

2001

AY 2000/2001 SEC meeting minutes: 00 Nov 29

Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/fs_pubs

Scholar Commons Citation

Faculty Senate, "AY 2000/2001 SEC meeting minutes: 00 Nov 29" (2001). *Faculty Senate Archives*. 92.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/fs_pubs/92

This Agenda/Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Archives by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

USF Faculty Senate Archives

SEC Minutes

November 29, 2000

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 29, 2000

MINUTES

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

Provost's Office: David Stamps, Tennyson Wright

President's Office: Josue Cruz

Guests: Steve Permuth

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of November 1, 2000 were approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Nancy Tyson)

President Tyson's report consisted of the following announcements:

- On November 27, 2000, President Tyson attended a reception sponsored by the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce for the Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation at the Women's Center of University Community Hospital. She attended the reception in order to talk with as many representatives as possible to impress upon them the need for a regulatory, coordinating body between the education commission and the local governing bodies of the individual universities. Everyone with whom President Tyson talked agreed with her, but said that the people who really needed convincing are in Tallahassee. She also asked everyone with whom she talked not to approve anything that would cut back teaching funding for the University of South Florida (USF).
- There has not been a great deal of activity regarding the plagiarism pilot project. President Tyson has had only two inquiries on the project. Therefore, during the upcoming break she will contact the company who maintains the plagiarism site and ask for an extension through the first two months of spring semester. This will allow

those faculty who have signed up for the project to include it in their syllabi. In addition, she will check with the company about the privacy issues.

- President Tyson plans to meet with the Bylaws Committee and the Chair of the Committee on Committees to look at the way the committee and nomination process works to determine if it can be more rational, more controllable, and more organized. She will try to come back to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) with a report early next semester.
- Dr. Samuel Bulmash was thanked for serving on the SEC as the representative of the Graduate Council to replace Chair Dr. Alan Sear who had a scheduling conflict this semester.
- President Tyson is ready to send out her open letter to the university community asking everyone to contact the Education Governance Reorganization Transition Task Force to speak in favor of having a regulatory, coordinating body over the State University System.

INTERIM PROVOST'S REPORT (David Stamps)

The Provost's report centered around the Education Governance Reorganization Transition Task Force (EGRTTF) and what is occurring in terms of that group. He pointed out that the EGRTTF is on a very fast track. At the last Board of Regents (BOR) meeting, even the Regents felt that the EGRTTF wants to make a report in this session in terms of higher education because they really want to spend most of their time dealing with K-12. The university presidents, the vice presidents for academic affairs, the administrators, and lawyers all believe that if we want any input it must be done as soon as possible.

At this time, to aid in his report, Provost Stamps distributed copies of the EGRTTF's Structure and Function Worksheet #1 with suggested revisions by the Council of Academic Vice Presidents. He pointed out that this was a political document, and that the Vice Presidents generally felt that if they were was negative and extremely critical then no one would listen to them. He also intimated that the position statement at the end of the document did not reflect a unanimous opinion. One recommendation in the document is that the local boards should become much more powerful by shifting responsibility from the Florida Board of Education to the local boards. In addition, the roles of the university presidents in the process need to be made clear because currently their roles are undefined.

The Council of Academic Vice Presidents reviewed each of the fifty-three activities listed in the Worksheet and recommended where those activities should exist with respect to the presidential responsibility. It is clear, however, that the Florida Board of Education will maintain the right to hire and fire presidents, and the VP's are very much opposed to it because the FBE does not have sufficient information to do so. Also, collective bargaining will be at the local level as opposed to the Florida Board of Education. Provost Stamps indicated that the Council of Academic Vice Presidents, the Vice Presidents for Administrative Affairs, the Council of Administrators, and the Council of Attorneys are all working on their own draft recommendations for the structure and function of the university governance system. Eventually there will be one document submitted by the Council of Presidents that synthesizes all of the deliberations of all the administrative entities and represents all of the universities within the SUS. The Provost pointed out that the overriding factors which should be kept in mind are that this process is on a very fast track, that there should be very strong local boards, and that the role of the presidents needs to be better defined.

With regard to the issue of the sexual harassment workshops, Provost Stamps announced that he is sending out a statement to all the deans and department chairs that attendance at the workshops is not mandatory, and that attendees do not have to sign statements. In addition, people who have signed a statement can have it back if they so desire. Vice Provost Wright pointed out that this should also resolve the two grievances that have been filed by the United Faculty of Florida because it removes the issue off the table. President Tyson volunteered to send out an e-mail message to the Faculty Senate informing them of the Provost's action so that the perception is corrected. Vice Provost Wright felt that President Tyson's message to the Faculty Senate would be helpful because he had committed to work with the Faculty Senate and the United Faculty of Florida and bring back to the Faculty Senate a communication on what was going to take place. Now that the Provost had resolved the issue, that would preclude Vice Provost Wright from reporting back to the Faculty Senate.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

Senate Vacancy (James Vastine)

Distinguished University Professor Michael Knox has recommended Professor John Ward from the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to fill a Faculty Senate vacancy for that area. Secretary Vastine moved that Professor Ward be appointed for the remainder of the 2000-2001 Academic Year until the elections are held in the Spring Semester 2001. This will fill the existing vacancies on the Faculty Senate for the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

