

2001

AY 2000/2001 SEC meeting minutes: 01 Apr 04

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SEC Minutes

April 4, 2001

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

April 4, 2001

MINUTES

Present: Jesse Binford, William Kearns, Suresh Khator, Barbara Loeding, Sara Mandell, Gregory Paveza, Ram Pendyala, Alan Sear, Jenifer Schneider, Melvyn Tockman, Nancy Tyson, James Vastine

President's Office: Josue Cruz

Provost's Office: Phil Smith, David Stamps

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of March 7, 2001, were approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Nancy Tyson)

President Tyson distributed a copy of the working draft of the Coalition of Florida Educators Issues and Concerns with regard to higher education. She had previously e-mailed details about this group and indicated that she would be seeking Senate support for them. President Tyson would like to have from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) an endorsement in concept for the formation of this group and for the working draft of this position paper. She has already received endorsement from the Governmental Relations Committee and would like to present the draft at the April 18th meeting of the Faculty Senate. The Coalition is a union of K-12, community college, interested student groups and university educators to counter the so-called "seamless" education system being devised in the Legislature. Committee on Committees Chair Schneider asked how the document distributed relates to the three amendments developed by the Governmental Relations Committee. President Tyson responded that the three amendments are a spin-off of an earlier draft of this position paper. The motion was made for the SEC to endorse the University of Florida Coalition of Florida Educators position paper in concept, as well as an endorsement of the principle of the coalition that is being formed. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Parliamentarian Mandell made an additional motion that the SEC thank President Tyson for her bravery, her courage, and for standing firm in fighting against decentralization. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

It has been discovered that the charge for the newly established Parking and Transportation Services Advisory Committee has some missing sections. President Tyson presented the following formulae to be inserted into the charge to make it complete: faculty members serve three-year staggered terms with one-third retiring each year; staff and students are one-year appointees and may be reappointed for a second year. This membership set-up is the same as for all the other committees. Voting members will be appointed by the Vice President for Administrative Services upon the recommendation of the Faculty Senate. This will be the only Faculty Senate committee that will be appointed by the Vice President for Administrative Services, all others are appointed by the Provost. The election of the Chair will be the same as for the other committees, and that is the Chair shall be a voting faculty member elected by the committee. President Tyson will ask Mr. Bert Hartley, Vice President for Administrative Services, to make special appointments to this committee so that it can begin functioning in the fall. The motion was made to approve the additions to the Parking and Transportation Services Advisory Committee charge as presented by President Tyson. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

President Tyson stated that, unless there is an emergency that needs to be addressed, this will be the last SEC meeting for the 2000-2001 AY. This will also be her last SEC meeting to chair.

PROVOST'S REPORT (David Stamps)

The Provost distributed CDs containing the schedules for summer and fall semesters. Producing the schedules in this manner will be a significant savings since the CDs cost approximately \$.70 each as opposed to \$1.90 per paper schedule. The 2001/2002 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs are also available on CD. New undergraduate students will receive the CD at Orientation. There is a link on the CD to the Schedule of Classes, the Registrar's web sites, Orientation information, as well as campus, and office directories, maps, etc. There will be printed class schedules, but in far fewer numbers.

Provost Stamps cautioned the SEC members about what they say in e-mail messages. The public records laws are being used more and more by the media and e-mail should be used carefully.

The administration is in the process of reviewing and exploring the establishment of a new college. Although a permanent name has not been settled upon, it is being referred to as the College of Community and Professional Studies. The plan is to pull many of the professional programs out of the College of Arts and Sciences and establish a new college. Justifications for creating a new college include: (1) The College of Arts and Sciences is too large. (2) The mission of professional schools is quite different from the mission of a traditional College of Arts and Sciences. Provost Stamps feels that this is an exciting opportunity for USF to become an engaged university through community interaction. Some discussions have been taking place for over a year in those colleges that will be affected. The Provost pointed out that discussions will be done by May 2nd with all parties concerned. President Tyson made reference to a "White Paper" mentioned by College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Renu Khator. The Provost gave her a document drafted by Interim Dean Khator and indicated that the four different options presented in the paper are basically what is being proposed: to establish a new, professional college that is

made up of units beyond the College of Arts and Sciences; to pull programs only from the College of Arts and Sciences; to establish a dean of professional studies within the College of Arts and Sciences; or to wait and not do anything at this time.

