

# Faculty Senate Meeting September 27, 2007

Dr. Manoj Chopra, *Faculty Senate Chair*, called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of **August 30, 2007** were approved unanimously as recorded.

## **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Chopra recognized guest and Administration.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Dr. Chopra Announcements:

- Dr. Chopra recognized new replacement senators: Drs. Betsy Von Holle, Essam Radwan, Robert Kenny, Joo Kim, and Kurt Young.
- At the Tallahassee Meeting of the Board of Governors on September 27<sup>th</sup>, there was discussion regarding medical school funding. President Hitt made a clear case to the legislature regarding commitments to the medical school at UCF.

### Provost's Report – Dr. J. Schell reporting for the Provost (attending meeting in Tallahassee)

The BOG meeting is important this month as the medical college decisions are anticipated; the 5% tuition increase for January was approved; we are waiting for legislative session to learn what the budget situation will be for higher education in the state. Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine is pursuing promotion this year and Dr. Schell will work with the committee; if there are any questions related to the P&T process, please address those to Dr. Schell.

Dr. Schell stated that he was pleased with the first two games in addressing faculty needs and concerns. October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 is going to be a College Game Day Open House where each college is arranging its own open house in an effort to showcase their academics and research, and show academics support for athletics and vice versa.

## **Old Business**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Student Government Association Platform - Brandi Hollinger, the President

Dr. Chopra introduced Brandi Hollinger to the senate as the first woman SGA president at UCF being that this is her first visit to the Faculty Senate. Ms. Hollinger spoke on behalf of herself as president and Mr. Berkowitz, Vice-president. She reviewed her platform affecting faculty: "Your campus, your decisions, your legacy". Decisions that they make on campus affect students and the university as a whole. Since taking office on May 8, 2007, the 19 of the 30 goals are completed at this point. Ms. Hollinger highlighted the five that affect faculty:

- Bridge the gap between faculty and students. The need to talk with faculty and discuss with faculty that some students feel they cannot reach out to faculty. Also, the effort to create a partnership with the Faculty Senate.
- SARC expansion – available upper division major classes
- Ensure stability of the writing center
- Highlighting student excellence – faculty and staff can nominate students for good work with positive feedback and student will be eligible to receive a scholarship
- SGA buy back program as a resource to trade book. She distributed an SGA directory to senators.

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Dr. Chopra commented that issues that span both faculty and students can be put forth as joint resolutions, for example free speech. Ms. Hollinger highlighted that SGA had put forth a resolution calling for full funding on the medical school. She noted that the SGA has addressed behavior of fans at foot ball games noting that there is not a way to know if such behavior was from students versus other fans. However, the emphasis is on "Do the Knight Thing" which is a campaign to encourage responsible tailgating and respectful behavior. There is a \$500 scholarship for best dressed fan. The campaign is also featured on the Facebook website.

## Resolution 2007-2008-1 from the Graduate Council – Dr. Liberman reporting

Dr. Liberman presented the resolution from the committee that was revised from the spring 2007 version. Specific examples have been deleted from the resolution and only broad statements are included. The Provost has had an opportunity to review the resolution prior to today's presentation and has indicated his support.

### **Resolution 2007-2008-1 Faculty Conduct and Conflicts of Interest**

**Whereas**, faculty of the University must behave in a professional manner and avoid conflicts of interest in fulfilling their professional obligations, and

**Whereas**, all faculty are subject to the requirements of Florida Statutes Chapter 112, Part III, known as the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

**Be it resolved** that the Faculty Senate endorses the following statement from the Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council:

A conflict of interest occurs when there is a divergence between an individual's private, personal relationships or interests and his/her professional obligations to the university such that an independent observer would reasonably question whether the individual's professional actions or decisions are determined or influenced by considerations of personal benefit, gain, or advantage. Where there is an actual conflict of interest, the employee will be asked to resolve the conflicting activity.

A potential for conflict of interest exists where there are personal relationships or interests which reasonably could create a divergence between those interests and professional obligations but which have not yet (and may not) do so. Thus, a *potential conflict of interest* is where there is a reasonable possibility of an actual conflict of interest arising. In the event of a potential conflict of interest, a monitoring plan may be devised to manage the possibility of conflict or the activity may be altered in some way to prevent a conflict from occurring.

