

2001

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SEC Minutes

March 7, 2001

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 7, 2001

MINUTES

Present: Jesse Binford, Suresh Khator, Barbara Loeding, Sara Mandell, Ram Pendyala, Jenifer Schneider, Nancy Tyson, James Vastine

Provost's Office: Phil Smith, Tennyson Wright

The meeting was called to order at 3:14 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of February 7, 2001, were approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Nancy Tyson)

President Tyson's report consisted of the following:

- Both President Tyson and Past President Jesse Binford attended the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) meeting in Tallahassee on March 2, 2001. The ACFS first met separately on Friday morning and put together a list of issues and concerns regarding the reorganization of higher education in Florida which was then discussed that afternoon with John Winn for three hours. Mr. Winn is the Executive Director of the Education Reorganization Task Force (ERTF). The ACFS is now moving its attention toward the legislature. Past President Binford was able to tell Mr. Winn about events surrounding the John's Committee in the 1960's by relating how bad political interference can be.
- On Monday, February 26th, President Tyson met with the newly formed Governmental Relations Committee (GRC). This is currently an informal group because one of the members is an interim Senator and President Tyson needed to wait for the final outcome of the elections to find out if this Senator will be re-elected so she would know when to set the end of his term. She now has that information and will ask Provost Stamps to make the appointments to that committee. President Tyson presented the following on behalf of the GRC. The GRC decided to promote three amendments to the recommendations of the ERTF. These amendments will be stated in very simple terms in the form of a clear-cut recommendation and a rationale consisting of four bulleted points. The first amendment is the protection of academic freedom and tenure. The second is the separation of governing boards for K-12

education and higher education for the State of Florida, ensuring that members of those boards have long enough terms to avoid political meddling. The third amendment is to create a new task force to oversee the remaining details of the education reorganization transition. This task force should be composed of at least 50 percent of people with recognized academic backgrounds. The other 50 percent could be representatives of the constituency. The intent is to approach the House and Senate key people who will be working with the bills that these recommendations are translated into and lobbying them to frame amendments that would translate those points.

- President Tyson announced that she will make one more effort to get people signed up for the Turnitin.com pilot project this semester. She has picked nine departments to contact and ask them to tell their faculty about the pilot project and see if there is any reaction to this last attempt. Due to the involvement in this project by the Instructional Technology and Distance Learning Council, President Tyson will let Chair William Kearns know that the deadline has been extended through the end of finals week. Sergeant-at-Arms Barbara Loeding recommended that the Center for Teaching Enhancement be notified of the project so that they could announce it in their workshops or possibly sponsor a workshop on using the service.

PROVOST'S REPORT (Tennyson Wright)

Interim Provost David Stamps was out-of-town meeting with Dr. Louis Martin Vega, one of the finalists for the College of Engineering Dean position. Vice Provost Tennyson Wright attended today's meeting to represent Dr. Stamps. It is hoped that when Dr. Stamps returns from Washington, D.C., he will have a firm commitment from Dr. Vega regarding the dean position.

Vice Provost Wright reported that ninety-one applications had been received for the 2001/2002 tenure and promotion process. All of the applications are in the Provost's Office being reviewed. A report from the board to the President with recommendations on tenure will go out in early April. Those recommendations will be addressed at the main meeting of the Board of Regents (BOR).

Five nominations have been received for the Distinguished University Professor. The colleges represented are the College of Fine Arts, New College, Nursing, College of Business Administration and the College of Arts and Sciences. It is anticipated that the Provost will be able to make an announcement of an appointment of one, but not more than two, Distinguished University Professors.

The College of Marine Science Dean search is down to three candidates. Interviews will be conducted during the latter part of March or early April on the Tampa campus, as well as the St. Petersburg campus.

Vice Provost Wright announced that a new search is starting for an Associate Vice President for Diversity and Equal Opportunity Affairs. The new position is a result of the reorganization that will combine the Office of Diversity Initiatives and the Office of Equal Opportunity Affairs. The Associate Vice President will report to both the President and the Provost.

Mr. Phil Smith announced that there were thirty-five sabbaticals awarded for the 2001/2002 academic year. The breakdown for the sabbaticals is as follows: 16 one-semester, full pay; 12 two-semester, half pay; and 7 two-semester, two-thirds pay sabbaticals. The letters are out for the recipients to submit their sabbatical dates to their Chairs.

