

2001

AY 2000/2001 SEC meeting minutes: 00 Nov 01

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SEC Minutes

November 1, 2000

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 1, 2000

MINUTES

Present: Samuel Bulmash, William Janssen, William Kearns,
Suresh Khator, Janet Moore, Gregory Paveza, Ram
Pendyala, Melvyn Tockman, Nancy Tyson, James
Vastine

Provost's Office: David Stamps, Phil Smith

Guests: John Jackson, Robert Sullins

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of October 4, 2000 were approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Nancy Tyson)

President Tyson's report consisted of the following announcements:

- While at the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) meeting in Tallahassee last month, President Tyson inquired about the issue of tenure to the effect that if the Board of Regents (BOR) is dissolved tenure would also go away. The response she received from two high-ranking BOR people was that tenure, for those who already have it, is a right of property. It is not contingent on whether or not the BOR exists, but it is a right of property. However, people who are not yet tenured (junior faculty and graduate students coming up in the future of the profession) will have very little security. In addition, these high-ranking individuals suggested the strong possibility that one motivation behind this whole attack on the BOR was that it is part of an on-going, nationwide effort, to attack the tenure system.

President Tyson indicated that the main business at this meeting of the ACFS was to form a concerted effort as the leaders of the Faculty Senates at the state universities to petition the Education Governance Reorganization Task Force to implement a regulatory, coordinating body over the State University System (SUS) to stand between the central education authority and the local governing boards over the universities. Therefore, the ACFS leaders formed a resolution that they would go back to their campuses and communities and ask everyone to contact five people outside

the university to e-mail the governor, lieutenant governor, their respective legislative delegation, and the Education Governance Reorganization Task Force to speak in favor of having a regulatory, coordinating body over the SUS. President Tyson will send out an e-mail set up so that there is one link for individuals to click on to contact all of these people at one time. She pointed out that this would be an action of the ACFS and not as an action of the individual Faculty Senates.

- The Education Governance Reorganization Task Force will be meeting in Tampa on January 8 and 9, 2001.

INTERIM PROVOST'S REPORT (David Stamps)

The Provost's report consisted of the following:

- Two weeks prior, Dr. Stamps attended a PEPC (Postsecondary Education Planning Commission) meeting in St. Petersburg. This group is doing the study for the Reorganization Task Force and the Commission reported on the following three structures under consideration for the Task Force: (1) a coordinating board for K-14, (2) a coordinating board for higher education, and (3) no board.
- The Strategic Planning Process (SPP) is currently underway. All units within the university have been asked to be involved in a SPP and that these units would start with the 2000 Strategic Plan by developing both long and short term measurable goals based upon the five areas outlined in the plan. With these goals, the university will be able to measure progress. The idea is that in developing these goals each unit would be expected to show how they can reallocate existing resources to meet goals and then to show where additional resources will be reallocated to accomplish a goal. The Provost pointed out that there are two university-wide goals that have to do with enrollment that all strategic plans should incorporate. One of these goals is to increase the number of First-Time-In-College (FTIC) students to 5,000 per year by 2003. Connected to that is an attempt to attract a higher quality of students by offering an additional \$1,500 in scholarship money to Bright Futures students who have a 3.5 grade point average or above. Students with a 3.2 grade point average will be provided with a scholarship of an additional 25 percent so that they will have a full scholarship. Both groups will be admitted on-site by recruiters. By doing this, more money will be released for other students.

At the graduate level, the idea is to increase enrollment so there will be a better mix between undergraduate and graduate enrollment. The goal is to move toward having a graduate enrollment of 25 percent, up from 18 percent. In order to do this, the focus will be on the departments. The trend will be changed by selecting five or six departments and providing them with money to bring their graduate stipends up to at least within 10 percent of the national average. In addition, graduate students are asking for insurance coverage. The University of South Florida (USF) will look into providing some funding for insurance for some graduate students.

Another method being used to attract students is through offering foundation fellowships. Last year USF awarded five \$20,000 fellowships and these fellowships are continuing this year. In addition, \$20,000 presidential fellowships have been offered. The ultimate goal is to offer at least fifty such \$20,000 fellowships at the doctoral level. These fellowships will make USF more competitive.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

1. Senate Vacancy (James Vastine)

Secretary Vastine moved that Professor James Cavendish of the College of Arts and Sciences be appointed for a one-year term on the Faculty Senate until general elections can be held. This appointment would replace the vacancy created by the resignation of Senator Cynthia Kasee. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

2. Other

Discussion was held regarding the processing of out-of-cycle nominations for committees and councils in a more timely manner. It was recommended that the review process be done via e-mail in order to speed up the process of filling existing vacancies.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Plagiarism on the Internet

President Tyson announced that there is a trial period being offered by "Turnitin.com" which runs through November 15, 2000 (see attachments). President Tyson sought approval at today's meeting to register for the trial while it is still available. The Instructional Technology and Distance Learning Council endorses the test of such a software on USF campuses with the following caveats: student privacy and copyright, the effectiveness of the algorithms used to detect plagiarism, the optional use of this software, and the implication by use of this software that students are judged guilty until proven innocent by this mechanism. The majority of the members agreed that as long as the faculty indicated in their syllabus that student papers may be used on the plagiarism software, this could possibly deter plagiarism by means of notification. Senator-at-Large Gregory Paveza moved that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) empower President Tyson to register for the trial period on the plagiarism software called Turnitin.com, announce it at the Faculty Senate, and ask for volunteers. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Additional discussion was held regarding the legality of using a piece of a student's work as evidence which may be potentially used against them if they are engaged in an activity such as plagiarism. In addition, the question of the licensing agreement was discussed. It was recommended that President Tyson obtain an opinion on these two issues from the Office of the General Counsel and report her findings at the next SEC meeting.

