

FACULTY SENATE
Steering Committee
Minutes
April 10, 2003

Dr. Michael A. Mullens, Chair, called the Steering Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. Minutes of the March 13, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved.

Members present: Drs. Ida Cook, Keith Koons, Martha Marinara, Consuelo Stebbins, Cynthia Young, Naval Modani, Janice Peterson and Diane Wink.

Members absent: Drs. Arlen Chase, Jeffrey Kaplan, Alain Kassab and Ahmad Elshennawy.

Guests: Drs. John Schell, Lin Huff-Corzine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

Dr. Whitehouse reported on the new provost, Dr. Terry Hickey, current provost at University of Akron. Prior work at Old Dominion and UAB. Due to start July 1, 2003 and will be here intermittently before then. Kathy Seidel had a chance to meet with Dr. Hickey. The new provost will attend the next board meeting for approval. Very positive person. Favors the honors program and growth for the university. Dr. Whitehouse's contract will end on August 7, 2003. He will assist as needed with the orientation of the new provost.

Budget

Budget still under discussion in Tallahassee with House and Senate far apart but with opportunities for compromise. UCF in a reasonably favorable position related to options.

Proposals

Dr. Koons briefly discussed the budget special by Faculty Senate in this fiscal year for \$400,000. Had multiple requests and awards reflected equity throughout the colleges. Plan to resubmit for this year

Question: What would you like for us to do? Put through the same proposal that was submitted before. Yes.

Motion to approve this proposal, seconded and unanimously approved. Dr. Koons will need to submitted the proposal for the Faculty Senate by April 19th.

Old Business

None

New Business

Faculty brought up the website www.ucfprofessors.com for professors. Dr. Schell reported that this student has set-up his own website and you pay per hit. **Question:** Can UCF do it themselves? Yes, Sabrina Andrews put together data for distribution. Dr. Whitehouse commented that this data is not readily available and this is why it's being discussed with faculty members. He also does not expect the site to generate a lot of hits because of the course.

Dr. Stebbins commented that if this information were available for the TIP folder, it would've been helpful. Is concerned that this is so much variance in grades in selected courses. **Question:** Are the faculty evaluations required? Yes, they are required and most of the questions come from UCF.

Question: How will the students use the evaluation forms and what would they learn? May not be valuable for the students. Question raised about cost of putting this data together. Will be referred to Sabrina with a suggestion that the cost be carefully calculated to be sure we (UCF) paid enough. Comment that website may encourage the professors to be better teachers.

Major concern is the comments on the sites which DO NOT come from the evaluation forms. They come from those who log on. Will ask to have this clarified on the site.

Faculty Senate Officers

Committee nominations for Faculty Senate Officers are Drs. Arlen Chase as Chair, Naval Modani as Vice Chair and Diane Wink as Secretary. Motion to approve these three nominated members, seconded and unanimously approved. Dr. Cook comments that several people had a schedule conflict and Dr. Modani was the only one available for the VP position.

Next Senate Meeting

Dr. Mullens recommended that Greg Schuckman be invited to present on federal priorities. Approved.

Constitution

Faculty Assembly will need to rectify the constitution in early Fall. Dr. Modani commented that the Faculty Assembly can approve the Standing Committee. Is too late to do this Spring for approval.

Motion by Dr. Cook that we pass resolution recognizing the work and dedication of Dr. Mullens. Seconded and unanimously approved. Will be announced at April Faculty Senate meeting.

Motion by Dr. Cook to recognize service and dedication of Provost Whitehouse as member, as faculty and as provost in his work on the cause of faculty government. Seconded and unanimously approved. Will be announced at April Faculty Senate meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget & Administrative – Dr. Arlen Chase. No report.

UPCC – No report. Dr. Stebbins commented on the A.M.S. that was discussed at the last UPCC meeting and wanted to make sure it's on the agenda for the next UPCC meeting, which will be the last meeting for UPCC.

Graduate Council – Dr. Alain Kassab. No report

Personnel – Dr. Cynthia Young reported that other subcommittees are examining resolutions, which will have to be addressed next year. Could present information to next steering and then items can be presented next year.

Meeting adjourned 5:35p.m.

*1st meeting for the new Steering Committee
Thursday, May 8, 2003*

The request to place donated flags in classrooms at the University of Central Florida presents the University with two clear choices. We can accept the flags and proudly display them in our classrooms as symbols of the political entity that guarantees our freedom of speech, our right to dissent, the rights of political minorities, and our tradition of democracy. Or, we can decline the offer of the flags and by that act cede to one political group our national symbol, likely making it a pawn in ongoing culture wars between groups jockeying for momentary advantage in what is often a low political process. The choice is, for me, simple and compelling. UCF will accept and proudly display the flags in our classrooms. In doing so, we affirm our flag as a powerful unifying symbol. It belongs to all Americans, right, left, center, or undecided. It must not be co-opted as the symbol of any one group or party.

What of the effects of this decision on our academic enterprise? I am sure that there will be some who use the occasion to create or exploit controversy, but I must reject in the strongest terms the suggestion that the presence of the flag inhibits free speech. The flag is symbolic of the very constitution and government that guarantee our rights of democracy and free speech. Were you to seek redress from actions that you believed denied you free speech, you would do so in federal court, where you would find the flag on prominent display.

I have been a strong advocate and protector of individual and group rights on our campus since the day I assumed its presidency. My administration will continue to protect the academic freedom and individual and group rights of all members of our campus community. We expect that all members of the community respect the rights of others and obey the laws of our state and nation and the rules and regulations of the University. It is a core value of academe that we respect the dignity and worth of all people.

John C. Hitt
President,
University of Central Florida