

Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Special Called Meeting
Minutes
June 4, 2009

Dr. Ida Cook, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

Steering Officers Present: Cook, Chopra, and Kassab.

Steering Committee Members Present: Brown, Cash, A. Chase, Daniell, Edwards, Goodman, Kaufman, Koons, LiKamWa, Lynxwiler, Oetjen, Pennington, Schulte, Seidel, and Sivo.

Administrators Present: President Hitt, Provost Hickey, D. Chase, Huff-Corzine, Morrison-Shetlar.

Steering Committee Members Not Present: Belfield, Covelli, Gause, Kovach, Moslehy, Rahrooh, and Wink.

Recognition of Guests: Bill Merck and Judy Monroe (Administration and Finance); Heidi Watt and Lucretia Cooney (Faculty Affairs); John Schell (Office of the President).

Dr. Cook opened the meeting and turned it over to Drs. Hitt and Hickey to talk about changes occurring in the UCF budget. Dr. Hitt provided an overview of the budget cuts that have occurred in the last two years, which total \$77 million, a 27% cut of the recurring revenue. For the coming two years, UCF has received a federal stimulus package of \$18 million per year. Those two years will serve as a glide path to allow expenditures to match the new revenue level. It will not be possible to continue to make across-the-board cuts, and it is now necessary to make targeted cuts. Five programs have been identified for the targeted cuts. They are:

- Cardiopulmonary Sciences (College of Health and Public Affairs)
- Engineering Technology (College of Engineering and Computer Science)
- Management Information Systems (College of Business Administration)
- Radiologic Sciences (College of Health and Public Affairs)
- Statistics and Actuarial Sciences (College of Sciences)

Eliminating these programs will affect 45 faculty members, six staff members, and the 1092 students who major in programs offered by those departments. The cuts will save \$6.1 million. Program closures will happen over the next two years, providing a two-year teach-out path for students in those programs. Undergraduate within 36 credit hours of completing their majors should be able to do so in the time allotted. Masters students should also be able to complete their degrees. All faculty and staff will have two semester termination notice, and some will remain employed for the full two years.

Additional budget cuts will also be made on the administrative side. Although entire units will not be closed, a percentage of the administrative budgets will be removed. That percentage will be the same as the percentage of cuts to the academic budgets due to program closures. The cuts to the administrative budget will total \$3.7 million.

Dr. Hickey provided an overview of the budget projects for the next two years. (A summary spreadsheet was distributed.) In 2009-2010 there is still a gap of \$7.2 million that must be filled in order to keep the budget at its current level. This will necessitate using reserve funds. There is a similar gap for 2010-2011. At the end of 2010-2011, when the federal stimulus money expires, there will be a gap of \$12 million. That figure takes into account the \$6.1 million in cuts the president discussed today. That gap could widen dramatically if the legislature institutes additional cuts.

Questions were invited from the floor.

Question: What other options is the university considering in addition to or instead of the program cuts? Will there be a dialogue with faculty? President Hitt responded that the administration is willing to listen to ideas, but without program cuts, to cut millions of dollars would cripple ongoing operations. The provost noted that he has received suggestions in response to the Provost's Update emails and has considered all of them, but they would not garner significant monetary savings.

Question: Will specific details of the administrative cuts be provided? There is such a specific plan for the cuts to the academic units, and it seems that a similar one should be in place for the administrative cuts. The president replied that the administrative units will be giving up the \$3.7 million, but the form of those cuts is not going to be prescribed. Specification of strategic cuts were necessary for the academic cuts due to contractual notification requirements, but are not necessary in the same way for the administrative units. The specifics of the cuts will be a matter of public record and can be made available.

Question: Regarding the steps for the approval of the program eliminations, what happens if during the process committees and/or colleges recommend against the eliminations? The provost replied that those recommendations are duly noted. Follow-up question: What was the process that got us to where we are right now? The provost began discussions with deans months ago about the possibility of program cuts. Institutional research compiled data from the program evaluations. The provost, president, and vice presidents went through the list of all the programs and evaluated them on the five measures of centrality, quality, demand, comparative advantage, and cost.

Since the Steering immediately preceded the Senate meeting in the same room, several senators arrived during the Steering portion. At 3:22, Dr. Cook announced that it was time to segue into the full Senate meeting.