2. Enrollment Projections

This item was dealt with in the Provost's report, so no further discussion was needed.

3. Committee Nominations

President Tyson announced that there were some problems with the committee nominations which were approved at the October 18th Faculty Senate meeting. The motion to approve the nominees from the floor should not have been entertained and passed. One nominee was ineligible due to being on a temporary appointment, another was ineligible due to the nominee's untenured status. After consulting Robert's Rules of Order, President Tyson determined that the action can be declared null and void. In addition, it is not clearly specified in the Bylaws as to what should happen when

nominations are made from the floor. Therefore, those two parts of the nomination have been overturned, and President Tyson will propose an alteration to the Bylaws Committee to be put forward at the next Faculty Senate meeting that would then be voted on at the January Faculty Senate meeting.

Research Council Chair Melvyn Tockman brought up the issue of nominating members to the Research Council with regard to whether or not they are tenured. President Tyson clarified that it was felt by a number of members present at the last Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting that untenured faculty could get into situations which would be politically harmful to them in the course of the deliberations of the Research Council that might have ramifications on their untenured situation. Chair Tockman indicated that the principle of selecting only tenured faculty gets away from having new, younger and creative faculty members voicing their opinions as to what is important for young faculty members in the conduct of research on campus. He felt that a valuable perspective would be lost by having only tenured faculty members on the council. President Tyson pointed out that the decision was made not due to eligibility, but as a matter of concern for the individual. Due to time constraints, this issue was tabled and will be revisited at the November 29th SEC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Grade Scanning (Robert Sullins and John Jackson)

Undergraduate Studies Dean Robert Sullins announced that within a year or two it is anticipated that grades will be done as direct entry or grade on-line. However, in the meantime Information Technology (IT) has proposed moving to grade scanning rather than the current entry system. Eventually, the grade entry will be web-based. Mr. John Jackson, from Informational Technology, distributed a sample grade roster which would be scanable. He indicated that the main reason for going to grade scanning is a result of the implementation of the plus/minus system. Mr. Jackson pointed out that a positive of this system is that by the time the grades are turned into IT, they can be available to students within one day versus the three days it now takes to process them. Dean Sullins would like to do a pilot this term and to have the system fully operational by the spring term. He indicated that University Registrar, Angela DeBose, is concerned about faculty reactions and that is why the Faculty Senate is being approached. He feels that this is the technology USF should be using. The SEC members felt it appropriate for this issue to be presented by Mr. Jackson at the November Faculty Senate meeting during which time there will be a solicitation for volunteers.

2. Faculty Exit Questionnaire

Past President Janet Moore attended today's meeting to discuss a workgroup convened by Associate Vice President of Diversity Initiatives Denys Blell called at the request of Vice Provost Tennyson Wright to look at under-represented faculty and staff. The workgroup is making recommendations to move USF along toward more representation of minorities. One finding of the workgroup has been the lack of information available for determining if there are retention problems, the lack of exit interviews, and the general difficulty involved with examining these issues. Although there is an exit questionnaire on the web, it is not used. Past President Moore proposed to the SEC that this workgroup would like to have a different exit questionnaire for faculty than for staff, and have more leading questions than what are on the current web site. In addition, she felt that people would trust that the exit

questionnaire would be used for the right reasons if it came from and was sent back to the Faculty Senate. In order for this not to be a burden upon the Faculty Senate, the completed questionnaires would be sent to the Faculty Senate and from there be processed by the Office of Diversity Initiatives. The Faculty Senate would make sure the responses were kept anonymous, but that an appropriate process was occurring to keep track of the information. Once the information was gathered, the Faculty Senate would have access to it from the Office of Diversity Initiatives. Past President Moore would be working with the Faculty Senate for a faculty exit questionnaire while a similar process would be worked on with the USPS employees for a staff exit questionnaire. She asked if the Faculty Senate would like to review a paper/pencil exit questionnaire process that could possibly be made available also on the web with all faculty being invited to respond. She asked if the Faculty Senate would be interested in receiving the completed questionnaires from faculty to forward to the Office of Diversity Initiatives. General data about faculty retention would also be made available to the Faculty Senate.

Discussion was held. It was agreed that this information could be useful to look at trends in the recruitment and retention of faculty. President Tyson asked Past President Moore to provide a copy of the exit interview form to the SEC to review and make comments. In addition, she indicated that the Faculty Senate could serve as a clearinghouse to receive the forms for processing, as well as have access to the results. Past President Moore indicated that the workgroup for Under-represented Faculty and Staff would work toward that end.

3. University Bookstore

President Tyson announced that she had been contacted by Ms. Grace McQueen, Director of the University Bookstore, with a request for her to be on the agenda for the November Faculty Senate. President Tyson advised against the request. Discussion was held and it was agreed that Ms. McQueen should address the Faculty Senate with answers to some of the concerns which were raised at the October meeting. However, it was recommended that Ms. McQueen should first attend a SEC meeting to filter some of the concerns and to have answers to questions raised and comments made by the Senators. President Tyson will ask her to attend a meeting post Spring Break.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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