Conflicts of interest may also arise in the conduct of personal relations between university employees and between university employees and students. Employees are expected to treat students and fellow colleagues with courtesy and to respect their rights, including, but not limited to, academic freedom and freedom from coercion or the imposition of a *quid pro quo* relationship. The potential for conflict of interest in personal relations between employees and between employees and students is grounded in the distinctly unequal power in certain relationships, such as between a director and a subordinate employee or between a thesis advisor and a student. It is often the case that subordinates in a work or school relationship of this type will feel that they cannot say no to a request by the individual having the evaluative role or the more authoritative position. The individual with the predominant or controlling position in such relationships should be aware of this fact and of the potential for abuse of this unequal authority and control.

Employees and students must realize that even consensual amorous relationships may lead to sexual harassment, other breaches of professional obligations, or charges of sexual harassment or ethics complaints. This is particularly true where the relationship is one of unequal power (i.e., where one of the individuals in the relationship has a professional responsibility toward the other, such as in the context of instruction, advisement or supervision). No faculty member shall have an amorous relationship (consensual or otherwise) with a student who is enrolled in a course being taught by the faculty member or when academic work is being supervised by the faculty member or when that faculty member has or *is likely to have* academic responsibility over that student at any time during that student's tenure at UCF. No person in a supervisory position shall have romantic or sexual relationships with anyone that he or she evaluates. Romantic partners, including spouses, will be separated for purposes of evaluation and direct supervision.

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A faculty member may not involve university students or other employees in the faculty member's external activities if such involvement is coerced or presented as a *quid pro quo*. Additionally, if it is another employee who is being involved in an external activity of this sort, then that involvement in the external activity must not conflict with the employee's required commitment of time to the university. This proscription is especially relevant to employees in their relationships with students and with employees over whom they have a supervisory or evaluative role.

Where there is doubt in the mind of any individual about a potential conflict of interest, the individual should raise the issue with his or her supervisor and the Office of Academic Affairs. In-unit faculty should also refer to Article 19 of the [UCF BOT-UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement](#).

Clarification was given in regard to progress of a different resolution, the conflict of commitment resolution that is still in the committee with Dr. Huff-Corzine's office. **Motion was made to approve the 2007-2008-1 Resolution. It was seconded and approved unanimously.**

### Global Warming Endorsement – Dr. Chopra reporting

Dr. Chopra distributed copies of a proposal for an endorsement regarding the Focus the Nation efforts across the US. Dr. Penelope Kanan had presented previously at a spring Senate meeting. This is a large scale initiative where faculty at other universities are requesting endorsement from students and faculty on steps to take to bring more exposure to climate change and related discussions. At that time, the proposal was not sent to committee. Dr. Chopra asked for an endorsement from the floor of the faculty senate. The proposal was moved and seconded. The proposal reads as follows:

Global warming poses a serious threat to people and natural systems across the planet. Public and private policy decisions about global warming this decade will have impacts lasting for generations. To focus the nation's attention on this crucial issue, the University of Central Florida in conjunction with colleges, universities, and high schools across the country, will organize a symposium about "Global Warming Solutions for America" on or around January 31 2008. On that day, faculty are strongly encouraged to travel with their classes to attend scheduled programs about climate change or to discuss it with their own students. The symposium program committee will work with interested faculty to develop appropriate material for their classes, and to insure that diverse disciplines are represented in symposium panels and workshops.

**The Faculty Senate of the University of Central Florida strongly endorses the efforts of the Focus the Nation initiative.**

### Update on Information Fluency Initiative – Drs. Marinara and Dzubian reporting

Drs. Marinara and Dzubian presented a review of the IF initiative at UCF. The initiative was created in response to SACS. IF launched four pilot programs that spent year one testing and collecting data – Philosophy, Nursing, SLS 1501, and the Honors College. Interactive Library online modules were developed by Elizabeth Killingsworth.

- Philosophy is working on the ethical use of information; adding student objectives across the curriculum; held a conference in early 2007 with another planned for this year. Nursing is working with evidence based practice across the curriculum; administering the iSkills assessments along with other assessments regarding information fluency.
- SLS 1501 has added more resource skills to the course; rewritten the curriculum. The Honors College is training peer mentors with IF skills to work in the lab; online tutorial for IF skills.
- This year IF has added two large pilots – regional campus with a writing center in Brevard and one in Digital Media that is creating an on line activity about ethical conduct/plagiarism. There were 26 \$1000 grants last year; added 14 more this year;
- Assessment protocols have included the iSkills data in portfolio; CLA and Project SAILS – The work to be completed is to determine how these assessments correlate and then, which should be used here at UCF.

