

Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of
August 25, 2011

Dr. Ida Cook, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05p.m. She announced that the president's reception will immediately follow the meeting.

Dr. Cook reminded senators to sign the roll. She also advised members to review the Constitution regarding the rules of attendance and procedures and deadlines for notifying the office if you forget to sign the roll. The members of the Senate introduced themselves.

MINUTES

The minutes of April 21, 2011 were approved as recorded.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chad Binette, Associate Director, News and Information
Lyman Brodie, Interim Associate Vice Provost, Academic Affairs
Diane Chase, Executive Vice Provost, Academic Affairs
Mark Gumble, Assistant Vice President, Student Development and Enrollment Services
Kimya Massey, Director, Academic Services for Student-Athletes
Shannon O'Donoghue, Constituent Relations
Vivian Ortiz, Student Development and Enrollment Services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Cook announced that all senators should have received notification of their Senate committee assignments. She encouraged members to serve as chair and stressed the importance of attending the first meeting at which the chair and vice chair are elected. The first committee meeting typically lasts only thirty minutes and is the time to share ideas regarding agenda items the committee should focus on. In addition, the Steering Committee also has recommendations for the committees to address.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Provost Waldrop welcomed members back to a new academic year and thanked them for their service. He stated that he believes that Senate plays a big role in communicating with the administration. He looks forward to meeting new members and shared several issues with members of the Senate:

Healthcare Benefits

The university is working on health benefits for same sex partners. He will share the details as they come available.

Search Updates

Mike Johnson has accepted the position of dean of the College of Science. The College of Business Administration dean search is just beginning, and they are using a search consultant. Last year there was a search for the position of vice provost and dean of Undergraduate Studies.

The provost has decided not to fill that position yet; he wants to finish looking at the structure of Academic Affairs first.

Faculty Affairs

Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine has left Faculty Affairs and gone back to the faculty. The provost has reached an agreement with Dr. Lyman Brodie to fill that position on an interim, part-time basis while they look to fill the position. Dr. Brodie will continue to work in the College of Arts & Humanities. The offices of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Relations will be combined again.

Administrative Reviews

Provost Waldrop announced that he has started the five-year reviews for all of his direct reports. Input will be solicited from the broader community. The review for Dr. Diane Chase will be chaired by Dr. José Fernández and the review for Dr. Patricia Bishop will be chaired by Dr. Jana Jasinski. Dr. Sandy Robinson, dean of the College of Education, will also have a five-year review this year.

Regional Campuses

The provost has appointed an advisory group to look at the mission and goals of the regional campuses. There is currently an interim vice provost for the regional campuses, and there will be a search this fall to fill that position. Dr. D. Chase will be chairing the advisory group, which starts meeting next week.

Budget Update

The university has yet to finish distributing all of the budgeted funds, partly because they have to wait on enrollment numbers for calculating the growth of student credit hours. Provost Waldrop hopes to be able to provide distributions in a faster and more efficient manner in the future.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Business

Dr. Cook discussed several items that will be coming before the Senate committees and the full Senate this year:

- Last year, the Senate passed a resolution approving the promotion of non-tenured faculty. The Personnel committee will be looking at the criteria and procedures for such promotions.
- The Senate will need to update the Constitution to allow for non-tenured faculty to be involved in the promotion process, so that those up for promotion are represented on the committee.
- The Personnel committee will be reviewing the procedures that are used to determine emeritus status.
- The Personnel committee will be looking at the university final exam policy
- The Senate will be setting up an ad hoc committee on distance education and computer infrastructure.

Student Perception of Instruction (SPoI)

The university will be piloting the new SPoI this semester. It will be appended to the end of the current SPoI, but there won't be any markings indicating to the students that it's a separate form. During pilot testing, only data from the original SPoI will be used for evaluating faculty. The data from the new SPoI will be examined and the form will be reviewed and possibly revised before the new SPoI goes live.

Faculty Senate Parking Advisory Committee

The new Faculty Senate Parking Advisory Committee will elect two faculty members to serve on the University Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee. Dr. Cook announced that at the last meeting of the university committee, she raised the issue of the lack of faculty parking in the garages. The committee agreed to designate faculty parking spots in the garages.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

An email recently went out from Academic Affairs reminding faculty that courses need to be ADA compliant. Most faculty members are not proficient at making course materials ADA compliant, especially in an online environment. Faculty need to have input in the process and need to ensure access for our students.