GUEST REPORT

Education Governance Reorganization Transition Task Force (Steve Permuth)

Professor Steve Permuth from the College of Education gave the following report on the EGRTTF. The Blue Ribbon Task Force, of which Dr. Permuth was a member, was a committee of thirty-seven people. Part of the responsibility of this task force was to reflect on a change to the Constitution of the State of Florida that mandated that the State Board of Education, as it is now constituted, change to become an appointed board. As of January 7, 2003, the present board will no longer exist. The governor will appoint a seven member committee that will serve as a State Board of Education which, in turn, will determine the Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Education will have the responsibility for the appointment of three officers – the head of the K-12 system, the head of the community college system, and head of the university, all reporting to the commissioner. The thirty-seven member task force provided two models for legislative consideration: 1) a status quo model that the Legislature rejected in four and a half minutes; and 2) a superboard model that was passed with some modifications. Among the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Task Force was the need for a transition committee whose responsibility was to take us from where we are now to where we will be on January 7, 2003. Dr. Permuth has volunteered or "been volunteered" to be an observer of this transition committee and to work with them and is available to share information with faculty and administrators. His travel expenses are paid, but he receives no other pay. He serves "no master" but "his conscience and academic freedom."

Dr. Permuth stated that the members of the transition committee are intelligent and capable of asking good questions and making hard choices. The question is what information are they provided and what are some of the concerns that they have. Some of the concerns Dr. Permuth hears about are the spreading of fear throughout the state and the committee's concern about what people are hearing: that tenure is a lost cause, for instance, and that

people will lose medical benefits. Dr. Permuth does not sense those motives. According to Dr. Permuth, if there is a weakness with the committee it is because they do not know, and the strength is that they know they do not know and are asking good, penetrating questions.

He reiterated Provost Stamps' comment that the task force is on a very fast track and higher education is now the priority of the entire process. The agenda is that the focus of this change is K-12. This coming March the task force will report on the issues of structure and accountability and will try to do things in a way that brings together a one system management information data base where the data is constant and consistent dealing with issues of remedial education. The transition committee's responsibility is to develop a planning mechanism to allow for a smooth transition on January 7, 2003. Dr. Permuth indicated that the committee is looking for alternatives on how to do things, rather than forgetting about them. Again, the transition task force is asking hard questions regarding the local boards, who will head these boards, and what these people will be called. Dr. Permuth suggested to President Tyson to assure that faculty representation throughout the state is available and to be constantly alert not only to problems but to opportunities.

Dr. Permuth has not found the transition task force to be negative unless they do not get answers. If the members of the task force do not know, they will ask. There are no assumptions made by these people; it is who approves, and not a question of whether. He pointed out that everyone should make sure they are informed of what the facts are not, not necessarily what the truth is. In addition, Dr. Permuth added that if USF and the faculty and its Senate want it to be a dramatic opportunity then it will be; if not, that is all right too. He reminded the members that the EGRTTF will be meeting in Tampa on January 8 and 9, 2001. The location of the meeting will be announced at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Untenured Faculty on Research Council

With regard to the issue of untenured faculty on the Research Council, Chair Melvyn Tockman provided the SEC with a proposal for a revised change in the membership section of the Research Council charge. Chair Tockman explained that in the past, the Research Council had been limited just to approving internal grants that had been made available throughout the university. However, there were many other issues having to do with opportunities, incentives and policies for research at the university especially as it moved toward becoming a Research I institute. The Research Council is taking a greater role in that and some of the products of that activity will be becoming apparent. In its deliberations, the Research Council felt it was important to have as broad a representation of the faculty on the council as possible. After discussing the issue of why academic rank and tenure might be important criteria, the Research Council came to the conclusion that there really is no barrier to untenured or junior ranked faculty participating in the discussions of the Research Council. Given that context, the Research Council voted unanimously on the following revision to the membership section of its charge:

All appointees should be faculty who have demonstrated productivity in research or other creative activity. Neither tenure nor academic rank should be criteria for appointment to the Research Council.

In addition, Chair Tockman has been contacted by students as to whether or not there should be student representation on the Research Council. The Research Council felt there should not be student representation. Therefore, the changes to the membership portion of the Research Council charge reflect that only faculty be members and that

neither tenure nor academic rank should be criteria.

Parliamentarian Mandell suggested that there should be some indication of the level of productivity such as exceptional productivity rather than "demonstrated productivity" because the Research Council is reflective of the highest standards of the university and there are levels of productivity. Therefore, the level of productivity should be distinguished. In addition, Parliamentarian Mandell expressed another concern regarding young faculty. Although service is important for tenure, there are some types of service that take far more time than others. She feels that young faculty are shown a disservice if they are put on a council which requires a great amount of time where they would be better served putting that time into the research that would lead to tenure. She indicated that there should be some policy that is protective of the young faculty.

