

Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of
March 15, 2012

Ida Cook, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2012 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Michael Stern, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies

Kimya Massey, Director, Academic Services for Student Athletes

Greg Schuckman, Assistant Vice President and Director, Federal Relations

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Manoj Chopra, Chair of the Nominating Committee, invited nominations for the slate of officers for next year's Senate.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Tony Waldrop, Provost and Executive Vice President, spoke about the state budget. Waldrop reviewed the history of the budget proposals from the House and Senate, and stated that the legislature's final compromise is a \$300 million cut to the State University System (SUS). Specifically, \$150 million of the cut was based on carry forward balances, \$100 million was based on the base budget of the universities, and the remaining cut was based upon a projected 15% tuition increase for each university.

Waldrop expressed his disappointment and anger for the \$52 million cut to UCF's budget. In addition, there is also a reduction of the portion that the state puts toward retirement.

All tuition increases will be differential, and are subject to Board of Trustees (BOT) and Board of Governors (BOG) approval. This was discussed at that morning's BOT meeting, and several trustees expressed concern about tuition increases.

Waldrop explained that the administration has developed several scenarios to deal with the cuts, but it is too early to share any plans to counteract the budget cut. The SUS has been told that this year's cut is to the base budget, but the cut is only for one year and is not permanent. Waldrop stated that he does not anticipate the need for program closures or furloughs, but nothing has been ruled out.

Waldrop opened the floor for questions:

A question was raised about the change to retirement funding. Waldrop stated that the proposal is that an additional 3% will come out of employee salaries. Waldrop cautioned that we do not know how the current appeal in the courts will play out. A discussion ensued about how the additional 6% will be collected and if employees will have options. It is too early to tell.

A senator asked the "pre-eminent university" bill, which would allow SUS universities to charge market rate tuition if they meet at least 11 of 14 specified benchmarks. Waldrop noted that only UF and FSU

meet 11 of the criteria, USF met five, and UCF only met four. Waldrop also discussed a proposed bill that would make significant changes to the GEP.

A senator asked about departments that are attempting to hire. Are these hires in jeopardy? Waldrop stated that there is too much uncertainty to answer at this time.

Academic Services for Student Athletes - *Kimya Massey*

Kimya Massey, Director of Academic Services for Student Athletes (ASSA), spoke about academic progress reports and expressed his appreciation for the timely completion of these reports by faculty. The next set of progress reports will be going out March 26. ASSA is piloting a new online system that will send out the progress reports via email. Approximately 30 students will participate in the pilot. Massey asked for our continued help in tracking these student-athletes.

Chopra stated that he is the incoming NCAA faculty rep, and stressed the point that as we move into the Big East, we need to continue to stress academics. He stressed the importance of completing the academic progress reports, especially for poor performing student-athletes.

Massey also mentioned that student-athletes have signed a FERPA waiver form so that advisors can communicate directly with faculty.

Federal Budget Update – *Greg Schuckman*

Greg Schuckman, Assistant Vice President and Director of Federal Relations, spoke about the political environment in D.C., which is slightly better than that in Tallahassee. The outlook for Pell Grants is good. In speaking about rising college tuition, President Obama acknowledged that 40 states had cut public funding for higher education. The president understands that as states make cuts, these costs are passed to the public via tuition increases.

Schuckman stated that the research budgets look pretty good. A question was raised about earmarks for research. Schuckman explained that there is a moratorium on earmarks; however, it will most likely be back next year. In the meantime, earmarks have been replaced by programmatic requests, which fill the same function.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2011-2012-6 Emeritus Policy Revisions

Niels da Vitoria Lobo, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reviewed the resolution and provided an overview of the proposed changes. A brief discussion followed on whether the resolution would prevent non-tenure-track faculty from voting. It would not; they are counted as faculty and thus may vote.

Motion carried. The approved resolution read:

Resolution 2011-2012-6 Emeritus Policy Revisions (from the Personnel Committee)

Whereas, the current policy governing emeritus status does not address the status of individuals who are on phased retirement, DROP, or who have been re-hired, and

Whereas, the current policy governing emeritus status does not consider the diversity of faculty titles, and

Whereas, the Commencements, Convocations and Recognition Committee has requested clarification on the qualifications to be considered when awarding emeritus status,

Be It Resolved, that the Policy 4-502.1, Faculty Emeritus Status, be revised to reflect the following changes:

- Applicants for emeritus status must apply no later than five years after retiring from UCF
- Applicants must be fully retired from UCF (not in DROP or phased retirement)
- Applicants must have been a permanent employee at UCF for a minimum of five years
- The policy should not specify the titles/positions of those who are eligible to apply
- Non-tenure track faculty should hold the equivalent rank of eligible tenured faculty
- Qualifications for eligibility should include that applicants must have made major professional contributions in research/scholarship or teaching or service (including contributions and service to UCF and the UCF community)

Be It Further Resolved that:

- Applicants must provide their unit head with materials supporting their application
- Only faculty may vote on applications for emeritus status

Suggested wording is provided in the attached.

