

*Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, August 30, 2007*

Dr. Manoj Chopra, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of April 27, 2007 were approved unanimously.

RECOGNITION of GUESTS

Dr. Chopra recognized President Hitt, Provost Hickey, Drs. Schell, Huff-Corzine, and Morrison-Shetler.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Chopra's Announcements:

- He welcomed the Senators to the new term of the Faculty Senate. Introductions of senators were completed during the first meeting of the current senate in April.
- He extended a special thank you to President Hitt for today's catered reception.
- Dr. Chopra reminded senators that if there are any topics for discussion in their colleges that affect the faculty, they should bring these to the Faculty Senate.

Welcome Remarks and Announcements - President Hitt

- President Hitt extended a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Chopra for his service on the BOT and as the Chair of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Chopra has followed in the able footsteps of Dr. Arlen Chase; He also extended congratulations to Drs. Chopra and Cook for their reelection as Chair and Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate for 2007-2008. He reiterated that the Faculty Senate is important in shared governance and further extended his gratitude to all who serve in the Faculty Senate.
- President Hitt anticipates an interesting year or two ahead of us at the university. He has no doubt that there is a real problem in the state budget associated with the housing bubble and actions over the years that has produced an excessive housing supply throughout the State of Florida. The crisis in the state budget associated with the decline in sales tax from construction of houses and associated sales. This is the first legislature in 30 years that has had less money to allocate. There is uncertainty as to how long the budget crisis will last.
- The Board of Governors (BOG) met in Tampa several weeks ago with the outlook projected that if the state revenues are not improved, there will be a rougher year ahead. There might be another 4-6% cut next year. Dr. Hitt testified on Tuesday before the state of FL Senate Higher Education Committee (HEC) regarding the percentage cuts in the budget. Already there has been 4% withheld and in light of the possibility of 6%, UCF decided to withhold another 2% from the budget so that if we have to do 6% as expected, then monies would not have to be taken back from the budget.

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- The senate HEC discussed help in the form of a 5% tuition increase in January and perhaps a technology fee. If the technology fee is based on semester hours, then this fee would be helpful to UCF. The committee did not offer any advice to the university presidents regarding areas for possible budget cuts – this is viewed as a positive in that the committee refrained from micromanagement of the university budget. President Hitt reflected that a similar budget crisis occurred when he first came to UCF, and by working together and taking a university-wide view, putting the interests of students first, we were able to overcome the crisis. We have a high degree of teamwork and cooperation at the university.
- Dr. Hitt anticipates that the university is still going to build the on campus performing arts center and is also looking at other projects. He commented that it is becoming obvious regarding the PECO outlay dollars that the funding for academic buildings is not getting reasonable share of those dollars, and this has become a top priority for us and the Chancellor. Other universities have asked for funding for large projects – one here at UCF is the library that would require more than \$100 million project to renovate and expand – that amount has stalled UCF because you could not get \$50-60 million on PECO. Perhaps UCF should investigate larger project proposals to the BOG as a strategy and take on the library project. The arena and stadium projects are on time and on budget.
- President Hitt responded to a request from Dr. Chopra to discuss differential tuition issue. He responded that during the last legislature session, three institutions FSU, UF, and USF, wanted to charge a differential tuition with a total tuition increase of not more than 15% each year. These would not be covered by Bright Futures and Florida Prepaid. For example, if the legislature approved a 5% increase then those schools would be able to add 10%. This came about as a result of UF proposing an academic enhancement fee of \$1000 fee with \$500 each semester (fall and spring) to be used to hire more faculty and academic counselors. If this fee was only at UF, then all in the university system would have supported it. The universities were eager to give support because of the provision that Bright Futures would not cover the fee and it will open the door for the others in the future. The Bright Futures program provides millions of dollars statewide in tuition fees to students. The enhancement fee would be the opportunity to break free from Bright Futures.
- As the legislative session progressed the fee was considered to be dead. However, FSU supporters wanted to help if they would be included. A year ago, a bill passed that schools that were on a 2005 publication based on the year 2002 Carnegie list of research money would be eligible for differential tuition. The funds would apply to those three schools: UF, FSU, and USF. The fact that the Carnegie list was an old list was pointed out to the legislature. President Hitt does think that UCF will be eventually added to this list; that this is worth working towards although he is not certain what year that will happen. Governor Christ vetoed the tuition increase requested by the Legislature but subsequently signed the bill for differential tuition at UF, FSU and USF for 2008.

