

Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of
January 24, 2013

Ida Cook, Faculty Senate chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of November 15, 2012 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

GUESTS

Angel Cardec, International Studies
Chris Cook, International Studies
Francisco Fernández-Rubiera, Modern Languages and Literatures
Jim Gilkeson, Finance
Paul Giordano, Modern Languages and Literatures
Gregg Klowden, Biology
Ronnie Korosec, Faculty Relations
Charles Negy, Psychology
Shelley Park, Philosophy
Bernardo Ramirez, Health Management and Informatics
Claudia Schippert, Philosophy
Elliot Vittes, Undergraduate Studies

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Senate resolutions on domestic partner benefits and Student Perception of Instruction were approved by the provost. The new SPOI will be administered this semester. The call for Senate elections has gone to all of the colleges. Cook offered a reminder that faculty can continue to provide feedback for the proposed new GEP courses. Cook noted that the March Senate meeting is the last one for 2012-2013, and committee business must go to the Senate by March in order to get approved by this Senate.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Diane Chase, executive vice provost, reported on behalf of Provost and Executive Vice President Tony Waldrop, who is in Tallahassee meeting with legislators. Chase provided an update on the budget, which is still in play at the state level. There are airport interviews underway for searches for the Dean of the College of Engineering and Vice Provost for Regional Campuses.

OLD BUSINESS

GEP Changes – *Diane Chase*

Chase provided an update about the new proposed GEP. Due to a legislative mandate, these changes will be made at all public universities and college statewide. The new GEP would go from 36 to 30 hours and a 15 hour core would be the same for all institutions. The topic areas would be math, natural science, social science, communication, and humanities. The statewide steering and discipline committees have met and made recommendations about the courses that

would be in the five topic areas. Faculty have been encouraged to provide feedback and can continue to do through 5:00 p.m. on January 25. The steering committee has asked that the GEP be allowed to remain at 36 hours, with the additional six hours at the discretion of the institution. It has also proposed that higher level courses be permitted for substitution of lower level courses. UCF will still have control of the last 15-21 hrs.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2012-2013-3 Encouraging Funded Interdisciplinary Research

Cook introduced Resolution 2012-2013-3 Encouraging Funded Interdisciplinary Research, which was sent forward from the Budget and Administrative Committee. Cook opened the floor for discussion. None followed. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2012-2013-3 Encouraging Funded Interdisciplinary Research

Whereas, the current academic climate across many disciplines, if not all, is to encourage and promote multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research; and

Whereas, entities, such as National Academies of Science, have recommended that to facilitate interdisciplinary research academic institutions should focus on the development of policies to address cost-sharing and credit splits that are equitable to all parties involved; therefore

Be It Resolved that the Faculty Senate endorses current university efforts to allow equitable cost-sharing and credit splits among all involved parties.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion made to amend the agenda to have committee reports be the next item of business. Motion seconded and carried.

Budget and Administration – Robert Dipboye

The committee sent three resolutions to Steering. One was the resolution that the Senate just approved (2012-13-3) and the other two were sent back to the committee for revisions. The next meeting is on Feb. 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Personnel – Kathryn Seidel

The committee met on Jan. 15 and continued their work on the TIP, RIA, and SOTL awards. The next meeting is Feb. 21 at 12:00 p.m. Melody Bowdon, director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, will attend to discuss SOTL.

Parking Advisory – Alex Tamasan

The committee met Jan. 17 and continued discussion on the hang tag and decal tag fee pricing. William Merck, vice president for Administration and Finance, attended to provide information on pricing issues. The committee will meet in February and decide whether to continue to pursue this issue.

Undergraduate Council – *Kelly Allred*

The UPCC met to conduct normal business. No specific issues to report. The next meeting is Feb. 12.

Graduate Council – *Jim Moharam*

Appeals Committee: Committee met on 11/29 and 12/13. Next meeting is to be scheduled.

Curriculum Committee: Committee met on 11/19 and 12/3. Next meeting is scheduled for 2/4.

Program Review and Awards Committee: Committee met on 11/16 and 12/7. Next meeting is to be scheduled.

Policy Committee: Committee met on 12/5 and 1/23. Next meeting is scheduled for 2/6. The policy committee has *approved* the following revisions to the grading scale policy:

- The grading scale for Directed Research (XXX 6918) and Doctoral Research (XXX 7919) is to be on Satisfactory (S)/Unsatisfactory (U) only. This is the current policy for “*Research and Scholarly Work*” courses: Thesis (XXX 6971 or 6973), Doctoral Dissertation (XXX 7980), and Research Report (XXX 6909).
- Graduate programs must select the grading scale for “Disciplinary Training” courses: Internships (XXX 6946) and Practica and Clinical Practice (XXX 5944 or XXX 6946) to be on an A-F or Satisfactory (S)/Unsatisfactory (U), but not both, in any one section.

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

NEW BUSINESS (*continued*)

Study Abroad and Faculty Compensation

Cook opened the floor for discussion of the issues related to study abroad and faculty compensation. There are cases in which faculty conducting short-term study abroad programs in the summer opt not to collect compensation in order to keep program costs down. The UFF filed a grievance to require the university to pay all study abroad faculty at the bargained rate for summer.

Senator Linda Walters discussed her marine biology study abroad program in which she brings a small number of students to a 5-star resort to go diving for a week. All of her expenses are paid for and she does not want compensation, which could raise costs prohibitively for the students. She has been informed by her department that, given the small number of students involved, the department could not afford to pay her for the course in which the students are enrolled. She advocated for an opt-out policy that would allow faculty in her situation to waive their salary.

An open discussion followed. Questions were raised about faculty liability if an accident, injury, or death occurred while a student was on a study abroad trip and the faculty member was not being compensated. Jim Gilkeson, United Faculty of Florida (UFF) representative, discussed the issue from a payment and compensation perspective. He also brought about issues related to liability and questioned where liability falls in an adverse event. He encouraged faculty to contact him at Gilkeson@ucf.edu with feedback on the collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

Cook relayed comments from three faculty members who were unable to attend. All conduct study abroad programs and expressed concern about the impact of this grievance on the future of

their programs and on the research they conduct while abroad. Shelley Park, UFF president, discussed the wording in the contract about teaching in the summer and noted that while the UFF supports study abroad, it does not support faculty doing this outside of the parameters of the contract. A question was raised about whether this policy would apply to thesis and dissertation hours in the summer. Many members of the Senate voiced concerns that it should be faculty decision to participate in study abroad programs without compensation if they wish to. Some senators expressed concerns that allowing faculty to waive their compensation for study abroad would create a precedent for allowing the administration to set a lower compensation rate for some classes.

Cook concluded the discussion by reiterating that there are faculty who would like to do study abroad programs without compensation and they hope that the UFF will consider this during contract negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.