Provost Stamps announced that Dr. Martin Louis Vega has received his letter of offer. The

Provost will contact Dr. Vega as soon as he leaves today's meeting to find out if he has made a decision as to whether or not he will be joining USF as Dean of the College of Engineering.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

a. Committee on Committees (Jenifer Schneider)

Chair Schneider presented for approval the following nominees to committees and councils:

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES NOMINATIONS FOR FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee

Barbara Orban (COPH)

Graduate Council

Linda Moody (Nursing)

University Honors Program Committee

Jeanne Travers (COFA)

Discussion was held regarding the nominations for the Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee and the University Honors Program Committee, two committees which have been slated for abolishment pending approval by the Faculty Senate. Senator-at-Large Paveza made the motion that the SEC table the nominations of Barbara Orban and Jeanne Travers until after the Faculty Senate meeting on April 18th. The motion was seconded and passed with one nay.

A second motion was made by Senator-at-Large Paveza to approve the nomination of Linda Moody for membership on the Graduate Council. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with one nay.

Due to problems experienced this past academic year of having a quorum at the COC meetings, Chair Schneider has proposed to the Bylaws Committee a change to the charge of the COC to reflect a reduction in the size of the COC from 14 to 11 members. The proposed change will be presented at the April 18th Faculty Senate meeting.

Chair Schneider asked that the SEC revisit the issue of using the Research and Planning (RAP) list to determine whether or not someone is eligible to serve on a committee or council. Discussion was held regarding the appointment of people to committees who are on continuing contracts but temporarily assigned. Graduate Council Chair Alan Sear stated that if department chairs want their faculty to serve on university committees, they ought to put them on tenure-track lines. He added that this raises a more important issue of the use of temporary people for permanent employment as faculty members. Of course, some departments cannot find and pay someone at the assistant, associate or full professor level, but Chair Sear indicated that there is a much bigger

principle going on that could open a wedge and would apply to a lot of departments. Parliamentarian Mandell added that such a situation also endangers the university. President Tyson pointed out that as policy makers we are pulled in both directions. We want to help and encourage these people, but when doors are opened, then we are validating a system that hires more and more adjunct professors. Secretary Vastine pointed out that page 7, Article VIII B. of the Bylaws to the Constitution of the Faculty of the University of South Florida states "The Committee on Committees will nominate members of the general faculty for each position on the university-wide committees and councils." "General faculty" as stated in the Constitution of the Faculty of the University of South Florida "... shall consist of full-time faculty members with the rank of Lecturer, Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Assistant Librarian, Associate Librarian, or Librarian." It was decided that based upon the Senate Bylaws lecturers and instructors are eligible to serve on university-wide committees and councils. Chair Schneider will write a letter of apology to those people who were inadvertently removed from the list as a result of last month's determination (SEC March 7, 2001) and let them know the decision made at today's meeting.

Discussion then turned to the existence of IN positions, such as Assistant/Associate IN Research. Senator-at-Large Paveza made the motion that the Bylaws Committee consider a potential change in the Bylaws to include Associate IN positions in terms of inclusion for representation on Faculty Senate Standing and University-Wide committees and councils. Secretary Vastine recommended that as another way to keep it consistent, the Bylaws Committee should also consider the position classifications in the bargaining unit which includes the Associate IN. Senator-at-Large Paveza indicated that this is an issue that should be looked at by the Bylaws Committee and bring recommendations back to the SEC. There was a call to question. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

b. Research Council Charge (Melvyn Tockman)

