

2007

AY 2006/2007 SEC meeting minutes: 06 Nov 01

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**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

November 1, 2006

Present: Michael Barber, Larry Branch, Ilene Frank, Susan Greenbaum, Dale Johnson, Kim Lersch, Pritish Mukherjee, Carol Mullen, Philip Reeder, Dewey Rundus, Steve Tauber, John Ward

Provost's
Office: Ralph Wilcox

Guests: Greg Teaque, John Calkins (*The Oracle*)

The Minutes from the October 4, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved.

**REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT
MICHAEL BARBER**

President Barber's report consisted of the following items:

- He will be meeting with the Lakeland faculty on November 16th and the Sarasota faculty on November 17th. The purpose of these visits is to let the faculty know their confidence is appreciated and welcome their involvement in shared governance. He will report the outcomes of these meetings to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) at the December meeting.
- Provost Khator has appointed a Peer Review Committee to review the charges that were brought against the current director of the Institute on Black Life. It is a six-person panel consisting of distinguished university professors, a director of an institute, and two Senate members. Discussion was held about the creation of ad hoc committees and how members are selected. It was agreed that the current policy on Peer Review Committees should be amended to automatically include Senate membership on such committees. As Chair of the Committee on Faculty Issues, Professor Branch was nominated to work with Vice Provost Dwayne Smith to propose an appropriate amendment.
- There are two Board of Trustee Workgroups meeting on Thursday, November 2 -- ACES and Health Sciences. President Barber plans to attend both of them.
- A meeting with the College Council Chairs is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th. Topic of discussion will be shared governance documents.
- The discussion about FMHI becoming a college has been tabled until a dean has been appointed. Dr. Philip Reeder, Chair of the Council on Educational Policy and Issues (CEPI), reported there is no established procedure for establishing a college, but did receive from Vice Provost Smith several potential options that may be followed. Chair Reeder was asked to keep the SEC apprised of any development on this issue.

- The Commitment to Honor statement presented by Dr. Janet Moore, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, on behalf of the Academic Integrity Committee will be on the November Faculty Senate agenda. A revised document incorporating Senate recommendations should be ready by that meeting.
- The Faculty Senate now has its own e-mail list. A policy should be implemented on what it can be used for and what kinds of topics are appropriate, keeping in mind that it is designed to promulgate Senate business to the faculty. As Chair of the Ad Hoc Communications Committee, Dale Johnson was asked to have that committee put together a draft policy on the use of the e-mail list.

REPORT FROM VICE PROVOST WILCOX (Ralph Wilcox)

On behalf of Provost Renu Khator, Vice Provost Wilcox reported on the following items:

- USF's proposed biomedical 21st Century Centers for Excellence proposal is at the top of the shortlist ranking. The "Florida Center for Excellence in Biomolecular Identification and Targeted Therapeutics" was ranked number one in Group 1 (highest-ranked). A second proposal called "Florida Center for Excellence in Pattern Recognition" was ranked at number 19. The Board of Governors will announce later this week which proposals will be funded for the coming year. Funding cost for USF's proposal would be \$10.5 million. Senator-at-Large Prithvi Mukherjee recommended to Vice Provost Wilcox that science chairs should have been notified of the process. The recommendation will be passed along to the people in charge.
- No word has been received yet on the status of the six proposals submitted for the 21st Century World Class Scholars Program.
- A preliminary draft of the Strategic Plan document will be disseminated via electronic mail to the university community for comment within the very near future. Vice Provost Wilcox reiterated that this process is building upon the first cycle of strategic planning and that the idea now is to reaffirm, refine, and focus more directly on where the university is going.
- The AAUP recently released a report on faculty-gender equity which was published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The report looked at gender gaps in proportional representation and faculty salaries at institutions of higher education at all levels across the United States. To this effect, Vice Provost Wilcox distributed a summary handout called *The Status of Women Faculty Members at USF – Comparison with National Peers and State University System of Florida, Research Universities 2005-06*. Vice Provost Wilcox pointed out that, compared with other Carnegie institutions, USF has the highest percentage of full-time faculty.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

a. Nominations from Committee on Committees (Kim Lersch)

COC Chair Lersch presented the following individuals who have been approved by the membership of the COC:

Mary Armstrong, Assistant Professor, FMHI	Commencement and Convocation Committee
Paul Camp, Librarian, Library	Commencement and Convocation Committee
Joan Morris, Instructor, Nursing	General Education Council
Jacqueline Reck, Associate Professor, School of Accountancy	Graduate Council
Patricia Blake-Rahter, Instructor, Communication Sciences and Disorders	Library Council
Vehkat Bhethanobotla, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering	Research Council

The nominations came to the SEC with a recommendation to accept. A motion was made and seconded to accept these nominations. The motion was unanimously passed.

