pay would be adjunct pay. Dr. Wilcox said he wasn't sure what summer pay would be in any new plan, but at least left the impression that it would be lower than current pay but higher than adjunct pay. It may also be a flat rate, rather than the current rate based on salary. The administration thinks many summer models are more cost-effective than our current format. Bob Dardenne reminded Dr. Wilcox that many faculty, particularly those with lower salaries, have come to depend on summer income as part of their USF pay, and eliminating it, or a substantial portion of it could be quite detrimental.

Searches: USFSP currently has 61 faculty searches and 10 executive/management searches in process. An opening for an Assistant Vice President for Research and Community Partnerships has recently been added to the searches.

Enrollment: Preliminary enrollment figures for spring undergraduate and first-time-in-college students are up. Dr. Olson commented that one of his priorities will be the recruitment of additional quality students.

Housing: Housing plans are continuing. Phase 1, new construction is still planned but the number of beds has been reduced. If demand is there, phase 2 construction can be accelerated.

Space plans/construction: By the end of January the campus administration will have to make some space decisions. Options include the "Terrace West," and expansion of leased property, acquisition of existing property, etc.

The 2nd Street central core construction is on hold. This construction was to be financed by student government funding and, at the moment, they feel that a student union is a higher priority.

A priority for new construction is the science and technology building schedule for the Davis parking lot. The construction would be in partnership with marine science and continues in negotiation.

Parking: A parking consultant has been hired. In the near future, faculty, staff, and students will receive a parking survey. Realistically, a parking garage will be needed which will be costly. Tentative location of a new parking garage would be north of USGS. Nearby city parking that is currently free may be metered in the future, thereby increasing the demand for on-campus parking.

Separate accreditation: The commitment to separate accreditation is still as strong as ever. Winston Bridges and Steve Micklo will be working on SACS this spring. It is hoped that the SACS compliance audit will be completed by the end of the semester.

Grand Prix: The Grand Prix will be taking place during February. USFSP is hoping to gain some financial and PR advantages but there will also be some challenges for parking and access on those days. Some decal parking will remain but it may not be located near the classroom buildings. Administration hopes faculty and students will understand and bear the inconvenience in good spirits.

Dial-up access for faculty:

Dial-up access was cut off on December 31, 2002. Dr. Olson will look into the situation. Dr. Wilcox also said that faculty may want to consider Road Runner access. USF has a special rate for Road Runner (subscription information should be on the Tampa web site).

Sabbatical committee:

Bob will ask Abby to send out a message to the faculty asking for a volunteer (with tenure).

USF Faculty Senate:

It has been emphasized that regional representation is still needed for the USF Faculty Senate in Tampa -- there are advantages to having full faculty strength on many issues.

An announcement will be made at the January 17 faculty meeting asking for volunteers. Bob will also send out an Abbygram asking for volunteers.

Technology:

Mark Pezzo has been asked to sit in on a meeting with David Brodosi and Kathy Arsenault to discuss technology in the classrooms. Mark has informally surveyed several of the CAS faculty to determine technology needs but hasn't had the opportunity to send out an official survey.

New course procedures:

Steve Micklo will be presenting three courses to the UG/Graduate Council on January 10. Once approved the Council will forward the requests to Gary Olson.

College reports:

COE: NCATE has recently added the USFSP assessment program to the NCATE web site. The education faculty were congratulated for creating a program with such appeal. Bob asked Margaret Hewitt to send him an email about this.

Charity events:

Barbara Frye will be participating in a transEurope footrace from Lisbon to Moscow. A fund-raising event is scheduled for January 18, 2003. The members of the FC agreed to informally support her charity efforts and wish her well in the race. Additional information on the event was included with the meeting agenda.

Summer sessions A and B:

Several faculty members have expressed interested in offering the shorter summer sessions – six week sessions similar to what has been offered in past years. Since it appears that there will be an in-depth analysis of summer school in the near future with many options in the offing, the FC decided to take up the issue with the recommendations resulting from the analysis.

UFF:

Jim Spence shared a memo from Tennyson Wright regarding UFF. Since UFF is no longer officially representing the faculty, any references to the union should be deleted from official documents.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 24 at **2:00** pm

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.