Faculty Senate Website

The website has been revised; however, the committee membership lists have not been updated, as there are still several openings to fill.

Dr. Manoj Chopra noted that he strongly agreed with the establishment of an ad hoc committee on distance education and computer infrastructure. He suggested that a small, knowledgeable committee could move swiftly to address the issues.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Class Cancellation for November 3 football game

Chad Binette, Associate Director of News and Information, appeared to speak on behalf of Vice President Al Harms. He thanked the faculty for their help last year during UCF's first home weekday football game. For the November 3, 2011 football game against Tulsa, the main campus and Research Park will hold classes until noon and the campus will close at 12:30 p.m. Towing will start at 1:00 p.m.; however, no towing was necessary last year. The campus will open for tailgating at 2:00 p.m. The Rosen and regional campuses will close at 2:30 p.m. and the library will close at 5:00 p.m. Normal operations will resume at 7:00 a.m. on November 4, 2011.

The class cancellation has been posted on the academic calendar per the suggestion of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. Parking areas will be similar to last year. Most areas, except the gold zone, are free and parking garage H will be reserved for SGA and self-pay for \$20 – these proceeds will benefit student scholarships. In addition, the first two levels of Garage B will be reserved for official business by prior arrangement with Peter Wallace.

News and Information will continue to provide information about this weekday game and faculty can refer to www.ucf.gameday.ucf.edu for more information. Mr. Binette then opened the floor to questions from the Senate.

A question was raised about why UCF continues to schedule weekday games. Mr. Binette replied that sports schedules are driven by television contracts, and we are fortunate that it is only one game for season. Although this clearly impacts academics, it raises university recognition. In a follow-up question, a senator asked if there is any push to eliminate weekday games in the future. Mr. Binette replied that weekday games are a fact of life for UCF and other programs with college athletics.

Dr. Cook reminded senators about the opportunity for faculty to volunteer as Ambassadors on game day. Ambassadors mingle with fans and welcome visitors to campus and are given tickets in exchange for their service.

A question was raised about whether UCF has received any backlash from the state legislature for cancelling academics for a sporting event, given the pressures from the legislature regarding academics. Dr. Cook said that she had not heard of any concerns coming from that direction. She noted that faculty can still assign outside work to be done during that week.

A senator asked whether faculty could reschedule a cancelled class, if the size permitted it. Dr. Cook said that the class could be rescheduled only if the students all agree and don't feel pressured to attend, but it can cause problems. Provost Waldrop reinforced that and stated that in such situations, students often report after the fact they felt unable to speak against the rescheduling.

Academic Services for Student-Athletes

Kimya Massey, Director of Academic Services for Student Athletes (ASSA), discussed the purpose and function of his office. The primary function of ASSA is to monitor academic progress in conjunction with each of the colleges, to ensure that student-athletes meet eligibility benchmarks set by the university, the conference, and the NCAA. ASSA has ten full-time staff, seven graduate assistants, and forty tutors to serve the over 500 student-athletes. ASSA provides tutoring, mentoring, and one-on-one advising.

Mr. Massey thanked Mark Gumble, the former director, for his leadership, and announced his hopes to continue the academic performance set by Mr. Gumble. Mr. Massey distributed and discussed a handout (attached) listing recent achievements and explaining ASSA's philosophy and goals. He announced that ASSA will continue to use progress reports and all affected instructors will be receiving letters about when student-athletes will miss class. He hopes to bring faculty into their staff meetings so the two groups can work together.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Cook announced that members of the Senate operational committees (Budget, Personnel, and Parking) have been emailed Doodle polls asking them to submit their availability for meetings. Members of the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils have been notified of the organizational meetings on September 1, 2011.

Presidential Address

President Hitt thanked members for the invitation to address the Senate on the state of the university. He welcomed the faculty back for a new year. He thanked Dr. Cook for her continued service and also thanked members of the Faculty Senate for making the community stronger.

The president spoke about UCF's continued growth, and noted that UCF is the second largest university and producer of degrees in the nation. Minority enrollment continues to rise, and President Hitt relayed his excitement at the progress we are making in reflecting our community. The quality of students is also on the rise. The average SAT scores and GPAs of incoming students are up from last year, as is the number of new National Merit Scholars.