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- There is a Website link for IF. Within the next two years a report is due on progress to SACS. The UCF IF program has gained national visibility with conferences and consultations.
- The group is developing an IF culture here at UCF – engaging students through the use of resources for students and using Facebook and My Space web pages. Challenges for IF include keeping the momentum going – four graduate students are working in the office this fall semester. Planning includes adding two more large pilots; and 10 small grants; and mid-level grants; expand co-curricular activities; grant writing and publication.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ◆ **UPCC – Dr. Pennington reporting**

The undergraduate curriculum group met since last meeting; the committee is reorganizing with new leadership; next meetings are scheduled on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>; at present, there are no curriculum program changes. Dr. Pennington encouraged faculty who may be working on changes to put those changes forward in order to meet the January catalog deadlines. Dr. Stacy Dunn is Chair for the course review committee with Dr. Pennington serving chair of the other committee.

### ◆ **Graduate Council – Dr. Liberman reporting**

Presented two reports: graduate curriculum sub-committee has met twice; school counseling has changed to EDS in education; non-thesis option MS molecular – special topics courses; course action committee meets next on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. The policy and procedure sub-committee will discuss proprietary information; intellectual properties; and patent and thesis/dissertation turnitin.com; anticipate electronic dissemination policies forthcoming.

### ◆ **Personnel – Dr. Chakrabarti reporting**

Committee met on Sept 4<sup>th</sup> and guidelines for P and T from Dr. Huff-Corzine were reviewed; the committee is working on a draft resolution to go to the Faculty Steering Committee related to permanent chairs for departments – this idea came from department centers with no one in the position or one person governing several units.

### ◆ **Budget and Admin – Dr. Belfield reporting**

Committee met on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – had Pegasus model presentation; working on the RFP for undergraduate equipment. The major difference this year is the total amount of the RFP with this year's funding set at \$188,000 instead of previous year amount of \$400,000. Next meeting Oct 18<sup>th</sup> is to finalize the RFP – per project money has not yet been finalized. Discussion ensued regarding the determination of this year's allotment as the cut is higher than budget reductions from the state. The university receives more than one million in fees to the academic units thus the Provost cut those monies from his budget.

Two years ago, two units had fees, nursing and business, now there are undergraduate and graduate fees that were passed in UPCC and the BOT passed unanimously –this amounts to the one million in fees. Dr. Schell administers the program and will help shape the proposals and every year existing fees and new fees must go back to the BOT – the Provost ensures that fees are justified. UCF may be low on tuition but not low on fees. Dr. Schell added that the undergraduate equipment RFP is not for research equipment.

## **Other Business**

### **Interdisciplinary Studies Program Update - Dr. Hampton reporting**

Presented an update on the program – mainly, the program was previously liberal studies however, now interdisciplinary. He has been interim director for six weeks, located in room 302, Classroom Building I. Dr. Hampton is working to revamp program – there are 44 freshmen this year with 1600 at the undergraduate level as well as graduate students. The intent of the degree is to provide a view of issues, concepts, tasks to do inquiry and evaluate; communicate across disciplines and synthesize. There are multiple program tracks available.

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## Interdisciplinary Studies Program Update cont. - Dr. Hampton reporting

He is currently working on the interdisciplinary track; there is a cornerstone (to be online – give tools necessary to work in an interdisciplinary model and get started on self-defining activity of a portfolio) and a capstone course (completed and refined) using online portfolio;- two areas that do not overlap and have an approved minor. The cornerstone will be online by next semester; there is a Master's degree in humanities; and he hopes to expand to technical and scientific. Dr. Hampton presented the plan of study. Dr. Hampton responded to questions regarding whether or not the programs are established and they are established. Students can work out a degree from specific areas. There were 154 graduates in summer 2007.

Dr. Chopra inquired of Dr. Schell as to whether this degree helps with the engagement of student activities. Dr. Schell emphasized that with the introduction course and the capstone course, the program will now have coherence.

## Outside Speakers Invitations at the University - Dr. Chopra reporting

Dr. Chopra reviewed a recent email from the AAUP (American Association University Professors) regarding issue of academic freedom to invite outside speakers – this does not mean that the institution approves of speaker. The university can announce however not to endorse or agree with the speaker, but should not cancel the event. Only in the case of a concern for safety, the event could be cancelled. Academic freedom is tested if the members of the academy are offended by what might be said by the speaker. As not all members of the senate had not received the AAUP email correspondence, the sense of the senate was to forward the email correspondence to all senators and faculty for possible discussion at a future meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.