

Faculty Senate Committee Meeting
Minutes of
September 24, 2015

Keith Koons, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2015 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Lucretia Cooney, Assistant Director, Faculty Relations

Binita Devkota, Student Government Association

Christine Dellert, Senior Director of Internal Communications, Communications and Marketing

Sarah Norris, Scholarly Communications Librarian, University Libraries

Lee Dotson, Digital Initiatives Librarian, University Libraries

Kerri Bottorff, Digital Projects Librarian, University Libraries

Elizabeth Dooley, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, and Dean of the College of Undergraduate Studies

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcomed Dr. Yolanda Hood, department head of the Curriculum Materials Center at the University Libraries to the senate for 2015-2016.

Announced the passing of a freshman, Michael Namey who collapsed during class Monday morning. Commended the faculty member, students, police, and rescue crews for their efforts. Expressed condolences to Mr. Namey's family and friends. Encouraged everyone to find out where the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices are located within the buildings and to remind colleagues about the devices. In many cases the AED can save a life. Ongoing CPR classes are held at the Recreation and Wellness Center. UCF is waiving the fees for CPR classes scheduled for September 26, October 1, and October 7.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Board of Trustees (BOT)

The Board of Trustees approved the modification for the Type I Campus Proposal for the Downtown campus. The proposal includes one \$60 million dollar building funded by one-third in UCF non-E&G funds, one-third in philanthropy funds; and we are requesting one-third from the state. Also includes a significant renovation in the Center for Emerging Media with funds already allocated. We have proposed a different mix of academic programs for the downtown campus that focuses more on health technology, community-facing programs, and digital media. The combined enrollment from UCF and Valencia results in a sustainable 7,300 students. See the presentation to the Board of Trustees at www.ucf.edu/downtown.

Fall Enrollment

Total enrollment is at 63,373, including over 54,000 undergraduate students. In the past four to five years, UCF has typically had a 2% growth. This year we had almost a 4% growth. The increase in growth is primarily attributed to the successful retention of students, increase in the number of students accepting admittance, and 750 additional students from other states.

Freshman SAT scores are up six points to a combined 1,261 with a high school weighted GPA of 4.0. The Burnett Honors College has an average SAT score of 1,400 with a weighted GPA of 4.4. UCF enrolled 69 National Merit Scholars. The student body is at 44% minority enrollment, including 24% Hispanic; moving toward a minority majority. Over the past five years the graduation rate has increased from 63% for 6-year graduation rate to 70%. This year we broke 89% for the first-year retention rate. These statistics contribute to the U.S. News & World Ranking Report, ranking UCF in the top 15 innovative schools in the country.

Faculty Demographics

Preliminary results indicate we have seen a 2% increase in women faculty from 40.8% to 43%, a 1% increase in Asian faculty, and a slight growth in African American faculty up from 3.9% to 4.1%.

Searches

Dean Jose Fernandez announced he will be stepping down as the Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities in August, 2016. Dean Michael Frumkin will chair the search committee. Search committee members include: Lynn Hepner, Elizabeth Wardle, Humberto López Cruz, Stella Sung, Jeff Rupert, Trey Philpotts, M.C. Santana, Ezekiel Walker, Christian Ravela, Allen Watters, Neida Mora-Maus, Carolyn Hopp, and Judy Albertson. The provost will facilitate two open forums to be held October 7 and October 8 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. We hope to post the position in October and bring in candidates in early spring with a start date of next fall.

The Provost is combining the Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence and International Affairs and Global Strategies positions to reduce the administrative overhead and apparent synergy between the two organizations. The search will be internal and open to all tenured full professors. Encouraged all interested parties to apply.

COACHE Survey

Faculty Excellence is leading the review of the COACHE survey results. Cynthia Young is convening a committee to be charged with moving recommendations to an action plan. This will be done in three phases: setting priorities in Fall 2015, developing strategy in Spring 2016, and taking action in Fall 2016. A Provost update will be posted in a few weeks focusing on the COACHE survey findings and he will make the summary report available with links.

Strategic Planning

The Board of Trustees Strategic Planning committee has charged the administration to work on a new strategic plan for the university. The plan spans 20 years with a five-year action plan. There are three commissions with approximately five members from within the university and five members outside the university. Each commission is co-chaired by a faculty member appointed by the President and a community member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Trustees. The Faculty Senate Strategic Planning Council will host two campus open forums October 26 and November 12 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Questions

What is our goal for sustainable number of students or is all growth good? The University is focused on building faculty at a sustainable rate. We planned on a 2% sustainable growth; the recent 4% growth was unanticipated, but good. Our faculty to student ratio is improving, currently just under 31 to 1. A more philosophical question is how big is too big? My personal answer is when everybody that needs a higher education in this community has one. The strategic planning Philosophy commission will address sustainable quality.

