

2006

AY 2005/2006 FS meetings minutes: 05 Oct 19

Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2005

Faculty Senate President Susan Greenbaum called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Minutes from the Faculty Senate meetings of April 20, 2005 and September 21, 2005 were approved.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT SUSAN GREENBAUM

Faculty Senate President Greenbaum stated that there would be no oral committee reports except for those requiring action in order for the Senate to be able to discuss the Shared Governance report at length.

President Greenbaum reported on the email from the statewide Advisory Group for Faculty Senates group regarding the controversy between the Board of Governors and a task force of the Board of Education looking at four-year degrees in community colleges and also suggesting that community colleges also offer masters degrees. There also was some discussion about including on-line colleges in state funding. These issues are related to the governance matters to be discussed.

The Shared Governance report is descriptive, not prescriptive. The committee members have studied the matter and presented some conclusions, but not necessarily recommendations. The Senate has the latitude to take the next step and offer recommendations. The Senate Executive Committee has crafted a resolution that would take that next step. Therefore, there are two parts to the Shared Governance discussion, one to accept the report, and the second to discuss the means by which it can be implemented.

The University of South Florida will celebrate its 50th anniversary. President Greenbaum is Co-Chair of that committee. John Ward is also on the committee. There is a website that was recently established: www.usf.edu/50 which includes links to events. President Genshaft donated her \$35,000 bonus to fund the anniversary committee. Senate President Greenbaum encouraged everyone to visit the website and participate in planning events.

REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT JUDY GENSHAFT

President Genshaft reported that she was not going to give a detailed report as she had just concluded her annual address which can be accessed on the university's website. The university is watching Hurricane Wilma very closely.

The hurricane is due to make landfall in Florida on Saturday and the homecoming game is scheduled for Saturday night.

REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY PROVOST RENU KHATOR

The university has had more than 100 successful faculty searches in the past year. USF now is the 15th in the country in the total number of Latino faculty and 23rd in terms of new hires of Latino faculty. The search for the College of Business Administration Dean is progressing. Four candidates have been introduced, feedback is being reviewed, and one or two may be invited back for the next steps. The Graduate School Dean search has started and the committee is gathering the pool of candidates. They have been encouraged to be diverse. The search committee for the Dean of International Affairs started two weeks and the committee is getting ready to advertise for candidates. The Vice President for Advancement search is getting under way. President Genshaft asked that Provost Khator head that committee. President Genshaft has hired a search firm to find the first Executive Director of the new Patel Center.

Regarding the Board of Governors' controversy, there is one item that should be of particular interest to the Faculty Senate. The BOG just released their accountability measures. There are seven academic accountability measures. The eighth accountability measure is fiscal accountability. It has been turned into four subgroups with four to six measures in each group. USF will be represented at a meeting of CFO's and we will determine how to work with this.

As a follow-up from the last Faculty Senate meeting, we sent the Moffitt agreement to Deans and Chairs involved with Moffitt.

REPORT FROM USF UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA PRESIDENT ROY WEATHERFORD

The grievance process which was hampered by the retirement of Phil Smith is up and running again. Bargaining is slow getting started because of an entirely new team, but they are at the table. The union is also very near to a negotiated settlement on the outstanding legal issues between the union and the university. The union is now looking at positive ways to achieve the same level of visibility and membership support that we need in order to continue to represent the faculty as effectively as possible. President Weatherford suggested that the possibility of legislative lobbying might be one avenue for positive cooperation. This idea came from Dr. Khator's statement at the last meeting that USF is seriously disadvantaged by some of the funding formulas that are used to distribute money from the state. This would be new to our faculty; however, community college faculty are well experienced and expected to advance the interest of their colleges. The union is considering a joint approach on a few specific topics work with the legislature in a positive manner, perhaps advancing

the general welfare of the university. President Weatherford asked for advice, recommendations on particular issues and how the union could approach this.

REPORT FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT VICE PRESIDENT JEREMIAH PEDERSON

The biggest problem in student government he sees is that segmentation is problematic. There are many sources of information throughout the campus; however, communication between the Student Senate and the Faculty Senate has been moderate at best. One of his goals is to construct a formal method of communication between the senates. The Student Senate is revising its Statutes which is the largest project the student government has taken on in a long time. Upon completion of the revised Statutes, the student government will be moving on to more project-oriented activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIONS

a. Committee on Committees (John Ward)

Senator Ward presented the slate of those nominated to serve on Faculty Senate committees which is attached. The Committee on Committees reviewed and approved the nominations, then presented them to the Senate Executive Committee which approved the slate. He stated that while most of the nominees would serve on the listed committees, there is a possibility that a few might better serve on a different committee, so he asked that the Senate approve the list as a list of qualified nominees rather than a list of nominees to serve on a specific committee.

