

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes of
January 9, 2014

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 November 7, 2013 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Scott Cole, Vice President, General Counsel

Lyman Brodie, Associate Vice Provost, Faculty Relations

Paige Borden, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Knowledge Management

Ross Hinkle, Dean, Graduate College

Zachary Lampman, Student Government Association

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

Tony Waldrop, provost and executive vice president, reported that the search for the dean of the College of Nursing has begun. As a transition into retirement, Ed Neighbor is stepping down from his vice provost position. He will remain half-time as the director of space planning and utilization. Ross Hinkle announced that the search for the associate dean of Graduate Studies is nearing its end.

Waldrop distributed a handout of several charts and graphs with further details on the university finances. He spoke again about his conservatism in spending university reserves, given that revenue fell below expenses in 2012 and 2013 and many of the reserve funds are needed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Retention and graduation initiatives – Paige Borden

Borden distributed a handout, and spoke about three areas of the Student Success Initiative: big data, degree support, and interventions. The overall goal is to increase student completion rates, reduce time to degree, and minimize excess credit hour accumulation. Analysis from Civitas Insight Analytics will be used to assist, rolling out in spring 2014. The Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework will be used to improve student retention. Students now have a more convenient way to access degree audits in MyUCF. The committee voted to invite Borden to speak at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Public records requests and peer review – Scott Cole

Cole gave a summary of a legal case involving James Wright, faculty member in Sociology. He has been editing a journal since 1978, and recently has come under challenge regarding the peer review panel for an article in 2012 about the children of homosexual parents. In response to a public records request, UCF provided 15,000 emails, but did not release the names of the reviewers. Cole is working to protect UCF and Wright on two fronts: the lawsuit to keep the names of reviewers confidential is being defended, and legislation is being introduced to exempt peer review information from the public records act.

Online Syllabi – Zachary Lampman

Lampman distributed a handout regarding online syllabi. The SGA would like syllabi for courses to be posted online in advance, so that students may find out details about courses before registering for them. After discussion, Koons moved to refer this matter to UPCC and Graduate Council; Folger seconded. Discussion followed. The question was called. Motion to call the question seconded and carried. Motion to send the issue to the committees carried.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Undergraduate Council – Deborah Brieter reported on the new tracks and minors approved. No other reports were presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Oetjen sought the committee's approval to invite representatives from the UCF Bookstore to talk to the Senate about the new faculty text book hotline. He also discussed inviting Todd Stansbury to the Senate to discuss university athletics and academics.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.