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- Currently, there are \$120-121 million research dollars this year due to faculty efforts. There were 225 doctoral degrees conferred this year.
- Responding to a question regarding the cap on freshman enrollment, President Hitt stated that the legislative perspective on capping all state universities is that they are not happy with this development. However, we now get fewer dollars since 1984 and there has been a dramatic decrease in recent years. Capping freshman enrollment does not eliminate transfer students and as we raise retention rates, then enrollment goes up. He stressed that retention was the key to increasing enrollment.
- US News and World report – Dr. Hitt stated that UCF has climbed another tier into the Third Tier of rankings. He commented that the tiers are resource driven – funding levels and reputation. For example, graduate study focus at UCF is recent and just not that well known. UCF has to work on that. The number of small classes you offer is another factor that goes into the rankings. We want fewer adjuncts teaching and although UCF is not bad in that area, more improvement is needed. President Hitt reflected that it is difficult to know when we might be able to move to tier 2 and stated that UCF needs more resources to climb much above where we are now.
- President Hitt was asked to comment on long term growth. He stated that the main campus capacity is about 50,000 students, and we are at 42,000 currently. There is 20% more to expand if needed and there is anticipated growth in research and graduate areas. UCF will depend on other campuses for growth in the numbers beyond that, such as: Lake Mary; Valencia West; Palm Bay; Brevard; Lake Sumter, Rosen Center and Downtown Digital Media; Lake Nona health-related programs, like nursing in the next years.

BOG Report - Dr. Chase Comments

Possible BOG January 2008 tuition increase of 5% is anticipated. He also anticipates that the legal matter (Graham v Pruitt) will be resolved by December to let parents know to prepare for any increase. According to Dr. Chase, the judge may fast track the decision that would be made – the 5% increase was subject to condition that the cut in budget would be more than 4%. The current thinking is that there is minimally two more years that university budgets would experience similar problems. There is optimism regarding salary increases next year as 2008 is an election year.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Provost's Report – Provost Terry Hickey

Provost Hickey thanked the faculty for serving the students in such a productive fashion and working to absorb the effects of the budget cuts while keeping the student interests in mind at all times.

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He reported that he had not received any problems from students regarding not getting in to classes this semester. Faculty are doing what needs to be done to serve the students.

Revised Student Perception of Instruction Forms – Dr. Diane Wink reported on behalf of the Adhoc Subcommittee on SPoI.

The Subcommittee chaired by Drs. Wink and Jungblut brought forward a proposed Student Perception of Instruction forms following 16 months of work on this project. The form is being presented today as a point of discussion. Dr. Wink reviewed the history of the project.

About a year ago, in March at the end of that year, a small ad hoc committee was set up. The committee is interested in more members, all are welcome to join this committee, which is made up of faculty from only Arts and Nursing at this point. The subcommittee reviewed the existing form over the past year along with forms from outside sources. The members decided to go with an in-house form due to the excessive cost associated with some external forms. The current student perception form was set aside and replaced with new questions. Early last year the committee received feedback on the questionnaire – for example, bias in the questions, weighted averages etc. Today's version is designed by the committee with new questions. The format for review is made up of three versions:

- Face to Face (f2f) and ITV;
- web mediated classes;
- web based classes;

The committee does realize that f2f and ITV are different delivery methods.

The first section of the draft form is Course Context. The second section is Instructional Evaluation: syllabus, assignments, etc. and the third section is free responses – what was best, suggestions to improve the class.

