

*Faculty Senate Meeting*  
**August 28, 2008**

Dr. Manoj Chopra, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of April 24, 2008 were unanimously approved with no revisions.

**Recognition of Guests**

President John Hitt, Drs. Lin Huff-Corzine, Diane Chase, Allison Morrison-Shetlar, Dennis Dulniak, Ms. Lynn Gonzalez, Ms. Vanessa Fortier; Ms Stephanie Spies (Good Sport Ambassador program).

**Announcements**

President Hitt's updates

Dr. Chopra welcomed Dr. Hitt and yielded the podium to him. Dr. Hitt presented an overview of the incoming class, which has an average SAT score of 1218 and average GPA of 3.75; 67 National Merit Scholars (35<sup>th</sup> in the nation). The total enrollment for Fall is 50,668. The numbers of FTIC is smaller than last year (per a directive by the Board of Governors) but there is an increase in transfer students, especially from consortium community colleges. No provision has been made by the state for more compensation for state employees. Increased enrollments will allow for a \$1000 bonus for all employees and 1% increase in the merit pool, which will in total cost 5.6 million. The full cost will be covered by unanticipated revenue from tuition. It will not come out of differential tuition funds, which has been spent on faculty, instructor, and advisor hires. Concurrence from the United Faculty of Florida union through bargaining of the bonus and raise is necessary before they can be paid to in-unit faculty and staff.

Dr. Hitt responded to a question on why he did not join other college presidents in signing a statement to change the drinking age to 18. Although Dr. Hitt is in principle not opposed to 18-year olds buying beer, especially if they are coming back from military service, he was not persuaded by the data and did not feel he had enough information to convince him to sign. He has an open mind on the topic and would welcome a robust debate on the issue.

Provost's Update

John Schell will be replacing Beth Barnes as the President's Chief of Staff when Dr. Barnes retires in December. As of next week, he will be working with Dr. Barnes to transition in to that position. Dr. Schell's previous responsibilities will be split between Drs. Diane Chase and Alison Morrison-Shetlar.

Good Sport Ambassador Program

Stephanie Spies invited senators to become part of the Good Sport Ambassador Program. Participating faculty welcome people to home football games, and receive a ticket to the game and a polo shirt for volunteering.

## Old Business

Resolution 2007-2008-5 Appointment and Evaluation of School Directors and Department Chairs. Was not approved by the Provost. His primary objection is that clinical faculty are not mentioned as having the ability to vote. Some would be treated as faculty, as hiring documents will state whether they are clinical or tenure earning. Some might not be tenured or tenure earning but will be full time and will make substantial contributions. The Senator from Nursing noted that the College of Nursing has taken the position that all full time faculty will be extended the vote (by a vote of their tenure and tenure earning faculty). Motion made to refer resolution back to the Personnel Committee. Motion seconded and passed.

Resolution 2007-2008-6 Budget Management. Was not approved by the Provost. The Provost objected to university documents containing language denigrating the faculty/student ratio. Growth has allowed for a potential salary increase or bonus. Tuition may become increasingly more important than regular state funding in the next couple of years. If we continue to focus attention on the faculty/student ratio, it could hurt public perception of UCF and enrollment might drop, which would hurt the budget. Motion made and seconded to accept the changes recommended by the provost and sent the revised resolution back to the provost/president. Friendly amendment made to leave in the second mention of reducing ratios. Amendment accepted. Question is called. Motion to approve amendment is passed. Resolution is approved.

### ***Resolution 2007-2008-06 Budget Management (Revised)***

***Whereas, the State University System of Florida and faculty and administrators of the University of Central Florida are dedicated to the goals of promoting quality higher education for the metropolitan Orlando and central Florida area, and***

***Whereas, the current economic environment in Florida challenges the ability of the University of Central Florida to support the necessary instructional expenditures, to prevent faculty and staff reductions, and to keep pace with the cost of living increases, and***

***Whereas, the University of Central Florida has demonstrated foresight in addressing this year's budget challenges,***

***Be it resolved, that the University of Central Florida Faculty Senate encourages the administration to make every effort to lower student faculty ratios at the University of Central Florida, and to resist any external effort that may cause the student faculty ratios to increase.***

***Be it further resolved, that the University of Central Florida Faculty Senate encourages the University of Central Florida administration to make every effort to recruit and retain the highest quality faculty and staff at the University of***

*Central Florida through, amongst other things, the use of future funds obtained from increases in tuition and differential tuition.*