Resolution 2011-2012-7 Student Perception of Instruction (SPoI) Administration Period

Cook read the resolution and opened the floor for discussion.

A question was raised about the rationale for closing the SPoI prior to final exams. Cook noted that this was based on past practice. Motion made to revise the "Be it Resolved" clause as follows: "Be It Resolved, the online SPOI be administered starting 15 days prior to the final exam period and close at the deadline for grade submission." Motion seconded.

Discussion of the motion followed. A senator objected to the motion on the grounds that students who use testing labs will be able to see their grades prior to completing the SPoI. Additional discussion followed on the paucity of responses some faculty are seeing with the online SPoI, and whether the extended timeline would result in a higher response rate. A senator spoke against the motion, stating that students are supposed to judge the quality of the teaching and not the outcome of their grade in the class. Others disagreed and felt that the final exam is also part of the teaching.

The question was called. Motion to call the question seconded and carried. Motion to amend the resolution failed.

Motion to approve the resolution carried. The approved resolution read:

Resolution 2011-2012-7 Student Perception of Instruction Administration Period (from the Steering Committee)

Whereas, faculty have expressed concern over the low response rate to the online Student

Perception of Instruction (SPOI), and

Whereas, Resolution 1987–1988–16 currently mandates that SPOI be administered in the final ten days of instruction each term, and

Whereas, Faculty Senators have expressed concern that the SPOI not be administered during final exams,

Be It Resolved, the online SPOI be administered during the last 15 days of instruction in each term, closing one hour before the official final exam period begins.

Graduate Faculty Policy – Jim Moharam

Jim Moharam reported on the Graduate Council's new policy governing graduate faculty status. He explained the history of the policy and the rationale for revising it. The policy revision resolves a number of concerns regarding the current policy. Moharam provided an overview of the most significant changes:

- Creates a single category of Graduate Faculty, removing the Full and Associate sub-categories. All graduate faculty are eligible to teach graduate courses, serve as members of thesis and dissertation committees, and serve as chairs or co-chairs of master's thesis committees.
- Establishes a separate eligibility of graduate faculty to serve as the chair of a dissertation committee. Bases this eligibility on a set of criteria for scholarly currency. These criteria are established by each graduate program and approved by the department chair/unit director.
- Maintains a requirement for thesis or dissertation committee experience, but in a manner that may be independent of the Chair. For instances in which the Chair has not served on a thesis or dissertation committee that has successfully graduated a student, another member of the committee who has this experience must be designated to serve as a vice chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Administrative Committee – Michael Moshell

No report.

Personnel Committee – Niels da Vitoria Lobo

No report other than the emeritus resolution.

Parking Advisory Committee – Cory Watkins

The committee continues to review carpooling and bike sharing policies.

Undergraduate Council – Kelly Allred

No report.

Graduate Council – Jim Moharam

Detailed activities of Graduate Council Committees (meeting schedule, agenda, and minutes) are available at <http://www.graduatecouncil.ucf.edu/>.

Appeals Committee met once on 3/1. Next meeting is scheduled for 3/22.

Curriculum Committee met twice on 2/20 and 3/12. Next meeting is scheduled for 3/26.

Program Review and Awards Committee met once on 3/2. Next meeting is scheduled for 3/16.

Policy Committee met twice on 2/22 and 3/14. Next meeting is scheduled for 3/28.

ADA Compliance and Technology (ad hoc) – Lisa Mills

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cook announced that the Steering Committee has asked Ross Hinkle, Chair of the Strategic Planning Council, to address the Faculty Senate regarding the work of the council. He will do so at the April 19 Senate meeting, which is the first meeting of the 2012-2013 Senate. Outgoing senators are welcome to attend.

Waldrop shared news regarding the construction of Classroom Building 2. Since PECO money has disappeared, UCF has asked that funds planned for another initiative be reallocated and used for the completion of Classroom 2. If the governor approves the request, we can start construction almost immediately.

Cook thanked members of the 2011-2012 Senate for their service and looks forward to working with returning senators.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.