This year, UCF welcomed 124 new faculty members. The Carnegie Foundation recently designated UCF as a very high research activity institution. We surpassed \$100 million in external funding for the seventh year in a row. President Hitt discussed the UCF Business Incubation Program, which helps grow small business, recognized the work of M.J. Soileau and his team in making that program a success.

The president spoke about UCF's commitment to growth and innovation. Our new plant using natural gas saves \$2.5 million each year and reduces our environmental impact by 30%. Other projects include the newly opened Pegasus Health, the new Career Services building, the Recreation and Wellness Center expansion, the 80,000 square foot Performing Arts Center, and the Morgridge International Reading Center. President Hitt expressed his disappointment that Governor Scott vetoed Classroom building II and classified it as a special interest project, as he did with all of the large infrastructure projects for the state universities.

UCF now has 180 students in the medical school. For the third year, UCF had more applications to our medical school than did any other public university medical school in Florida. UCF will admit an additional 100 students in 2012 and starting in 2013, we will admit 120 each year.

The president proudly announced that, thanks to a partnership between UCF, Brevard Community College, and PBS, Central Florida's PBS station (formerly WMFE TV) is now WUCF TV. The station will air on Brighthouse channels 1 and 1001.

President Hitt said that he is approaching his 20th anniversary with UCF, and spoke of his pride in our students, facilities, and dedicated faculty and staff. He thanked the faculty for their efforts and wished us a fulfilling school year.

Finally, the president addressed the issue of cancelling classes for weeknight football games, which had been raised earlier in the Senate meeting. He said that nobody at the university, players or administrators, likes weeknight football games. He announced that in the new contract that Conference-USA negotiated with Fox Sports (over ESPN) there will be far fewer weeknight games.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Academic Services for Student-Athletes (ASSA)

ASSA AT A GLANCE

- Reports through Student Development and Enrollment Services (SDES) with a dotted line to UCFAA
- 10 full time staff members dedicated to working with all 17 Varsity Sports and Cheer/Spirit squad
- 7 graduate assistantships whose primary role is mentoring student-athletes
- Approximately 40 tutors; both undergraduate and graduate students at UCF
- Monitor academic progress and degree requirements for all student-athletes
- Ensure student-athletes are meeting NCAA, C-USA and UCF eligibility and academic benchmarks
- Provide academic support, tutoring, mentoring and one-on-one advising in a structured support program for all student-athletes

2010-11 YEAR IN REVIEW

- Spring 2011 marked the 7th semester in a row that the entire student-athlete body has achieved at least a 3.0 term GPA
- Finished second only to Rice for the highest combined annual GPA in C-USA
- 219 student-athletes were named to the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll for the 2010-11 academic year, 2nd only to Rice who had 220. UCF has had the most student-athletes named to this list of any C-USA school over the past five years
- 34 student-athletes were winners of the C-USA Academic Medal, which honors student-athletes with a 3.75 cumulative GPA or better
- The ASSA Tutoring program was honored as a Model Practice Award Winner by the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) at the National Convention in Dallas (June 2011)
- Over half of all varsity sports maintain an Academic Progress Rate (APR) score over the national average for their sport
- Four teams (Women's Golf, Cross Country, Volleyball and Women's Tennis) had a perfect 1000 on their APR score during the 09-10 cycle
- The Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for UCF this year is projected to be at 84%, above the national average

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

- Progress Reports—twice a semester
- Missed Class Policy—travel letters
- Academic Advising Council involvement
- Staff and Faculty meetings with ASSA staff during the 2011-12 academic year

MOVING FORWARD—PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

- Always operate with integrity, accountability and within compliance of all NCAA, C-USA and UCF rules, policies and procedures
- Provide accurate and detailed guidance to student-athletes that will allow them to use ASSA and University resources in an effort to maintain progress towards their degree and to leave the university with a holistic experience and skillset they can employ in their future endeavors
- To produce the highest combined GPA and combined C-USA Commissioners Honor Roll recipients in the entire conference
- To continue to exceed the NCAA's required benchmarks related to eligibility, Academic Progress Rate, Graduation Success Rates and overall federal graduation rates. In addition, to become a nationally recognized program for excellence pertaining to the student-athlete academic experience
- To foster and promote increased student-athlete engagement with campus faculty, programming and independence in decision-making