The Research Council charge has gone through a couple of revisions to consider a variety of ideas recommended by the COC and has come back to the SEC. Along the way, the revisions have gone back to the Research Council which considered the issue of membership very carefully. The revision that resonated best with the Research Council was that all appointees should be faculty who have demonstrated exceptional productivity in research or other creative activity. Neither tenure nor academic rank should be criteria for appointment to the Research Council. Insertion of the phrase "over time" (proposed by the COC after "productivity") was the issue that had not been resolved. The Research Council did not want to include such a phrase because of the opportunities for injustices to occur. For example, exemplary new faculty transferring from other institutions would be barred from participation on the Research Council for an unspecified period until they demonstrated their exceptional productivity. Further, "over time" might be construed to bar junior faculty from participation on the Research Council. The Council is particularly sensitive to that issue in light of the expanded use of the Research Council by the administration in terms of issues affecting research across the university in providing incentives and removing disincentives to faculty research. Barriers to the progress of junior faculty into productive academic careers may best be identified by the junior faculty themselves and the Research Council would like to maintain their voice on the Council.

Discussion was held during which Parliamentarian Mandell stated that junior faculty should not have an equal voice with senior faculty on such councils as the Research Council. In addition, she does not know that a junior faculty person has the understanding at that point of all that is necessary for advanced research. They need the time and the practice. Therefore, she does not think it is good for the Council, the university or for the junior faculty person to be on either the Research Council or the Graduate Council. Chair Tockman countered that what the Research Council is looking for as a Research I university are junior faculty who are prepared to go forward to develop a productive, research career. Using the statement "exceptional productivity in research" identifies those junior faculty who, in fact, have opinions about what the barriers might be to a productive, research career. These are the very creative people that the Research Council wants to include and make them feel part of the process to show that they are respected and that they do have a future in academia. There was a call to question. Chair Tockman made the motion that the SEC approve the wording that all appointees to the Research Council should be faculty who have demonstrated exceptional productivity in research or other creative activity. Neither tenure nor academic rank should be criteria for appointment to the Research Council. The motion was seconded and passed with one nay and one abstention.

3. Faculty Assistant to the President (Josue Cruz)

President Tyson asked Dr. Josue Cruz for information on the process for selecting the Faculty Assistant to the President. Dr. Cruz indicated that the same process that was used in the past will be used this year to select an assistant. In addition, an advertisement for an assistant will be forthcoming in the near future. Senator-at-Large Paveza pointed out that the process for selection of an assistant has changed to some degree depending on who the President is at any particular time. He indicated that the SEC could suggest to the President a sense of what it feels that process should look like, but clearly it has been up to the Presidents to define how they want to engage in that particular process. President Tyson said that the SEC looks forward to its possible role in the process. She also thanked Dr. Cruz for his participation in the Faculty Senate this past academic year.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Eligibility of Temporary Faculty for Committees

This issue was tabled until the fall semester.

b. Agenda for April Faculty Senate Meeting

President Tyson did receive a personal e-mail message from President Genshaft that it is on her schedule to be at the April 18th Faculty Senate meeting. She will give an update on the legislative reorganization. Senator-at-Large Paveza verified that President Genshaft's presentation at this last Senate meeting will not be time limited. He also suggested that at least once a semester there should be a Faculty Senate meeting when the President and the Provost have an open forum to continue until either the time or the questions run out.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss at today's meeting.

OTHER

Parliamentarian Mandell made a motion that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee endorse Interim Provost Stamps' candidacy as "the only viable candidate" for the Provost position. The motion was seconded. President Tyson asked if there is anything the SEC should do with regard to taking this motion to the full Senate. Senator-at-Large Paveza pointed out that it would be perfectly legitimate for someone to bring up the issue and to make a similar resolution for the Faculty Senate to consider, but there is also some legitimacy for the SEC to make that endorsement and have President Tyson carry it forward to the Search Committee. It was decided that President Tyson should (1) tell the Search Committee that the SEC endorses Interim Provost Stamps as the only viable candidate and (2) convey directly to President Genshaft the sense of the SEC concerning its endorsement of Interim Provost Stamps. There was a call to question. The motion was passed with one abstention.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**GO BACK
TO PREVIOUS
PAGE**

**RETURN TO
THE
MAIN PAGE**

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