

Faculty Senate Meeting April 23, 2009

Dr. Manoj Chopra, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of March 26, 2009 were unanimously approved with no revisions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provost's Update

All of the SUS presidents were in Tallahassee today for a press conference, which was well-covered. With regard to the budget, things are very tense right now. There is some reason to believe that salary cuts are no longer on the table, but that is not confirmed. The salary cuts were expected to raise \$100 million. It is possible that the \$100 million will be added to other cuts. Question: Regarding the criteria for program cuts, where is the data from? Do programs need to gather data or evidence? Answer: They are using institutional numbers. There is no need for departments or units to gather data. Until the budget cut is known, there is no advantage to having open discussions about the possibility of cutting particular programs. That could needlessly damage morale. A great deal depends on the final budget numbers. There is no way to take an additional \$57 million from the budget without significant implications for programs and personnel. In the last 23 months, they have already taken \$54 million from the budget.

Question: What should we tell students who come with questions about how the budget cuts will affect them? Answer: Tell them that first and foremost, we need to wait and see what the final budget numbers are. The stimulus money provides a two-year glide path for phasing out programs. For programs being closed, the university will work with full-time students in their last 1–1½ years to make sure they have the courses they need to graduate. Freshmen and sophomores should be advised to major in something else. If they do not wish to change majors, they should be advised of another location in the state where they could go to get their degree.

The budget situation became very acute over the weekend. Unexpectedly, the House is not compromising with the Senate on the budget. The provost and the president have begun speaking publicly about the possible repercussions of a \$57 million cut. He and other SUS presidents wish to make it clear to the legislators that cuts of that magnitude would have a drastic impact. At UCF such cuts would require cutting 330 faculty and 190 staff, which is the equivalent of 3+ colleges.

Question: Are the state universities coordinating program cuts to ensure that at least one university in the state will continue to offer a given program? Answer: The provosts have spoken generally about this, but are not at the stage yet of talking specifics. This is a very difficult thing to organize and has uncertain results. It is also not clear how much more enrollment UCF can take in some of the programs while at same time losing faculty.

Question: Might there be increased revenue from new fees or taxes? Answer: The reason why the Senate cut is so much less than the House cuts is that the Senate is proposing significant new taxes. The House opposes any new tax increases. The House has talked about increasing some fees, but the cuts to the SUS are of such a magnitude that it would take a significant revenue stream to make up the difference.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Dr. Dennis Dulniak, Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine, and Mr. Stephen Mortellaro (SGA).

OLD BUSINESS

Student Perception of Instruction – Dr. Diane Wink

Dr. Wink provided an overview of the history of the ad hoc Student Perception of Instruction (SPoI) committee. The committee has developed new SPoI forms which were presented to the Senate at the March meeting. After a discussion, the Senate chose to table the issue and have it taken up by the new Senate. During the summer, the forms will be distributed to the senators for review in preparation for next year's discussion and vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Members

Dr. Chopra welcomed the Senators. All members of the Senate introduced themselves.

Election of Officers

As Dr. Arlen Chase, Chair of the Nominating Committee, is out of the country, Dr. Chopra spoke on his behalf. He announced the slate for elected officers for the 2009-2010 Senate, based on nominations from the Steering Committee. He made a call for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Motion was made that the nomination be closed. Motion seconded and approved unanimously. Motion was made to accept the slate of nominees by acclamation. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

The Officers elected for the 2009-2010 Senate are:

Chair: Ida Cook, College of Sciences

Vice Chair: Diane Wink, College of Nursing

Secretary: Alain Kassab, College of Engineering and Computer Science

Establishment of Steering and Committee on Committees

Dr. Chopra turned the meeting over to the new Chair, Dr. Ida Cook. Dr. Cook thanked Dr. Chopra for his exemplary work as Chair of the Senate. Dr. Cook discussed the caucus process by which colleges elect members to serve on the Steering Committee and the Committee on Committees. She briefly discussed the role and duties of the Steering Committee. Once a college has reported the names of the Steering members, they will be adjourned.

Each college met to caucus and elect members to the Steering Committee. The following senators were elected by their colleges to serve on the Steering Committee:

College of Arts and Humanities: Mason Cash, Keith Koons, Keith Kovach, Kathryn Seidel

College of Business Administration: Stephen Goodman, Robert Pennington

College of Education: Oliver Edwards, Stephen Sivo

College of Engineering & Computer Science: Faissal Moslehy, Alireza Rahrooh

College of Health and Public Affairs: Cynthia Brown, Reid Oetjen

College of Medicine: Henry Daniell

College of Nursing: Maureen Covelli

College of Optics: Patrick LiKamWa

College of Sciences: Arlen Chase, Kevin Belfield, John Lynwxiller, Alfons Schulte

Rosen College of Hospitality Management: Tammie Kaufman

University Libraries: Richard Gause

The Committee on Committees, chaired by the Dr. Diane Wink, Vice Chair of the Senate, has one Steering Committee member from each college. These members are selected when the college caucuses for Steering Members. The following Steering Committee members were elected by their colleges to serve on the Committee on Committees:

College of Arts and Humanities: Keith Koons

College of Business Administration: Robert Pennington

College of Education: Stephen Sivo

College of Engineering & Computer Science: Faissal Moslehy

College of Health and Public Affairs: Reid Oetjen

College of Medicine: Henry Daniell

College of Nursing: Maureen Covelli

College of Optics: Patrick LiKamWa

College of Sciences: Arlen Chase

Rosen College of Hospitality Management: Tammie Kaufman

University Libraries: Richard Gause

Meeting was adjourned.