

Faculty Senate Committee Meeting

Minutes of
January 22, 2015

Reid Oetjen, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. The roll was circulated for signatures.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2014 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Jennifer Sumner, Director Special Projects, Regional Campuses
Christine Dellert, Senior Director of Internal Communications, Communications and Marketing
Lyman Brodie, Associate Vice Provost, Faculty Relations
Ross Hinkle, Vice Provost and Dean College of Graduate Studies
Weston Bayes, Student Body President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcomed Stephen Kuebler, College of Sciences, Chemistry. Dr. Kuebler replaces Kevin Belfield as a senator for the spring semester. Requested a volunteer senator to serve on the University Master Planning committee for the spring semester, also replacing Kevin Belfield. Ida Cook provided an overview of the committee. Richard Harrison, volunteered.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Provost Whittaker was unable to attend the meeting due to the Board of Governors meeting in Jacksonville. Ronnie Korosec provided the Provost update after new business was presented.

Downtown Campus

Last Friday, 53 people convened downtown for an all-day retreat at the UCF Center for Emerging Media, adjacent to Creative Village site. Programs being considered for moving downtown made presentations about their programs. The Provost and Rick Schell, on behalf of the President were in attendance. At the meeting on January 23, the committee will discuss the programs and units in more detail. All meeting dates and times are online and are open for attendance.

Last week there was a Parramore community bus tour and included visits to multiple sites and with community stakeholders. It was a day of community immersion. See <http://www.ucf.edu/UCFdowntown/>.

Christine Dellert provided an update on the Board of Governors meeting held in Jacksonville. The Facilities Committee expressed support for the downtown campus. The next BOG meeting is February 19, and the downtown campus will be on the agenda again, including the results of an economic impact study. Orlando Sentinel ran a supportive editorial on the project and partnership with City of Orlando, Valencia College, and the Orange County Public Schools.

There will be an announcement on Saturday in relation to key community partners, site of the new K-8 community school in Parramore, Orange County Public Schools, and Harris Rosen.

Faculty Cluster Initiative

The program driven by faculty, encourages faculty to find interdisciplinary research partners, which will form the basis of approximately half of faculty hires in the next hiring cycle. The hires must be: innovative and relevant at the local, national, or international level; fill an important gap in existing programs; and must build upon institutional strengths. See the provost website for more information and answers to frequently asked questions.

Question: Has there been discussion of risk to junior faculty who might not get credit for promotion and tenure for publishing outside their discipline? We are aware of the concern and are having discussions. Christopher Parkinson and Manoj Chopra will be invited to the February 5 Steering committee meeting to address questions prior to bringing to the Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Foundation Excellence Update (FoE)—Jennifer Sumner

FoE is a University-wide study of transfer policies, practices, and procedures, to result in a recommended action plan for institutional improvements leading to higher levels of transfer-student academic success, learning, satisfaction, and graduation. Surveys have been distributed for faculty-staff and students; current response is 463 faculty/staff and 7,549 students. Surveys are accessible for the next several weeks. Senators are reminded to ask their colleagues to complete the survey. Survey data will be used by committees to develop recommendations for improving transfer student policies, practices, and procedures. Results will be available to everyone and be available sometime in the summer. Go to <http://provost.ucf.edu/foe/> for other information.

COACHE Survey

Reid Oetjen mentioned the COACHE faculty-staff survey starts February 9. Faculty will be asked to complete the in-depth survey. It will take 25-30 minutes to complete. No administrators are part of this survey. The survey link will be emailed from Harvard, the survey administrator. Lyman Brodie mentioned the survey will go out to 769 tenure track and tenured faculty and 456 instructors and lecturers. No position above chair will be taking the survey.

Authorize UCF Faculty Senate Chair to oppose Florida House of Representatives HB 4005 and identical Senate Bill SB 176

Statement of opposition was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. There is an identical bill introduced in both chambers that will remove the prohibition of carrying concealed weapons and firearms on college and university campuses. The implication is that anyone who comes on campus can carry a firearm. Chiefs of police, university presidents, and student representatives are all against this.

Faculty can personally write Senator David Simmons, chair of the Rules committee and Rich Workman House Rules chairman. You can't lobby this issue on university time and using university resources (i.e., letterhead, computers, or formal title). Brief discussion followed. Weston Bayes, Student Body President communicated that the students oppose the bills. The opposition statement authorizes the chair to work through the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) on the issue. Robert Wood voiced strong support of the opposition statement. He experienced such tragedy on a campus in the 2002.

UCF Faculty Senate Opposition to Concealed Weapons or Firearms on State University System Campuses and/or Facilities

Whereas, the Faculty Senate of the University of Central Florida is concerned about the safety and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and visitors to State University System campuses and/or facilities; and

Whereas, even in an active shooter situation, the Faculty Senate believes concealed weapons or firearms on campuses will make a dangerous situation more dangerous; and

Whereas, the Faculty Senate of the University of Central Florida opposes any legislation that would allow any individual other than sworn law enforcement to carry concealed weapons or firearms on any State University System campuses and/or facilities; therefore,

Be it Resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Central Florida authorizes the Chair of the Faculty Senate to represent this opposition in an effort to stop legislation that enables individuals to carry concealed weapons or firearms on State University System campuses and/or facilities.

Reid Oetjen asked for any suggested changes. None. Motion to approve the opposition statement was made and seconded. Statement passes.

Other Business

Update on textbook affordability: state proposal to post textbooks and prices thirty days before registration. Issue is being pushed by the Governors' office. Will keep the senate updated when information is available.

Reid Oetjen announced that reapportionment is complete and the call for election to the Faculty Senate went to all colleges. College election results are due by March 1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Administrative Committee - *Joseph Harrington*

Have not met since last meeting. Identified an issue regarding the State taking away health insurance from students that graduate and go full-time resulting in a year without health insurance. Will be forwarding to Steering.

Personnel Committee - *Ana Leon*

Have not met since last meeting. We have a subcommittee working on parental leave and hope to have a resolution drafted soon.

Parking Advisory Committee - *Amit Joshi*

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the equalization of hangtag and decal permits. The gap has been reduced to 5%. We are also looking at signage across campus, and there is a major initiative this year to refurbish signage across the campus.

Undergraduate Council - *William Self*

UCRC and UCPC elected Martha Marinara to replace Jeff Kaplan. Both had meetings. Topics introduced have been grade inflation, base GPA requirements, and academic rigor.

Graduate Council - *Annette Khaled*

Nothing to report. Curriculum and policy meet next week.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 5:04pm