On motion duly made and seconded, the slate of nominees was approved unanimously.

b. Structure Committee (Manny Donchin)

Senator Donchin introduced himself as the chairman of the new ad hoc committee to look at how to create the structure for shared governance. The committee wants to answer questions of the role of faculty in shared governance and who will represent faculty. Some of the ideas that have come forth are to elect senators to represent 15 – 20 faculty members rather than departments which will increase the number of senators by approximately 100 senators. Senate committees will not be comprised of senators, rather faculty, and will report to the Provost. The goal is to have a senate that can cooperate and share governance.

President Greenbaum reminded the Senate that Dr. Donchin was looking for committee members.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Honors and Awards Committee (Michael Barber)

In the absence of Chairman Rajan Sen, Senator Barber gave the report for the Honors and Awards Committee. The committee reviewed four nominees for honorary degrees and approved two, denied one and tabled on nomination.

Senator Barber then presented the two candidates who had been approved by the Honors and Awards Committee. The nominations were approved at the Senate Executive Committee meeting of October 5, 2005:

Leland M. Hawes, Jr.
Norman Dello Joio

After motion duly made and seconded, the two nominations were approved unanimously. The nominations will now be forwarded to President Genshaft.

President Greenbaum interrupted the order of the Agenda in order to leave the balance of the time of the meeting for discussion of Shared Governance by introducing an **Issue from the Floor**:

a. Retired Faculty Resolution (Fred Zerla and Al Wolfe)

Drs. Zerla and Wolfe presented a short history of USF's establishment of the Faculty Senate and union. They are currently part of the Association of Emeritus Faculty. The members of the group care about the university's future and toward that end, encourage strong faculty governance and maintenance of faculty rights.

Drs. Zerla and Wolfe presented a Policy Statement dated September 22, 2005 from the Association of Emeritus Faculty stating that they believe "the principle of faculty governance, like that of academic freedom, is an important principle that is fundamental in higher education" and that as professors emeriti, they "can serve a valuable function by reinforcing the principles that are the foundation of American Higher Education."

The Policy Statement from the Association of Emeritus Faculty for the University of South Florida is attached to these Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS (Cont.)

b. Shared Governance (Gregory McColm)

Dr. McColm reiterated that the Shared Governance report was descriptive, not prescriptive. The report contains a kit which is a presentation of ideas for

departments to follow when creating/updating their documents. The kit is not meant to be a template. Dr. McColm stated that since USF would like to be one of the top 50 research universities, it needs to have more formal, rational procedures.

There was discussion regarding the report. In response to the question that the report did not address how departmental budgets were set, Dr. McColm replied that there was a large amount of information on how departments function, budgets, etc. and the report is meant to be a guideline. It is not perfect, but outlines issues that need to be addressed.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Shared Governance report was accepted unanimously.

The Senate then began discussion on the next steps to be taken to implement its recommendations. President Greenbaum stated that the Senate Executive Committee wanted to create a realistic, effective and productive process that was a partnership between the Senate and the Administration to look at departmental governance and had drafted a Resolution to meet those goals.

One thought was to go to the Rules Committee that was created to establish rules a few years ago. That process created a good working relationship between Administration and the Senate. It also led to a new collective bargaining agreement that was an improvement. This is the process we would like to continue to suggest that all departments should have written governance documents. Any department having existing governance documents that have not been revised in a while should be strongly encouraged to review and update those documents.

Senator Ward read the proposed Resolution from the Senate Executive Committee:

WHEREAS the Report of the USF Faculty Senate ad hoc committee on Shared Governance (October 2005) indicated that there may be many USF academic departments that do not have written governance documents available to faculty within their departments, or they have documents that have not been reviewed in many years; and

Whereas the majority of the USF Faculty Senate affirm the importance of having written departmental governance documents that are deemed satisfactory by the members of each academic department;

Be it therefore known that we, the members of the USF Faculty Senate, hereby request that:

1) The President of the Faculty Senate and the President of the University appoint a joint committee to review existing guidelines for shared governance including those proposed by the Faculty Senate in 2003 and those included in the above mentioned report of the Faculty Senate ad hoc Committee on Governance, to compose suggested protocols for construction, content and promulgation of departmental governance documents. It is further requested that this committee be appointed by December 1, 2005, and the guidelines be presented to the Provost and Vice President for Health Sciences for approval by March 15, 2006.

2) The Provost and the Vice President of the Health Science Center instruct the departments within their respective units to compose or update departmental governance documents, new or revised documents to be presented to the Deans and Provost/Vice President for Health Sciences by the end of the fall semester 2006, to be posted on the respective USF academic department websites.

In response to President Greenbaum's request for questions from the floor, Senator Donchin read an amended proposed Resolution:

WHEREAS orderly governance in a University is best achieved when the structure and responsibilities of the various elements of the governance system and limits and extent of their powers be articulated in a Constitution, and

Whereas the absence of such a constitution at the University of South Florida inhibits and retards with the achievement of shared governance at the University, and

Whereas the Faculty Senate adopted a resolution in 2003 that assigned high priority to the establishment of true shared governance at USF it is important that the explicit governance documents, including a University Constitution, be developed at all levels of the University's governance, and

WHEREAS the Report of the USF Faculty Senate ad hoc committee on Shared Governance (October 2005) indicated that there may be many USF academic departments that do not have written governance documents available to faculty within their departments, or they have documents that have not been reviewed in many years; and

Whereas the majority of the USF Faculty Senate affirm the importance of having written departmental governance documents that are deemed satisfactory by the members of each academic department;

Be it therefore known that we, the members of the USF Faculty Senate, hereby request that:

1) The President of the Faculty Senate and the President of the University appoint a joint committee to review existing guidelines for shared governance including those proposed by the Faculty Senate in 2003 and those included in the above mentioned report of the Faculty Senate ad hoc Committee on Governance, to compose suggested protocols for construction, content and promulgation of both a University Constitution and of departmental governance documents. It is further requested that this committee be appointed by December 1, 2005, and the guidelines for departmental guidelines be presented to the Provost and Vice President for Health Sciences for approval by March 15, 2006. Guidelines for a University Constitution be presented for an early discussion no later than August 2006.

2) The Provost and the Vice President of the Health Science Center instruct the departments within their respective units to compose or update departmental governance documents, new or revised documents to be presented to the Deans and Provost/Vice President for Health Sciences by the end of the fall semester 2006, to be posted on the respective USF academic department websites. In those departments that have already adopted Bylaws the process of updating, should the department deem it necessary, must conform to the Bylaws revision processes as defined in the existing Bylaws.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Resolution and the amended proposed Resolution. Concern was expressed about meshing the University Constitution with departmental shared governance documents. It was pointed out that the University needs a Constitution; departments and colleges need shared governance documents. Concern also expressed that it is not productive to put off having departments draft governance documents until after the Constitution is crafted.

Other concerns were voiced regarding the timelines for creating the Constitution and having departments craft governance documents. It was felt that keeping the proposed timeline for departmental shared governance documents was very important.

Dr. Khator stated that the Faculty Senate should honor the work of the Shared Governance Committee and continue with creating departmental shared governance documents. She also will support the Constitution.

There was a motion made to remove the dates from the amended Resolution. It was voted to preserve the timeline as stated in the Resolution.

On motion duly made and seconded, the amended Resolution was adopted unanimously.

President Greenbaum asked for input from everyone on the work ahead to create a Constitution for the University and shared governance documents for the departments. She stated that the colleges and departments should be consulted.

ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

a. Senator Tauber stated that there is a problem with the time between final exams and the date grades are due. In some cases, it creates a hardship on the professor and graduate students to get exams graded in time to make the deadline when grades are due to the Registrar's office. The Senate Executive Committee is trying to get someone from the Registrar's office to come to an SEC meeting to discuss the problem.

President Greenbaum stated that she would invite the Registrar to come to the next Senate Executive Committee meeting; however, it may be too late to make any changes for this semester.

b. Senator Permuth objected to the tazering of students at football games and stated that the guidelines for tazering need to be reviewed.

President Genshaft stated that it is not our stadium and the university needs to work with the Hillsborough police. The Sports Authority never said they wouldn't tazer.

Senator Ward reported that the sheriff used excessive force at the football game in question and they violated their own policies and procedures.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.