Are the results of the COACHE survey going to be released for everyone to review or just the committee? The summary results will be open to everyone. The raw data is available to anyone that has a scholarly interest.

In communications from your office, you seem to focus on strength areas. What about the people in our region that are interested in a degree in the humanities or arts and not in STEM fields? I've been trying to use phrases like "areas of distinctive impact," and "the purpose of higher education." I believe a primary purpose of higher education is to lift lives and livelihoods. I don't think our only area of distinctive impact is only STEM. Last month's Forbes article talked about the value of a liberal arts degree and high technology. In a time when delivery of information is becoming somewhat commoditized, the ability to think, create, be critical, and analyze and synthesize; the value of that becomes stronger. When I charge the College of Arts and Humanities Dean search committee, I hope we look for a Dean that understands the role of the arts and humanities in everything that we do as an institution.

Can you provide a brief update on the Foundation of Excellence? Manoj Chopra indicated that the FOE team is uploading the final report from phase one for the Gardner Institute's review. The second phase will be launched soon. Dr. Dooley indicated that in the second phase our philosophy and beliefs will be communicated, we will be working on the concept of having a seamless transition from the State Colleges to UCF, and a plan to further the curricular alignment. We are calling these teams in the second phase action teams instead of committees.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

University Libraries – STARS Presentation

Lee Dotson and Sarah Norris with the University Libraries provided the senators with a brief presentation on UCF's Showcase of Text, Archives, Research and Scholarship (STARS) initiative. STARS allows UCF to disseminate, publicize, and share works by, for, and about UCF. The site is administered by the UCF Libraries through an approved tech fee proposal. STARS can host, promote research, and creative activity. Also provided an overview of the Digital Commons, metrics available, and services. For the full presentation, see the Faculty Senate website.

Questions: What happens if the tech fee doesn't get renewed? If the University decides at the end of three years that we don't have enough funds to support STARS, we do have an alternative strategy.

Approval of TIP, RIA, and SoTL Documents

The three awards are defined and restricted by collective bargaining. Documents are presented for approval for the date changes only. Motion and second to approve the new dates for the current year. Motion passes. A review committee is in place to review and make recommendations regarding the programs, but has not finished. The committee continues work this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Administrative Committee – Joseph Harrington

Met once to elect a chair. The committee will be working on four main issues: electronic timesheets, Library funding, distribution of overhead, and cost of facility improvements. Meeting next week.

Personnel Committee – Linda Walters reporting for Ana Leon

The Committee met twice. From the list of issues, picked top two to be worked on first. During September and October, the committee will be working on the issue surrounding Resolution 2008-2009-1 Appointment and Evaluation of School Directors and Department Chairs. We formed a sub-committee to research all issues related to the resolution. In October will be working on the modification of the University Promotion and Tenure Committee for promotion consideration of non-tenured faculty.

Parking Advisory Committee – Bari Hoffman-Ruddy

Committee has met twice and elected Kimberly Jentsch and Donna Frazee to serve on the University Parking and Transportation Advisory committee. The committee is looking into a mechanism to support faculty going between Rosen College and the main campus. We are currently in an information gathering stage. We are also looking into visitor parking availability for the College of Medicine for volunteer service participants, better signage for visitor parking, and the current initiatives in place for security efforts in parking.

Undergraduate Council – Anna Jones for Kelly Allred

The Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum committee met on September 8. We discussed the repeat policy when grade forgiveness is not used. Currently gathering information from the Registrar's office. We reviewed the policy from several other state schools and the committee wants to determine the impact on students and faculty. Also discussed the posthumous degree and recognition for students short of the required credits. Committee determined that criteria should be established to clarify what families can expect based on the number of credit hours completed prior to the student passing away.

Two new tracks in the Hospitality BS were approved on September 1 by the Undergraduate Course Review committee.

Graduate Council – Annette Khaled

All committees have chairs and have met. Policy is discussing continuous enrollment of graduate students. Also discussing graduate student's requirement of 3 credit hour minimum post candidacy.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 5:03 p.m.