

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes of
November 7, 2013

Reid Oetjen, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. The roll was circulated for signatures.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2013 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Gordon Chavis, Undergraduate Admissions
Lyman Brodie, Faculty Relations
Lucretia Cooney, Faculty Relations
Elliot Vittes, Undergraduate Studies

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Response to Pending Resolutions

Tony Waldrop, provost and executive vice president, presented his response to the resolutions passed by the 2012-2013 Faculty Senate. He is not approving Resolutions 2012-2013-5 through 2012-2013-14. The full response may be found on the attachment.

He invited questions, and in response to a question about Resolution 2012-2013-8 (Ineligibility of Administrators from TIP, RIA, and SoTL Awards), said that not all department chairs received extra compensation and he did not want to have a disincentive for someone to be a chair.

In response to a question about Resolution 2012-2013-11 (Teaching Incentive Program SCH Eligibility), Waldrop said that if the quantity screen is removed, then it is difficult to decide other factors.

Robert Folger moved to amend Resolution 2012-2013-5 (An Advisory Urging Caution in the Implementation of STEM Initiatives) to add the word “curricular” to the final sentence so that it reads as follows: *“And, furthermore, that any implementation of STEM curricular changes be undertaken only with the active involvement of the Faculty Senate, in the spirit of genuine shared governance.”* The motion was seconded and passed, to be put on the next Senate agenda. The resolution as approved read:

Resolution 2012-2013-5 An Advisory Urging Caution in the Implementation of STEM
Initiatives (Revised)

Whereas, the idea of universities as unified entities encompassing and valuing all fields of higher learning is necessary to cultivate an intellectually sophisticated and civically engaged citizenry for the sake of the common good of society as a whole; and

Whereas, the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines have always recognized and promoted incorporating a strong liberal arts foundation to STEM education in enhancing student preparation in terms of practice and accreditation; and

Whereas, the professional preparation of graduates in STEM fields has always been recognized as one important dimension of the purpose and mission of universities historically, but only as one of many similarly important dimensions; and

Whereas, some of the changes of a funding and curricular nature for the sake of increased STEM enrollments are acknowledged to be desirable for those interested in careers in those fields, to satisfy the growing need for graduates in STEM fields in our increasingly technological and scientific state; therefore

Be It Resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Central Florida urges the University of Central Florida administration that any plans and actions taken to emphasize placement of students in STEM fields be balanced to maintain the identity and mission of the university as an institution that embraces and fosters learning in all academic fields. And, furthermore, that any implementation of STEM curricular changes be undertaken only with the active involvement of the Faculty Senate, in the spirit of genuine shared governance.

Ida Cook moved to send resolutions 2012-2013-6 through 2012-2013-13 back to their respective committees for further consideration and possible revision. The motion was seconded and passed.

Budget Update

In response to a question about the university budget, Waldrop said that a new funding model had been established to replace the Pegasus model. The new model was not implemented because of the severity of the budget cuts, as it would have taken funds away from the colleges. Waldrop said that he does not believe that the model will work in the best interest of the university, and the administration is looking at changing the model.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of TIP, RIA, and SOTL documents – Lyman Brodie

Lyman Brodie, associate vice provost for Faculty Relations, presented the documents with TIP, RIA and SoTL procedures, updated for this year. Cook moved to approve all together. The motion was seconded and passed.

Top 10% Admissions Initiative – Gordon Chavis

Gordon Chavis, associate vice president for Undergraduate Admissions, presented details of the new “Top 10 Knights” admission plan. The program was introduced after much study, as a way to enhance the quality of our entering class profile in a time of little or no growth.

The committee voted to invite Dr. Chavis to make his presentation to the full Senate meeting on November 20.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Budget and Administrative – Tom Wu reported that a meeting was held to plan topics of discussion.

Graduate Council – Jim Moharam reported that the committees are meeting to conduct regular business. Topics of discussion include the issue of continuous enrollment in the summer, and training for volunteer assistants in classes.

Parking Advisory – Bernardo Ramirez reported that the committee is looking at equalizing the cost of hang tags and decals, the number of faculty spots in garages, and issues with skateboards and other self-propelled devices.

Personnel – Robert Wood reported that the committee has not yet met.

Undergraduate Council – Deborah Breiter reported that the committees are meeting to conduct regular business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM.

Response from Provost Waldrop to the pending resolutions from 2012-2013:

Resolution 2012-2013-5 An Advisory Urging Caution in the Implementation of STEM Initiatives

I cannot support this resolution in its current form. However, if the Senate will add one additional word (**bolded**), as noted below, I will approve.

*“And, furthermore, that any implementation of STEM **curricular** changes be undertaken only with the active involvement of the Faculty Senate, in the spirit of genuine shared governance.”*

Resolution 2012-2013-6 Sustained Performance Evaluations for Tenured Faculty

I cannot support this resolution for two reasons. First, current financial resources for the university are not adequate for funding these proposed salary increases. In addition, the level of performance is not high enough to justify salary increases.

Resolution 2012-2013-7 Exclusion of Administrators from TIP, RIA and SoTL Award Committees

I cannot support this resolution. I believe those faculty who are in administrative positions are still faculty and many will return fulltime to the faculty. As far as conflicts of interest, there are ways that these can be managed.

Resolution 2012-2013-8 Ineligibility of Administrators for TIP, RIA and SoTL awards

I cannot support this resolution. I believe those faculties who are in administrative positions are still faculty who remain engaged in research and teaching activities. To exclude them from these awards could be seen as a disincentive to serving in administrative roles.

Resolution 2012-2013-9 Expansion of the Number of TIPs and RIAs

As with Resolution 2012-2013-6, there are not adequate financial resources to support an expansion of these programs.

Resolution 2012-2013-10 Compliance Check for Awards Programs

I recommend a Senate Committee determine the incidence of such errors and if there is a process that could check for compliance errors that would not create a heavy load of additional work. At that time, I would be willing to consider for approval.

Resolution 2012-2013-11
Teaching Incentive Program SCH Eligibility

The proposed change in TIP eligibility is broad. It is not clear if SCH will play in role under the proposed resolution. I recommend that a committee be formed to define more precisely what is meant by “excellence in teaching” as well as a look at all aspects of TIPS.

Resolution 2012-2013-12
SOTL Eligibility

I cannot support this resolution since it would exclude faculty administrators.

Resolution 2012-2013-13
New Service Recognition Award Program

I cannot support this recommendation at this time. There is already a service award that is given each year. However, very few nominations are received.

Resolution 2012-2013-14
Incentive for Students’ Completion of the Student Perception of Instruction

It is not clear to me what incentives might work to enhance completion of the SPOIs. In addition, we first need to determine if the new form will yield higher response rates. I recommend a Senate committee investigate what incentives have worked for other institutions and if these could be implemented at UCF. At that time, I would be willing to consider for approval.