

2008

AY 2007/2008 FS meetings minutes: 07 Oct 17

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FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2007

Faculty Senate President Michael Barber called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of September 19, 2007, were approved as presented.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. Nominations from Committee on Committees (Philip Shenefelt)

Before the slate of nominees for Faculty Senate Standing Committees and Councils was presented, Faculty Senate President Barber announced that Committee on Committees (COC) Chair Kim Lersch had been appointed Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at the Lakeland campus and, therefore, had to resign as COC chair as well as from the Faculty Senate. As a member of the COC, Senator Philip Shenefelt volunteered to assume the duties as chair of the committee. At this time, he asked the Senators to review the nominations which had been approved by the COC and the Senate Executive Committee and were presented with a motion to accept. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed to accept the slate of twenty-six nominees.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Revised Code of Conduct for Financial Functions

President Barber explained that the document presented at today's meeting was a substantially revised copy from the previous version. He pointed out that most of the concerns that the faculty expressed have been addressed in this revised document. Extensive discussion took place at the October Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting and the officers felt that this was a much improved document and very reasonable. Although there was a split vote, the SEC was recommending the acceptance of this revised document. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Revised Code of Conduct for Financial Functions. The floor was opened for discussion.

One area of concern was an action stated in the document that employees "are prohibited from soliciting any gift from a vendor, lobbyist or political group and from accepting any gift worth more than \$100.00 from a vendor, lobbyist or political group." This would include textbooks given to faculty by vendors. Vice President Laurence Branch pointed out that this is in Florida's statute. He added that some faculty would like USF's lobbyists to address the issue with the Florida legislature since this kind of limit is not appropriate in the context of textbooks.

There was a call to question. A vote was taken and passed to accept this Revised Code of Conduct for Financial Functions.

b. New Classroom Scheduling Template (Laurence Branch)

The Florida Legislature recently passed a bill that will change the way universities receive funding. USF could be facing penalties in the new funding formula due to its low graduation rates. Furthermore, the use of current space is far behind the other schools which also affects requests for funding.

The major purpose of the Proposed USF Class Schedule is to turn USF from a four-day into a five day institution by better utilizing the existing space more effectively by regulating the timing of classes to enable students to register for the classes they need in order to graduate in a timely manner. Essentially, the three hour undergraduate credit courses that are offered three times a week for 50 minutes will go into the Monday, Wednesday, Friday template and three hour courses that meet for 90 minutes will go into the Tuesday, Thursday time slots. The proposed new schedule pertains to undergraduate students on the Tampa campus only. Graduate courses are not a part of the proposal.

Senator John Ward gave a synopsis of the SEC discussion whereby the overall opinion was that classrooms need to meet minimum technological and usable standards in order to meet the increased demand that the new classroom schedule would mandate. Vice Provost Wilcox added that during the past several weeks the administration has met with Student Government, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, department chairs, associate and assistant Deans. The driving factor has been the enhancement of student academic success. USF is not competing well in graduation rates and that is having a negative, financial impact on students and their parents. Increasingly over the last few months, they have expressed that students are not able to get the 12-15 credit hours that they need each semester in order to graduate. Hence, the new proposed classroom schedule. Vice Provost Wilcox added that all instructional space will be equipped to a certain level to insure adequate instructional technology.

As chair of the Council on Educational Policy and Issues (CEPI), Senator Emanuel Donchin commented that this type of change, i.e., classroom schedule pertains to educational policy, should have been brought first to that council. Discussion was held. A motion was made and seconded that the proposed new classroom schedule and principles be forwarded to CEPI for review with its findings and recommendations presented to the Senate Executive Committee at its October 31st meeting. The motion passed. President Barber added that everyone was welcome to send their comments to a member of the SEC.

c. Tenure & Promotion Guideline Reform for Community Engagement

Past President Susan Greenbaum was not at today's meeting. Therefore, this topic was postponed until the November meeting.

ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

President Barber announced Senator Emanuel Donchin was elected chair of the Council on Educational Policy and Issues. Professor Paul Terry was elected chair of the Committee on Faculty Issues. Both appointments are for the 2007-2008 academic year.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT JUDY GENSHAFT

President Genshaft's report consisted of the following items:

- Her appreciation of the examination of class schedules because of the importance of performance funding.
- A farewell and compliments to Provost Khator who will begin her new position as President and Chancellor at the University of Houston in January, 2008.
- Dr. Karen Holbrook will be joining USF on December 3, 2007, as Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation. Dr. Holbrook's credentials include President of Ohio State University, Vice President of Research for the University of Florida, and Provost of University of Georgia. In addition, Dr. Holbrook is a member of the Washington Advisory Group, as well as a member of many scientific review committees. She plans to be at USF for up to two years while the search for a permanent Vice President of Research takes place.
- The Legislature and the Board of Governors (BOG) has passed a mandatory 5 percent tuition increase effective January 2008. Bright Futures, on the other hand, will receive a 5 percent increase.
- The BOG is looking at whether or not they want to take on the approval of Master's degrees. The BOT is currently responsible for approving all Bachelor and Master's degrees. No conclusion on this decision has been reached.

REPORT FROM USF HEALTH DEAN AND VICE PRESIDENT STEPHEN KLASKO

In response to an invitation from Faculty Senate President Barber, Vice President Klasko attended today's meeting to talk about the role of USF Health in the strategic plan and his vision for the future of USF Health.

REPORT FROM PROVOST RENU KHATOR

Before giving her report, Provost Khator expressed her appreciation to everyone who has helped her along the way throughout her career at USF.

The Provost reiterated that the State of Florida will have additional budget cuts in July 2008. She strongly encouraged the budget advisory taskforce to continue the work it has been doing. It is significant for the university and the role of the faculty to continue the process.

Authorization has been received for all searches to move forward. Departments can now continue with their searches for individuals to fill faculty vacancies. The results of search for Dean of Libraries and Dean for the College of Marine Science will be announced in the near future.

In addition to the 5 percent tuition increase, USF will also be allowed to charge a 5 percent technology fee. The money received from the technology fee will be used to update classrooms.

REPORT FROM USF CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER MICHAEL PEARCE

Chief Technology Officer Pearce's report consisted of three areas: (1) the key technology challenges at USF, (2) how to begin to address these challenges through a technology strategic planning process and the importance of that process being aligned to the institutional strategic plan and the requirements and needs of the faculty and students, and (3) some of the issues that have come from meetings he has had thus far with faculty, deans, and student government.

REPORT FROM USF UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA (UFF) PRESIDENT SHERMAN DORN

UFF President Dorn's report consisted of the following items:

- Although the university has had to endure permanent budget reductions this fall, it did so without having to lay off employees. This should be viewed as a significant accomplishment. The reason why it happened was because the voices around the state including students, faculty, parents, administrators, newspapers, BOT, and BOG all gave the similar message that Draconian cuts would hurt this state. If there are program changes as a result of academic decisions, that is a different issue.
- In terms of the long term future, the United Faculty has started to make presentations at the open hearings of the Budget Tax and Reform Committee. This is the body that has the authority to place measures directly on the ballot.
- UFF has held its first bargaining session devoted to impact bargaining. Impact bargaining is not the usual cycle where the entire contract is bargained.
- Changing the formal promotion guidelines for USF requires either the assent of UFF or a year's wait before implementation. While UFF President Dorn is not sure if the draft document would change the formal guidelines, he does not anticipate any objection from UFF to using it, if that is the result of the Faculty Senate deliberations.
- Consultation with the administration is scheduled for Friday, October 19th.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT MICHAEL BARBER

President Barber reiterated that the Budget Advisory Task Force is very encouraged and it will continue its work.

Mr. Thomas Seamon's company, Hallcrest Systems, Incorporated, was engaged by Student Affairs to conduct a community survey and to look particularly at the University Police Department. Mr. Seamon met with the SEC to seek an evaluation of security and policing on campus. Faculty comments in terms of what they would like to see in terms of campus security may be sent to President Barber who will forward them to Mr. Seamon.

Former Senator Christopher Phelps has been appointed to the Institutional Compliance and Ethics Council. Professor Wade Weast has been recommended for appointment on the Standing Committee on Research Misconduct.

Guidelines for a new outstanding graduate education award have been forwarded to the Provost for consideration as a way to recognize those of the faculty who have a significant impact on graduate education.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.