The timeline from the committee starts with today's presentation, then distribution to the senators for their review. Folders were provided to senators with the three types of forms in three colors and different color scantron – bubble in 'A' if the question is good; then, complete the free response section, for suggestions. Senators were asked to return the scantrons by September 14 to the Faculty Senate Office, Classroom Bldg, Room 320J or to FCTL.

The next step will be a pilot this semester conducted using a pool made up of recipients of teaching awards since 2002 – that is 213 professors with 610 sections. This form of evaluation will be in addition to the customary student perception of instruction evaluations. The committee will seek IRB approval for this process. The sample is convenience but purposeful, with all colleges and modalities represented. Next, suggestions from the review in Fall will be implemented and a second pilot will be conducted in spring.

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There was discussion among senators requesting that the distribution be electronic and to the larger faculty group. Others noted that there are great teachers who have not received teaching awards and why not have a random sample for the pilot? Dr. Wink responded that the pilot in the spring semester would have a more random sample. Input from departments is essential. Dr. Tace Crouse will send out the most current version electronically.

Another question addressed student involvement in the process and at this point. Dr> Wink replied that students have not been included directly on the committee, however there has been communication with students. In the future, the committee will approach students through SGA and complete this same process. Student perception of instruction to give feedback to be good teachers and this form is trying to give teachers more input in to the process.

Dr. Chopra expressed thanks to Dr. Wink and the subcommittee for their work and informed that the senators can contact those on the committee for participation in these activities.

Update on Parking and other issues on Gamedays - Dr. Schell reported.

Dr. Schell reviewed the guidelines for parking on game days for this fall semester. Fortunately, for this season, all games are scheduled on Saturdays. He distributed handouts for senators for review and informed the senate that faculty may also access this information on the website ucfgameday.com.

There are FIVE major issues for faculty:

- Six game days – one over Thanksgiving so no effect on parking
- The Gold zone is in effect after 7:00 a.m. on game day until two hours after the game ends. No parking is allowed in the gold zone which is reserved exclusively for donor parking. Faculty can park anywhere except Gold Zone locations without gold zone passes.
- There are no reserved spaces; no faculty parking permit is honored during this period.
- Faculty with official university business will park in Deck B – no fans in this parking deck. Faculty ID card will give access to the garage
- Instructional buildings, studios, will be locked at 12 noon on game days. Dr. Chopra stressed that faculty and graduate students in these buildings on game days not prop doors to labs or buildings for security reasons.

Faculty Constitution changes - Dr. Cook reporting

There will be changes in the faculty constitution brought forward later this semester.

Standing Committee Reports

UPCC – Dr. R. Pennington reporting

- The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 11th at 12noon – 2:00pm and will be schedule on the second Tuesday of each month. The committee needs a chair for the university course review committee. There will be discussion about a UPCC review subgroup. Dr. Pennington reminded senators that there are deadlines to meet regarding curriculum changes.

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The changes must be processed through department and colleges so these requests must be at the university level by November/December in order to meet the university catalog deadline.

- UPCC will consider creating an executive committee that would review items and have a consent agenda – for example, minor catalog name changes – for example.

Graduate Council – Dr. A. Lieberman reporting

- Issues carried over from last year include the recommendation on the conflict of interest policy. Dr. Lieberman noted that legal expertise representation is available at most of the meetings to assist committee members with procedures.

Personnel – Dr. Chakrabarti reporting

- The committee will meet on September 4th. The plans for this year include: finish discussion on P & T; conflict of interest and ORP discussion. If there are any other issues, please send emails directly to committee chair Dr. Chakrabarti or to Dr. Chopra.

Budget and Admin – Dr. K. Belfield reporting

- The committee met to elect the chair which will be Dr. Belfield. A meeting is planned where Dr. Neighbor will present the Pegasus Model. All senators and faculty are encouraged this presentation. An announcement will be sent to all faculty.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.