COC Chair Lersch reported that a solicitation for nominations on University-Wide Committees and Councils was sent out via the new e-mail list the previous week. She encouraged the SEC members to recruit nominees from their colleges. Chair Lersch will also make an announcement at the November Senate meeting.

b. Library Council Update (Kim Lersch)

COC Chair Lersch reported that the Library Council has been revitalized. Professor Gail Donaldson volunteered to chair that council.

c. Faculty Handbook Update (Larry Branch)

Professor Branch, Chair of the Committee on Faculty Issues, reported that he and Senator Steve Permuth were the two representatives from the Faculty Senate asked to review the draft of the handbook. They have reviewed the handbook and will be meeting on November 9th with Vice Provost Dwayne Smith to discuss their recommendations. Chair Branch described the faculty handbook as an excellent first draft with no egregious omissions. A strong recommendation will be made that the next generation of the handbook is going to require conversations among the Administration, the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Union. There needs to be agreement of what the Faculty Handbook covers. A better idea of a completion timeframe will be available after the meeting with Vice Provost Smith.

d. Faculty Senate Research Council Survey Results (Carol Mullen/Greg Teague)

Research Council Chair Mullen and Past Chair Teague presented the results of the “USF Research Council Faculty Survey on Research Resources-Preliminary Report.” The purpose of the study was to assess faculty perceptions of the level of support for research and scholarly activities available to them at USF. Faculty perceptions were sought in the following areas: financial resources, material resources, human resources, intellectual/scholarly resources, administrative/academic support, and grant support. Demographic information about respondents was also requested. Principal investigators were Greg Teague, FMHI, Research Council, member and past chair, Carol Mullen, COE, Research Council Chair and Uday Murthy, COB, Research Council, past vice-chair. The goals were to ascertain levels of support and importance to faculty across the University of South Florida, identify current problems, and strengthen critical components of research infrastructure.

At this time, Chair Mullen and Past Chair Teague reviewed the following:

Background:

- Survey planning initiated through Research Council in 2005
- Iterative input and review by RC and Associate Deans for Research
- Posted on Web spring '06; optional short version
- Direct marketing to faculty via college associate deans and RC members

Respondents:

- 305 faculty members
- Representation from all colleges
- Approximately 1/3 of respondents in each rank (Prof.)
- Good representation from active researchers.

Summary: Selected Highlights:

- Ratings show meaningful substantive differentiation, identifying key areas for improvement
- Qualitative responses
- Implicit goal: efficiency, streamlining
- Implicit goal: culture change

Plans:

- Continue qualitative analysis, link findings to quantitative data
- Report to Senate, as indicated
- Use findings to inform Research Council deliberations
- Develop article(s) for publication
- Final report to Dr. Chang and Provost Khator (12/06)

Following Dr. Teague's presentation, a brief discussion occurred during which it was agreed that the same information would be presented at the November Faculty Senate Meeting. Dr. Bob Chang, Vice President for Research, will be invited to attend the meeting to help field questions from the Senators.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Volunteers for Ad Hoc Communications Committee (Dale Johnson)

Secretary Johnson announced that Senators Nagwa Dajani, Chris Ferekides, Susan Greenbaum and Monica Metz-Wiseman volunteered to meet to discuss the web site which is currently being updated. In addition, the committee will talk about how the e-mail list should be used and develop a policy.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Ex-officio on Honors and Awards Council (Michael Barber)

President Barber reported he had received a request from the administration that the person who is Commencement Coordinator be added as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Honors and Awards Council. The Commencement Coordinator is responsible for making arrangements for the Honorary Degree recipients to attend Commencement. A motion was made and seconded to approve this request. During the discussion, it was pointed out that the charge for the Honors and Awards Council would have to be revised reflecting this change. The revised charge will then be circulated to the members of the council for approval before it is processed through the appropriate channels. There was a call to question. The motion to add the Commencement Coordinator as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Honors and Awards Council was unanimously passed.

b. Discussion on What the Faculty Senate is asking for when it asks for shared governance documents (Pritish Mukherjee)

Due to the lack of time, this issue was tabled until the December meeting.

FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Research Council Faculty Survey on Research Resources
2. Commitment to Honor Statements

Other agenda items should be e-mailed to President Barber.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.