

**Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting**  
Minutes of  
**February 7, 2013**

Ida Cook, Faculty Senate chair, called the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2013 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Tace Crouse, Director of Special Projects, Academic Affairs

Michael Stern, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies

Max Poole, Senior Associate Dean, Graduate Studies

Elliot Vittes, Interim Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Studies

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tace Crouse, director of special projects for Academic Affairs, discussed the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of Senate Bill 125 to build UCF. Each college will be highlighted on the homepage of the UCF website. Each month, a different college will host various events to commemorate and celebrate the event. Crouse provided an overview of the major upcoming events. Cook asked for ideas for ways the Faculty Senate can participate in this. Suggestions included an event centering around the Faculty Assembly, providing the founding Senators with medallions, having a tie-in with Founder's Day, and hosting something on the actual anniversary date, June 10. Cost may be an issue for some of this. Cook asked committee members to contact her with any additional ideas.

Cook announced that the March Faculty Senate meeting has been rescheduled from 3/28 to 3/21 due to scheduling issues. [*On 2/14 Cook contacted the committee via email to rescind this announcement. The March Senate meeting will be held on 3/28 as originally scheduled.*]

Cook asked committee liaisons to remind the committee chairs that the March Senate meeting will be the last opportunity to conduct business for this Senate year.

**REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

Tony Waldrop, provost and executive vice president, reported that the College of Medicine will be getting full accreditation. The colleges of Education and Business Administration have also gone through their accreditation visits and are awaiting a decision.

Waldrop reported on comments made by Florida House Speaker Will Weatherford during a recent panel about higher education in Florida. Weatherford said that a funding model solely based upon enrollment growth was a flawed system. He also stated that he supports allowing research universities to charge higher tuition than non-research universities. He does not support charging different tuition based on discipline. The provost was encouraged by his statements.

Waldrop discussed the state law that prohibits paying TIP, RIA, and SOTL award monies retroactively. There is some discussion among SUS attorneys about whether there can be relief

from this. The provost will be putting funds aside to be able to provide retroactive pay if it can legally be done.

Waldrop asked for feedback on the concept of allowing on-campus sabbaticals, which would allow a faculty member to be hosted in another department for a year, primarily for research purposes. The committee was supportive of the idea.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Domestic Partner Benefits

Waldrop stated that there has been no change in the status of domestic partner benefits for faculty. The BOT has approved domestic partner benefits for all employees. The UFF did not accept the benefits approved by the BOT, and requested additional benefits. The plan put forth by the UFF was endorsed by the president and the provost, but was not approved by the BOT. The original offer is still on the table for faculty. The UFF has not taken action to approve the domestic partner benefits offered by the BOT.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Resolution on Honors/Pass/Fail Grading Scale

Cook introduced the resolution from the ad hoc University Grading Scale Committee on the Honors/Pass/Fail (H/P/F) Grading Scale. Discussion followed on the possible implication for colleges other than Medicine.

Jim Moharam, chair of the Graduate Council, discussed concerns of the Graduate Policy Committee. Because the MD program has a completely different grading scale, this change will not impact the MD transcript. On the traditional graduate transcript, there would now be two different kinds of "F" grades, one that impacts the GPA and that doesn't. The addition of H/P/F may also cause confusion when other institutions are evaluating UCF transcripts. He suggested that other colleges could avoid those issues by adopting Honors/Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory instead of H/P/F. Cook noted that the Grading Scale Committee had agreed to the Honors College's request that H/P/F be restricted to the Graduate level.

Discussion followed on whether to amend the resolution so that it applies only to Medicine. The senator from Medicine noted that "College of Medicine" is too broad and would apply to graduate students in Biomedical Sciences. Motion made to amend the resolution to strike the fourth Whereas clause and replace "at the graduate level" with "for the MD program" in the third Whereas clause and the Be It Resolved clause. Seconded. Cook agreed that the Grading Scale Committee would accept this amendment. Discussion followed about whether "licensed health profession programs" would be acceptable instead of "the MD program". It was noted that this would still cause transcript issues for the other colleges. Max Poole, associate dean of Graduate Studies, expressed concerns about allowing H/P/F for non-clinical classes. Elliot Vittes, dean of Undergraduate Studies, noted that many undergraduates take 5000- and 6000-level courses, and a change in the grading scale at the graduate (not MD) level could affect them. Motion to amend the resolution carried.

Motion made to approve the revised resolution and send it forward to the full Senate. Motion seconded and carried. The resolution as approved read:

**Resolution: Adoption of Honors/Pass/Fail Grading Scale**  
*(from the ad hoc University Grading Scale Committee)*

**Whereas**, it is common practice in medical schools nationwide to use a Pass/Fail grading scale, particularly in clinical courses where students meet a series of competency milestones; and

**Whereas**, an honors designation is used to recognize exemplary performance and professionalism; and

**Whereas**, the UCF College of Medicine has requested that Honors/Pass/Fail be added to the grading scale ~~at the graduate level~~ for the MD program; ~~and therefore~~

~~**Whereas**, other colleges in the university have expressed an interest in adopting such a grading scale in the future; therefore~~

**Be It Resolved**, that Honors/Pass/Fail be added to the grading scale ~~at the graduate level~~ for the MD program.

Senate Agenda

Cook relayed a request from a senator to have further information about Study Abroad presented to the Senate. The committee agreed to add a presentation from the Study Abroad office to the February Senate agenda.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Budget and Administrative Committee – *Kevin Belfield*

Cook announced that Kevin Belfield will be serving as liaison to the committee while Arlen Chase is out of the country. Belfield reported that the committee will meet next week.

Graduate Council – *Jim Moharam*

Committee has been meeting to conduct normal business. Nothing of note to report.

Parking Advisory Committee – *Aaron Liberman*

The committee met Bill Merck, vice president for Administration and Finance. The next meeting will be February 21. The committee anticipates coming forward with the resolution regarding hang tags.

Personnel Committee – *Rob Folger*

The committee chair has indicated that the committee does not plan on bringing forth any resolutions this year. The committee will discuss the SOTL award at its next meeting. Melody Bowdon, director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, will attend.

Undergraduate Council – *Kelly Allred*

Committee has been meeting to conduct normal business. Nothing of note to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.