

2009

AY 2008/2009 FS meetings minutes: 09 May 06

Faculty Senate

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**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
FACULTY SENATE
May 6, 2009**

Faculty Senate Vice President Steve Permut called this special meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. The purpose of today's meeting was to receive an update from President Judy Genshaft, Provost Ralph Wilcox, and Associate Vice President Mark Walsh on Legislative budget issues.

Before turning the floor over to Mr. Walsh to review the proposed 2009-2010 budget, President Genshaft thanked the faculty for their help with graduation ceremonies the previous weekend. The total number of graduates this year was 5,200 which is the largest group that has ever graduated from the University of South Florida.

To aid with his review, Mr. Walsh distributed documents showing the 2009/10 Budget by Operating Unit, as well as the 2009-2010 PECO Appropriations. He explained that the House and Senate were scheduled to vote on the budget on Friday, May 8, after which it would go to Governor Crist for no more than 15 days during which he had the opportunity to veto any items. Mr. Walsh pointed out that the budget is not finalized until the Governor signs it or does a line-item specific veto. Although any part of the budget could be amended, he felt confident it would not be voted down.

The following budget highlights were pointed out by President Genshaft, Provost Wilcox and Mr. Walsh:

- General revenue for the State of Florida, which is based upon sales and corporate income taxes, was down 25 percent or 65 billion dollars. Once the federal stimulus dollars are gone, a permanent source of revenue must be found. The stimulus funding will be split with one-half to be received this year, one-half next year.
- The increase in DMV fees and cigarette tax does not go into education.
- All universities have been given approval to increase tuition by up to 15 percent until Florida's tuition reaches the national average. Recurring add-back can be applied to any program or campus. Of the 15 percent, 30 percent will go back to financial aid. Tuition increase for Bright Futures students will be less than \$150; without Bright Futures, tuition increase will be \$300.
- Recurring base budget numbers: 36 million dollars lost in general revenue; 4 million dollars less in new lottery funds, and 19 million dollars less in new tuition, leaving a 13 million dollar recurring gap going into this year. However, the recurring gap will not go away and the cut will deepen.
- Undergraduate enrollment on the Tampa campus will be maintained and not allowed to grow. Other campuses will be allowed to grow undergraduate enrollment.

- Proposed 2 percent reduction in State salaries will not apply to university employees.
- An attempt is being made to garner more scholarships for students. Pell Grant funding has gone up 14 million dollars; the GI Bill by 7 million dollars.
- USF did receive 5 million dollars from mystery donor, 4 million of which to be used for scholarships for women and minorities.

PECO Appropriations

Mr. Walsh explained that PECO is a constitutionally created, separate account that is set aside for construction at public schools at all levels (K-12, community colleges, and universities). It is funded by “gross receipts tax,” such as taxes on communications, energy, etc.

- USF received approximately 25 percent of the total PECO money allocated for the State of Florida which was the most received this year by any university.
- The Interdisciplinary Science Teaching and Research Facility will be started in August, with anticipated completion in 2 ½ to 3 years.
- The Patel Center will be started in June; it is private money matched.
- Additional buildings on the Tampa campus, as well as the regional campuses, will be started, but these are funded through PECO or private funding, not general revenue.

Miscellaneous

- Although the Doctor of Pharmacy program was passed by the Board of Governors and the House, it did not get through the Senate at the higher education appropriation level because no new programs were allowed. The reason this program was going to the Legislature, is that it requires a license and the Legislature must approve the granting of licenses. The program will be resubmitted next year.
- The Johnnie Byrd Alzheimer’s Institute affiliation agreement will be codified to bring the institute under the umbrella of USF to give it a permanent home.

President Genshaft stated that she would not have a written report until after the budget has the Governor’s signature on it. After that, she will be communicating to the university community through e-mail. At this time, President Genshaft thanked Mr. Walsh for his contributions at today’s meeting.

Speaking on behalf of the Faculty Senate, Vice President Permuth thanked President Genshaft and Provost Wilcox for their willingness to attend this special meeting to share their thoughts. He commented that the Senate might call upon them once everything is done to have a similar gathering to talk about what things are official in all these realms and to then open them up to discourse.

Before adjourning, Vice President Permuth asked Provost Wilcox to provide him with a hard copy of the presentation he gave regarding tuition differential to be shared with the Senate.

Since presentation of the proposed budget was the only purpose of today's meeting, it was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.