Vice Provost Wright presented the status of the law suits by the student athletes and Hiram Green, Assistant Athletic Director. He indicated that President Genshaft is very concerned about these lawsuits and the issues raised by Mr. Green. She has consulted with the executive staff of the university and also will be in touch with Judge Hackett who conducted the matter of the Athletics Department as well as university policy. The Provost wanted to be certain that the faculty were aware that this is an issue the president and the administration are deeply concerned about, not only as to the effect on the individuals involved, but also the effect on the image of the university. Therefore, the President, Provost and executive staff will address and resolve these issues very quickly and move on to the more positive issues of the university.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

Committee on Committees (Jenifer Schneider)

1. Chair Schneider presented a list of nominations for Faculty Senate Standing Committees and Councils and for the President's Councils which were approved by the Committee on Committees (COC) on February 21st. Discussion was held surrounding the nomination of a Librarian to fill a college vacancy and the Director of Physical Education serving on the Athletics Council in a faculty position. Vice Provost Wright suggested that it really is an issue of the Faculty Senate and that the practice of the Senate should be looked at to decide whether or not an individual who is a member of the faculty and currently serving in an administrative position can serve on committees and councils. Parliamentarian Sara Mandell made the motion to accept Vice Provost Wright's suggestion. Mr. Smith stated that the Faculty Senate needs to define for its own purposes how it wants to distinguish between those who are eligible to serve on committees and those who are not and then have a list configured accordingly. It seems reasonable to stipulate that the faculty ranks that make a person eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate be the same as for service on the committees. At this point, Parliamentarian Mandell withdrew her motion and Sergeant-at-Arms Loeding made the motion to accept the slate of nominations as presented by Chair Schneider. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.
2. Chair Schneider announced that the (COC) approved President Tyson's nominations for the Governmental Relations Committee. In addition, the COC approved the new membership for the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee.
3. At the January COC meeting, it was recommended that the COC review the charges of the Faculty Senate standing committees in an effort to consolidate or disband those committees and councils that are inactive or whose purposes have changed over time. Based upon a review of the committee/council charges, current rosters, and the Faculty Senate Annual Report from 1999/2000, the COC recommended the following:

Academic Computing Committee and Instructional Technology Council

The chairs of these two groups should meet to determine whether or not there is a need for two separate committees that deal with very similar issues. In addition, there is some overlap on their membership rosters.

Bachelor of Independent Studies Committee

The consensus was to disband this committee. There was no annual report from the committee, but it appears, based on the membership of this committee, that it is primarily a committee of the College of Arts and Sciences. However, we recommend

that the BIS chair should be asked to defend its existence as a Faculty Senate Standing Committee before a final decision is made.

Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee

It was recommended that this committee be disbanded because some of the functions as set forth in the charge are no longer valid. For example, this committee is charged to review TIP and PEP procedures. In addition, any requirements for tenure and promotion are negotiated through our contracts. Therefore, this committee can not affect change on the tenure and promotion process. However, with new restructuring taking place, and the abolishment of the BOR, there may be a future need for this committee. If there is a need for a Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee, a new charge should be written to reflect the needs of the faculty at that time.

University Honors Program Committee

It is recommended that this committee be disbanded. Currently, committee members from across the university serve in an advisory role to the director of the Honors Program. We now recommend that the faculty who actually teach in the Honors Program begin serving in an advisory function to the director.

Vice President Suresh Khator made a motion to accept these recommendations subject to presentation and discussion with the Faculty Senate. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

4. The COC has met three times this academic year, but has not met quorum at any of the meetings. Items that need a vote are summarized and sent out to the members via e-mail. Chair Schneider proposed making the representative for the regional campus a rotating appointment to reduce the size of the committee in order to make quorum. In addition, Chair Schneider would like to impose an attendance policy similar to the one followed by the Faculty Senate. Discussion was held regarding these two issues and the proper channels that should be taken to address them. The motion was made that COC Chair Schneider should approach the Bylaws Committee to change the attendance policy and the membership of that committee. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.
5. The Research Council submitted a change to its charge regarding eligibility to serve on that council. The COC reviewed it, making suggestions for revisions. In response to those suggestions, Chair Schneider presented the following statement from Research Council Chair Melvyn Tockman who was absent from today's meeting:

After careful consideration, the Research Council agreed with the intent and half of the wording proposed by the COC. The Research Council voted to accept the following revision: 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") raised concern about possible abuses of interpretation. 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 this issue in light of the progress the Research Council is making with the University Administration 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 we would like to maintain their voice on the Council. Although we understood that "career protection" motivated this wording, recusal from review of grants from members of their department/college has always been sufficient protection from conflict of interest for members of the Research Council.

After a brief discussion, President Tyson stated that the issue should be tabled until Chair Tockman is present to discuss it in detail.

6. The Vice President for Research has requested to review the Research Council nominations before they are forwarded to the Provost. Chair Schneider pointed out that this procedure is not in the Research Council charge, but was done in the past as a courtesy. Discussion was held. It was decided that when the nominations and curriculum vitae are forwarded to the Provost, a copy of the same be sent to the Vice President of Research as a "for your information" only.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda for March Faculty Senate Meeting

The following items will be on the March Faculty Senate meeting: Anthony Llewellyn, Director of Academic Computing, and term limits on committees and councils.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

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