Resolution 2007-2008-7 Funding of the Library Materials and Subscriptions in Support of Faculty Research. Was not approved by the Provost. His objection was that overhead from grants (or any one source) should not be specifically designated for funding the library. The Provost suggested replacing the Senate's recommendation "*that the overhead returns generated by research grants, along with other sources of funding, be reviewed for helping overcome*" with "*strive to identify and allocate the resources needed to slow or end*" the downturn in library funding. The Provost noted that the administration has found funding to return the operating hours of library as before and no more cuts will be taken from the materials budget of the library, although that does not protect the library from increasing costs. This will spread the impact of the cuts across the whole university rather than a single source like overhead/indirect cost return. Motion made to approve the changes and send the resolution back to Provost. Motion seconded. Friendly amendment made to amend "*slow or end*" to "*slow or reverse*". The Provost noted that the university can do a lot more for the library but the funds would have to come from the other units. Motion approved unanimously.

***Resolution 2007-2008-7 Funding of the Library Materials and Subscriptions in Support of Faculty Research (Revised)***

***Whereas***, the University of Central Florida recognizes the great importance of research performed by its faculty and the need to afford the research community at UCF with all the necessary facilities to maximize productivity and excellence, and

***Whereas***, the UCF Library performs a vital function of providing access to journals and publications in support of sponsored research being performed by the faculty,

***Be it resolved***, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Central Florida recommends to the university administration that it strive to identify and allocate the resources needed to slow or reverse the downward spiral of funding for the library's procurement of materials and subscriptions.

Resolution 2007-2008-8 Endorsement of Student Government Green Fee. Was not approved by the Provost. The Provost recommended the addition of a third Whereas clause, reading, "*Whereas, the Student Government and Student Body of the University of Central Florida understands the need to work with the student government associations at all SUS institutions and with the Student Government Association representative on the Florida Board of Governors in order to accomplish their goal.*" The words "*the UCF Senate believes*" were added to that clause. Motion made to approve the resolution. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

**Resolution 2007-2008-8 Endorsement of Student Government Green Fee  
(Revised)**

*Whereas, the University of Central Florida has previously endorsed the Focus the Nation initiative toward environmental concerns, and*

*Whereas, the Student Government and Student Body of the University of Central Florida has supported creation of a Sustainability Fund through the implementation of a "Green Fee," and*

*Whereas, the UCF Senate believes the Student Government and Student Body of the University of Central Florida understand the need to work with the student government associations at all SUS institutions and with the Student Government Association representative on the Florida Board of Governors in order to accomplish their goal,*

*Be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Central Florida endorses the concept of environmental sustainability on the UCF campus, and supports the efforts of the Student Government Association to establish a "Green Fee" to generate a Sustainability Fund.*

*We further urge the Student Government Association to work with the University of Central Florida administration to guarantee reasonable control and proper utilization of such funds.*

## **New Business**

### New Regulations on Graduate Admissions Criteria – Dr. Chopra reporting

Dr. Chopra briefly reviewed the new graduate admissions criteria. There was a brief discussion on poor wording but wordsmithing edits could not be made because the wording of the regulation had already been approved by UCF's General Counsel. This regulation sets university-wide minimum standards but programs can opt to establish higher, more stringent standards. Input on program standards should be provided to the graduate coordinators of the program.

### Update on Board of Governor's Textbook Availability Taskforce Activities – Dr. Cook reporting

HB 603 Textbook Affordability Act requires universities (and thus faculty) to announce textbooks early to reduce costs of texts to students. Faculty can't accept anything for requiring students to purchase books (but can still receive royalties, desk copies, etc). A list of textbooks must be posted 30 days or earlier before start of semester, with some exceptions possible such as for a new course or new faculty member. New editions must be looked at to make sure they actually have important new information. Bundled

packages must be confirmed that all materials will be used. The taskforce is looking at procedures, policies, exceptions, and other implementation issues.

Unifying Theme – *Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar reporting*

The Environment and Global Climate Change will continue to be UCF's Unifying Theme and has resulted in raised awareness on campus regarding environmental issues. Some courses are incorporating the theme, with numbers reaching 120 faculty and 7000 plus students in a semester. The Unifying Theme website (<http://www.unifyingtheme.ucf.edu/>) has resources available to both professors and students. Guest speakers have been coming to UCF and more are scheduled for the future. "Our Planet, Our Education, Our Future" won the student slogan contest. Campus recycling has increased from 4% to 14%. A university-wide sustainability alliance has been established. Curricular and co-curricular activities are available to help students, faculty and staff make a difference.

Committee Reports – *Dr. Cook reporting*

The formation of Standing Committees is almost complete. Dr. Cook requested that all senators who have not yet given their committee preference do so as soon as possible or they will be assigned to a committee. The Faculty Senate website is being updated.

**Adjournment**

Moved made at 5:34. Motion seconded and approved.