

Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of
August 23, 2012

Ida Cook, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2012 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Shekinah Fashaw, Student Government Association
Mercedes Beaudoin, Student Government Association
Diane Chase, Academic Affairs
Patti McCall, University Libraries
Jana Jasinski, Sociology
John Schultz, Anthropology and Academic Affairs
Mark Soskin, Economics
Ross Hinkle, Graduate Studies
Elliot Vittes, Undergraduate Studies
Kimya Massey, Academic Services for Student Athletes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mercedes Beaudoin, SGA Environment & Sustainability Specialist, spoke about the current transition from blue books to green books, which are made from recycled paper. The current supply of blue books should sustain us through the end of the semester. Green books will be used once the supply of blue books runs out. Green books are slightly more expensive than the blue books.

Cook discussed the smoke-free campus policy. There will be instructions forthcoming on how to approach smokers and inform them of the smoke-free policy.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Tony Waldrop, Provost and Executive Vice President, recognized Manoj Chopra for his recent appointment to the Board of Governors (BOG) due to being elected chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates.

Waldrop made announced the following:

- The university is moving forward with the promotion process for Instructors and Lecturers.
- A new PhD program in Hospitality Management began this year.
- The GEP is being reduced from 36 to 30 credits. A state committee will decide the requirements for 15 of those hours.

- The legislature predicted that excess hour fees would bring in over \$1 million, but only yielded \$200,000.
- UCF's total enrollment will be approximately 60,000. The total enrollment is lower than expected. The administration projected a three percent raise in student credit hours, but it rose by only .23%. This resulted in a significant budget shortfall.
- There will be a meeting of SUS presidents to request additional monies for targeted areas and to urge for the restoration of this year's one-time cuts.
- The same-sex partner benefits proposal was denied by the Board of Trustees. The UFF is working to pass a new proposal. The president and provost strongly support the same-sex partner benefits.

A question and answer period followed. There was a brief discussion regarding four year graduation rates and how these can be improved. There was also a brief discussion about the proposed Florida Virtual University and what the state is assessing to extend online education.

Cook stated that she fully supports the same-sex partner benefits, and explained that she voted against them at the Board of Trustees meeting for parliamentary procedural purposes. Had she voted yes, she would have been unable to raise the issue again in the future.

Cook provided a brief overview of the meeting of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on State Higher Education Reform that she attended with Manoj Chopra, Arlen Chase, and SGA President Cortez Whatley. The Task Force is looking at possibilities to have universities serve as the driving force to create local jobs. Items discussed included tuition and budget cuts.

NEW BUSINESS

Introductions

All members of the Faculty Senate introduced themselves.

General Education Program (GEP) Update

Diane Chase, Executive Vice Provost, discussed House Bill 7135, which led to changes in the state-wide statutes regarding the GEP program. The GEP will be reduced from 36 to 30 credit hours. Fifteen of those credits will be the same at all institutions (SUS and Florida College System). The proscribed hours will take the form of five classes, one in each of the following five categories: Communication, Math, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science. A series of committees are being established with faculty and administrator representation at the state level to determine which five courses will be selected for the GEP program. Chase is serving on the steering committee; additional UCF faculty are being nominated to serve on discipline committees. A question and answer period followed Chase's report.

Athletics

Kimya Massey, Director of Academic Services for Athletes (ASSA), provided an overview of the responsibilities of this office and discussed some forthcoming initiatives. He provided an update on the academic success of student athletes. The mean GPA for athletes was a 3.0, and fifty student athletes maintained a 4.0. Men's football won the CUSA award for outstanding GPAs. Athletics just had its best year for retention and graduation rates. Ten of sixteen teams are over the national average for their sports. Women's tennis has retained and graduated 100% of the athletes that came in on scholarship. Football and baseball are also high. The retention rate

for student athletes is 95%. Student athletes have two years to declare a major, but ASSA aims to have them declare within one year. ASSA is introducing a "Guest Coaches" program, which will allow faculty to spend a day with an athlete and experience the daily activities of a student athlete. Student athletes will be provided faculty with travel letters within the next week, which will detail the travel schedule for the semester.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cook announced that Senate committees will begin meeting soon. She requested that senators send to her suggestions for topics they would like to see the Faculty Senate address this year.

President Hitt's Address

UCF President John C. Hitt welcomed the Faculty to the 2012-2013 academic year and gave an address on the state of the university.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.