

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes of
October 6, 2011

Dr. Ida Cook, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2011 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded with scrivener corrections.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Diane Chase, Executive Vice Provost, Academic Affairs
Patricia Bishop, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None were made.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Orange Grove Textbook Repository

Provost Waldrop is attending a conference in Dallas, Texas on higher education. Dr. Diane Chase reported on his behalf. She discussed the Orange Grove Text Plus, an initiative run jointly by the Orange Grove repository and the University Press of Florida. The University Press of Florida conducts a review of posted materials. A variety of materials have been posted, including learning modules and textbooks. Dr. Chase suggested that faculty consider looking at the resources available and providing feedback on whether the material would be suitable for use.

A discussion ensued regarding the suitability of the materials currently available. Members suggested that many of the materials are focused towards introductory and lower division courses, and some might be the equivalent of what would otherwise go in a course packet. Members discussed whether this push toward online textbooks will lead to a restriction of academic freedom. A concern was raised that the legislature might try to mandate the use of Orange Grove materials. It was suggested that Academic Affairs ask department chairs to have their faculty review the materials in their disciplines that have been posted.

One member felt that there is resistance from faculty to use library resources due to the effort involved in cobbling together the materials, and the same would be true for Orange Grove textbooks. In addition, Orange Grove textbooks would not offer the same kind of supplemental tools that traditional textbooks provide, such as quizzes and online tools. A question was raised about the mechanism for evaluating material for inclusion at the Orange Grove. There is an editorial process. The University of Florida Press plans to use the same vetting process as they use for a textbook.

A committee member suggested that we discourage the use of the Orange Grove based on the harm it may cause to economic development by putting out free resources. Other faculty thought it might be a great resource for posting out of print resources. A faculty member noted that the

lack of hard copy texts can cause problems if students are permitted to use the textbook during an exam; it is hard to know what the student is actually referencing on a laptop or e-reader.

Request from SUS on behalf of legislature

Dr. Chase reported that the State University System, on behalf of the legislature, requested information about the policies and procedures for awarding tenure and merit increases. She wanted faculty to be aware that the legislature is looking at these issues.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2011-2012-2 Senate Committee to Oversee Computing and Networking

The resolution was presented:

Resolution 2011-2012-2 Senate Committee to Oversee Computing and Networking

(from the Budget and Administrative Committee)

Whereas, the university puts a heavy emphasis on computing and all aspects of communication; and

Whereas, there are issues with ADA compliance; and

Whereas, there have been a series of issues in preparing and delivering courses; and

Whereas, there are issues in the various departments with platforms in use; and

Whereas, some faculty are unable to access e-mail; and

Whereas, there is currently no 24/7 support for computing, networking and system management:

Be it Resolved, that the Faculty Senate should expeditiously act to constitute a standing committee of oversight for all aspects of computing and networking.

Dr. Arlen Chase, Steering liaison to the Budget and Administrative Committee (B&A), explained that the members of B&A did not know about the Information Technology Resource Advisory Committee (ITR), which is similar to the committee proposed in the resolution. A discussion ensued about whether this resolution should go forward to the full Senate. A member noted that many faculty feel strongly about this issue. Other members were unclear regarding the intent of the resolution and whether it was concerned with the make-up of the current ITR committee. Dr. A. Chase recommended that the resolution be returned to B&A. It was suggested that the chair of the ITR committee and Vice Provost Joel Hartman be invited to the next B&A meeting to discuss whether the ITR committee addresses the issues raised in the resolution. Motion made to return the resolution to B&A to be shared with Joel Hartman and the ITR committee. Motion seconded and carried.

Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Ethics Task Force

The ad hoc Faculty Senate Ethics Task Force last reported to the Senate in 2006. Given the work

of the new Integrity Committee, Dr. Cook suggested that it may be time to discharge the task force. A motion to discharge the task force was made and seconded. The committee expressed appreciation for the work of the committees, and asked that the committee members be thanked for their service. Motion to discharge the task force carried.

Motion was made to amend the agenda to hear committee before moving into the discussion of the Seven Solutions. Motion seconded and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Administrative Committee – Arlen Chase

In addition to the resolution above, the committee addressed a request to propose that the university provide all faculty a free hour during the week in which no classes are held. The purpose of this free hour would be to provide all faculty a time to meet. The committee did not wish to send this forward to Senate, but requested that Dr. Chase bring it to Steering for discussion. After discussion, the Steering Committee felt that this was a good idea at the departmental level, but impractical to implement for the entire university.

