

Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of
November 20, 2013

Reid Oetjen, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. The roll was circulated for signatures.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2013 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

GUESTS

Lyman Brodie, Academic Affairs Faculty Relations
Lynn Hansen, Executive Director, Career Services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oetjen announced that Vice President Harms has resigned, effective as of the end of the year. There is a special discount for faculty for the football game tomorrow. The Board of Trustees (BOT) is dealing with the contract negotiations impasse with the United Faculty of Florida, starting with recommendations from a subcommittee. The BOT Audit, Ethics, and Compliance Committee wants to establish a codes of ethics and conduct for the university. Oetjen wants to have faculty involvement, and will be putting out a call for committee members to look at this. The provost has chosen not to approve Resolutions 2012-2013-5 through 2012-2013-14 from last year; he plans to visit Senate subcommittees for further discussion.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Since the Provost is attending the Board of Governors meeting, there is no report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2012-2013-5 (revised) Caution in Implementing STEM initiatives

Oetjen introduced the resolution and explained the provost's rationale for not approving the earlier version. The revised version was sent forward from the Steering committee, and the only revision was the addition of the word "curricular" in the final sentence. After discussion, the revised resolution was passed unanimously. The resolution as approved read:

Resolution 2012-2013-5 An Advisory Urging Caution in the Implementation of STEM
Initiatives (Revised)

Whereas, the idea of universities as unified entities encompassing and valuing all fields of higher learning is necessary to cultivate an intellectually sophisticated and civically engaged citizenry for the sake of the common good of society as a whole; and

Whereas, the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines have always recognized and promoted incorporating a strong liberal arts foundation to

STEM education in enhancing student preparation in terms of practice and accreditation;
and

Whereas, the professional preparation of graduates in STEM fields has always been recognized as one important dimension of the purpose and mission of universities historically, but only as one of many similarly important dimensions; and

Whereas, some of the changes of a funding and curricular nature for the sake of increased STEM enrollments are acknowledged to be desirable for those interested in careers in those fields, to satisfy the growing need for graduates in STEM fields in our increasingly technological and scientific state; therefore

Be It Resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Central Florida urges the University of Central Florida administration that any plans and actions taken to emphasize placement of students in STEM fields be balanced to maintain the identity and mission of the university as an institution that embraces and fosters learning in all academic fields. And, furthermore, that any implementation of STEM [curricular](#) changes be undertaken only with the active involvement of the Faculty Senate, in the spirit of genuine shared governance.

Publication of SPOI results on the UCF website

For the previous version of the SPOI, the responses to questions #9 through #16 (averages for each faculty member) were posted on a university website for publication. For the new version, a decision is needed for how much to publish. The recommendation from the Steering Committee is to publish the average responses for all nine questions on the new SPOI; the two free answer items will not be included. After discussion, this was approved by the Senate.

Presentation on First Destination Survey

The agenda was amended to add a presentation by Lynn Hansen, executive director of Career Services, on a new survey instituted this semester for all graduating seniors and graduate students. It asks questions about future plans of these graduating students, such as employment, graduate school, military service, volunteer positions, and more. In designing the survey, her office looked at similar surveys at other institutions, and used the FSU survey as a model. The survey is listed as mandatory on the graduating student checklist, but at present there is no penalty for not filling it out. Some faculty objected to the term mandatory.

The data will be found on the OEAS website. Only summed responses will be seen and individual student responses will be kept private. It will be available to the public, and it will be possible for departments and programs to request results for segments of students.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Administrative Committee - Robert Cassanello reported that the committee is looking into a statement on massive open online courses (MOOCs) and supplements for Fulbright fellowships.

Personnel Committee – Mason Cash reported the committee is looking at the failed resolutions from last year, salary compression, and factors which are used for the Chronicle of Higher Education survey of the best universities to work for.

Parking Advisory Committee – Amit Joshi reported the committee is looking into the issue of price equalization between the parking sticker and hangtag, and safety concerns about the use of skateboards and bicycles on campus.

Undergraduate Council – William Self reported that the undergraduate committees have been busy taking care of normal business, as well as the issues of mapping and tracking student progress. He does not expect that the state-mandated GEP changes will cause major changes to UCF's GEP.

Graduate Council – Jim Moharam said that all four graduate committees have been busy. The committees are looking at new issues of proper training for class assistants who are not Graduate Teaching Assistants, and also the issue of the requirement for continuous enrollment for thesis students over the summer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM.