

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes of
April 20, 2011

Dr. Ida Cook, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:29 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Cook announced that the provost has approved the resolutions regarding the Student Perception of Instruction forms. She will be meeting with the administration to work on a plan for pilot testing.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Cook thanked the committee for coming to this special called meeting. The meeting was called by Provost Waldrop to provide updates on several new items of interest and to solicit input on an issue.

Budget Update

We are now in the quiet phase of the budget process. Both the House and Senate have their own proposed budgets, but they still need to go to conference. The Senate is discussing a decrease of .7% and the House is a 3.5% decrease, but these numbers are based on last year's base budget plus the projected tuition increase. The bottom line is that there will be cuts even after rolling tuition dollars into the equations. The positive is that UCF held back 3% last year; however, the 3% held back will not cover the projected 3% cuts, because it was 3% of the base budget. In addition, all state employees will be paying into the retirement, but it looks like the Optional Retirement Program will be preserved.

Board of Trustees (BOT)

There will be significant changes to the membership of the BOT as many members are rotating off. Members leaving are Phyliss Clock, Judy Albertson, and Joe Mantilla. Olga Calvet was reappointed. Alan Florez was reappointed after a year away from the board. New to the board are Richard Crotty and John Sprouls. We will also be getting additional new trustees due to the loss of Daniel Webster, Chair Rick Walsh, and Vice Chair Tom Yocum. Dr. Cook will be serving as chair of the Education Subcommittee (pending getting elected), which will be the first time a faculty member has held that position.

Collective Bargaining

Collective bargaining Article 10: Evaluation, has been discussed for many months. There is now tentative agreement between the union and the university on changes to this item. The proposed changes were reviewed and endorsed by the deans. The provost complimented both the university and union negotiators. Senator and UFF President Kathryn Seidel thanked the university bargaining team for their productive agreement regarding fair evaluation standards.

UCF Dental School

Provost Waldrop introduced the primary purpose for the meeting by noting that the committee would be the first public group to hear this news and he wanted to solicit their input. The university has been approached by the Tavistock Group and a potential donor who was planning on to provide funding to create a dental school. This group was considering another private entity to start the school; however, they believe that UCF would be a better choice.

The provost announced that there were no plans to go to the state for operation or construction funding as they have secured a \$10M donation. The proposed dental school will not have the normal tuition structure, but rather will be similar to private school tuition rates. The current financial projections estimate that in 15-20 years the dental school will become a revenue producer.

The demand for slots in dental school is greater than that for medical school. Currently, there are two dental schools in Florida – UF and Nova Southeastern. There are two other groups interested in starting a dental school on the medical campus. The unnamed donor is committed to at least \$10M for this school using the additional property next to our medical school which is owned by Tavistock. There is currently some expansion space on the campus, the other land is owned by Tavistock and nothing preventing them from opening a medical school.

The provost asked for the committee's discretion as he would be talking to the Faculty Senate the next day and the Board of Trustees the following week. Provost Waldrop then entertained questions:

Question: How many slots will there be for students?

Answer: The first class will be 60 students, and then will increase to a maximum of 100 students per year, for a total of 394 students.

Question: Will the dental school have a research component?

Answer: Not initially, but the long-range expectation is for research.

Question: Does this need Board of Governors (BOG) approval?

Answer: Yes, and currently only 2-3 members of the BOG are aware of this proposal. Before it goes to the BOG it needs to go to Graduate Council and then the BOT.

Question: Any possibility of projecting forward a lower cost for medical and dental plans for UCF employees?

Answer: Yes, that's possible for the future. The provost noted a new building a block and a half from campus will be a part of Pegasus Health, which will be the first part of the College of Medicine faculty practice plan. At first this will service any customers, but the target market is faculty.

Question: Will the dental school be named UCF?

Answer: Yes, but the final name has not yet been determined.

Question: What degree will be delivered?

Answer: DMD most likely, but nothing has been finalized.

Question: Due to the dentist shortages, are there any assurances that these students will be serving the underserved?

Answer: No assurances, but we hope they will serve these groups.

Question: You said that it would turn revenue positive in 15-20 years – how do we support this until it becomes profitable?

Answer: The university is considering taking a loan (REIT) and to pay the debt service on that, a loan from auxiliaries. Auxiliaries have big balance from housing/bookstore to which we can repay this loan. Follow up Question: Are we not tapped out given recent issues with the dorms?

Answer: No, he has reviewed the commitments over the next five years and they are huge. But after a careful look UCF has the capacity to take on this venture.

Question: What is the labor market for dental faculty?

Answer: The market is very competitive.

Question: How many faculty are needed?

Answer: Those numbers haven't yet been determined. Recent projections place the initial faculty to approximately 55, similar to the medical school.

Question: Is there a target start date for the first class?

Answer: It is too early to tell, as we do not yet have a firm commitment on paper from the donor or BOG approval.

Question: You mentioned earlier that FSU, FAU, and FAMU are also looking at the possibility of a dental school. If UCF goes forward, would those schools change their plans?

Answer: FAMU has been very vocal about opening a dental school, but they have received push back due to costs from the state. UCF could not consider the dental school proposal were it not for the funding model being proposed. The proposal would be considered in a different light if it used public dollars instead of private. The BOG may be more inclined to approve due to the method of financing. The provost cautioned that this is far from a done deal.

Question: Is this method of charging private school tuition rates a standard practice?

Answer: We would be charging more than is typical for public universities, but would be competitive with private school tuition.

Question: What is the structure?

Answer: This is likely to be a separate college, but it would be tied to the College of Medicine.

Provost Waldrop thanked Dean Patricia Bishop for her tireless work on the proposal over the last several weeks.

Question: Would the dental school have a separate library the same way the medical school does?

Answer: The dental school would utilize the College of Medicine library, which is over 95% digital.

Question: Has the donor committed to the project?

Answer: Yes, the donor has committed to us verbally and does not want his/her name on the college.

Question: Is any action required by the Steering Committee?

Answer: No, this meeting was more for informational purposes. Dr. Cook noted that this proposal was no longer a secret, but asked committee members to please be discreet. Provost Waldrop emphasized that he wanted to prevent any misunderstanding about the funding, and does not wish the faculty to think that the dental school money is coming out of the university's budget.

The committee recommended that at tomorrow's Senate meeting, the provost stress that the funding for the proposed dental school was not out of the E & G budget. Additionally, he should assure members of the Faculty Senate that this will not reduce UCF's overall budget.

Question: What if UCF doesn't raise enough external funds to cover expenses? Are there plans to cover that without affecting the overall budget?

Answer: There is risk involved, but if we have the bonding capability, we have an alternative financing plan until it becomes profitable. The key is using financing. We may spend E & G initially for things such as consulting fees, but there will be an internal MOU to pay it back.

Question: How would a dental school affect UCF's reputation?

Answer: This will increase our profile similar to how the medical school increased our prominence, as medical sides typically add to the reputation of universities. The provost expects over time for this to enhance research.

Question: Regarding faculty using Pegasus Health, will they take our health insurance?

Answer: We are working on securing contracts with PPOs and other options.

The provost concluded by thanking the committee for allowing him to bring this to us and for our input and feedback. Dr. Cook thanked the provost for bringing this to us.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.