Graduate Council – Ida Cook (for Jim Moharam)

Dr. Moharam could not be present but had sent his report by email. Dr. Cook read the report.

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

Appeals Committee met once on 10/6. Next meeting is scheduled for 10/27.

Curriculum Committee met once on 10/12. Next meeting is scheduled for 10/26.

Policy Committee met twice on 10/12. Next meeting is scheduled for 10/26.

- Recommended revision to the proposed academic misconduct review process.

Program Review and Awards Committee met once on 10/14. Next meeting is scheduled for 10/26.

No issues that may require review/action by the Steering committee or the full Faculty Senate are under consideration at this time.

Parking Advisory Committee – Reid Oetjen

The committee met on September 13 and Ross Wolf, chair of the University Parking Committee, was invited and addressed the history of the parking committee at UCF. The committee discussed the Saturday shuttle service to the Lake Nona campus which will be tested for several months. In addition, the committee learned from Mr. Singh about the new Zipcar program, which offers students, staff, and faculty hourly car leases. Of note was the fact that no faculty spots were used to accommodate the four spaces used by Zipcar. The committee discussed the online ride-share program, Zimride, which has been available for one year and has over 2,000 members. Faculty and staff parking spaces in Garage H have been well utilized and therefore consideration will be given to providing spaces in the other garages. However, covered faculty and staff spaces replace student spaces and some form of exchange equity has yet to be decided.

Personnel Committee

Dr. Parsa could not attend. Dr. Cook reported that the Personnel committee met yesterday and is developing guidelines for promotion of non-tenured earning faculty.

Undergraduate Council – Kelly Allred

The committee will meet for the first time on October 11th.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Texas' Seven College Solutions

The Florida Board of Governors and other state entities are currently looking at Texas' Seven College Solutions and considering whether they can be adapted to fill Florida's needs. The Steering Committee discussed the possible ramifications of the measures included in the proposal.

A senator noted that the problems that Texas is facing are not the same as we have here in Florida. However, he suggested that it will not benefit us to simply dig in our heels and refuse to consider that some changes might be needed. Other members reinforced the idea that Florida is different from Texas and we do not share the same problems. Others pointed out that not all seven solutions have worked in Texas and it would be helpful to have data on what has been successful before implementing them here.

A senator noted that in addition to the Seven Solutions, Texas Governor Perry has issued a challenge for educators to deliver a four-year degree for \$10,000.

The Seven Solutions approach to salaries was discussed, and it was noted that the solutions would be redundant given our current system. Our collective bargaining agreement addresses merit increases, including the TIP, RIA, SoTL awards. The Seven Solutions addresses one-time bonuses and not increases to base salaries. Another example is student input into salaries, which is part of the Seven Solutions. UCF already utilizes student input for salaries as part of the SPoI process. Another example raised was accountability for student learning, for which we have metrics already in place.

It was noted that one consequence of tying salary to teaching load would be the elimination of all non-funded research. Faculty would opt to increase their teaching load rather than do research, and the national reputation of the university would fall as a result.

Dr. Cook reframed the discussion and asked the committee to consider how we should respond. The Seven Solutions document seems to be wedded to the numbers, especially regarding productivity, including post-tenure review. Dr. Cook believes that we are accountable, but the question remains, how do we get the word out?

A senator spoke about the document authored by Florida State University's President Barron, in which he attempts to adapt the Texas solutions to Florida's needs. Dr. Diane Chase said that the document can be hard to find, but offered to send a copy to the Senate office for forwarding to the Steering Committee.

The committee agreed that we need to be positive in our approach and be responsive to their concerns and provide solutions. We need to highlight what we are already doing to address such

issues. We need to monitor how the governor and legislature will be addressing this issue. The issue of post-tenure review was raised. A senator noted that it is built into the Collective Bargaining Agreement, but wondered how often it is actually implemented.

October Senate meeting

Dr. Cook announced that there is no official business for the October Senate meeting, and offered the possibility of using the meeting to discuss the Seven Solutions. A motion to cancel the October Senate meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A senator raised the question of why the deadline for the online catalog is so early, and whether it could be pushed back. The Graduate Catalog entertains changes until mid-March, but the changes to the undergraduate catalog are due several months earlier. This issue will be forwarded to UPCC.

Dr. Bishop announced that the Graduate Student Assembly was approved by Student Government. The Graduate Students will now be negotiating with Student Government for funding.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The committee adjourned at 5:11 p.m.