Chair Tockman responded that the Research Council did address this issue and it was thought that the nomination to this council would go through the dean of the college. In this way, the faculty are not self-nominated but approved by the college dean. Undergraduate Chair Pendyala stated that one protective option would be to amend all of these types of councils (Graduate, Undergraduate, and Research) to include a provision that nominations to these councils must also be signed by either a department chair and/or the dean. However, it was pointed out that doing nominations this way would give the dean veto power. Undergraduate Chair Ram Pendyala clarified that the dean could look at whether or not this nomination would be consistent with the assignment of duties of the individual. When used in this manner, it would act more as a filtering mechanism. Acting Graduate Chair Samuel Bulmash stated that neither the department chair nor the dean should have veto power. It should be up to the faculty to make the decision to serve on a council. It was agreed not to include that the nominees should be approved by a department chair or dean.

Discussion was held regarding the addition of demonstrated "exceptional" productivity in research to the revised membership section of the Research Council charge. Senator-at- Large Paveza recommended that the Committee on Committees deliberately consider the statement "with demonstrated productivity in research" in reviewing Research Council nominations, and make sure there is ample discussion about whether the curriculum vitae meets that criterion.

Acting Graduate Chair Bulmash moved that the SEC accept the language as presented. The motion was seconded. Secretary Vastine brought up the fact that this issue should be referred to the Committee on Committees. Therefore, Chair Bulmash withdrew his motion and the issue will be sent to the Committee on Committees.

2. Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee

Discussion regarding the Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee will take place next semester.

3. Parking and Transportation Services Advisory Committee

President Tyson distributed an alternative to the proposed charge for the Parking and Transportation Services Advisory Committee (PATSAAC) (see attachment). Discussion was held regarding the appointment of a representative from each regional campus. Senator-at-Large Paveza strongly recommended that there should be a representative from each regional campus. However, President Tyson brought up the issue of not having a quorum in order to conduct committee business. Parliamentarian Mandell

suggested having one person represent the regional campuses as a group, and then have the responsibility rotate by giving them one-year terms. Discussion also took place regarding the grouping of colleges, such as Business Administration/Education. President Tyson indicated that there was not enough time at this point to consider the alternative charge. Therefore, she proposed that it be put on the agenda for the next SEC meeting.

Senator-at-Large Paveza recommended that this charge be referred to the Committee on Committees before it comes back to the SEC. It was decided that the Committee on Committees should meet in January to consider this charge, along with the proposed revisions to the Research Council charge.

NEW BUSINESS

USF Exit Survey for Faculty

President Tyson stated that the Faculty Senate has agreed to act as a clearinghouse for receipt of faculty exit surveys which Past President Janet Moore discussed at the last meeting. The survey is for faculty who have left the university, to find out why they have left the university in order to determine if anything can be done to improve retention of under-represented faculty. President Tyson's concern is to make sure that there is nothing in the survey which would offend people who left because they were not rehired. Parliamentarian Mandell pointed out that the information could be gathered in such a way that it is constructive so long as there are no legal ramifications which would have to be addressed by the Office of the General Counsel.

At this time, Vice Provost Wright offered additional background on the issue. This subject is on the table because there has not been a way to consistently obtain feedback from faculty who leave the university, especially minorities and women. This information is important because USF wants to do the best possible job of retaining individuals in these categories and to know if there are problems that need to be corrected or something that would increase the retention of under-represented faculty. When Human Resources was contacted to find out what kind of mechanism was in place to gather this information, it was discovered that there is an exit interview currently on the USF web page. When Vice Provost Wright found out from Ms. Sandra Conway that the interview was not widely used, he asked Associate Vice President of Diversity Initiatives Denys Blell to convene a committee to look at what could be done to enhance both the recruitment and retention of under-represented populations. That is why the exit interview is being looked at. The document that is being proposed by the committee is called the "USF Exit Survey for Faculty." Feedback on this survey is going to committee member Past President Moore, who is then to go back to the full committee which in turn will report to Vice Provost Wright who will report to Provost Stamps. Vice Provost Wright pointed out that it is important that the SEC view the document on the web so that anything that is recommended is either an amendment to that document or is independent of the web-based document.

President Tyson realized that the SEC members did not have copies of the web-based document to which Vice Provost Wright referred. That was why Vice Provost Wright felt it important for him to attend today's meeting to be of any assistance that he could. He then clarified that Past President Moore is asking for feedback on the Exit Survey for Faculty form which was drafted by the committee. Vice Provost Wright wanted to provide the SEC with additional background, as well as alert them to the fact that there is a web-based process that is currently available. He indicated that Ms. Conway has expressed a willingness to amend the current document to include any additional items recommended by the committee and the Faculty Senate, but that there should not be two separate processes.

In addition, the role of the Faculty Senate was clarified in that it will collect and return the surveys to the appropriate person, but will not do any analysis. In return, the Faculty Senate would have access to the results. President Tyson will take up this issue with the SEC at the beginning of the Spring Semester. In the meantime, she will send out the URL of the web survey to the SEC members to prepare them to take a close look at the exit survey in more detail in order to provide a better analysis and take a more informed position.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

**GO BACK
TO PREVIOUS
PAGE**

**RETURN TO
THE
MAIN PAGE**

© *University of South Florida Library - Special Collections Department, 1995-2000*



Last Modified