

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
April 30, 2009

Dr. Ida Cook, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of April 9, 2009 were approved as recorded by unanimous vote.

Steering Officers Present: Drs. Cook, Wink, Chopra, and Kassab.

Steering Committee Members Present: Drs. Belfield, Chase, Covelli, Daniell, Gause, Goodman, Koons, LiKamWa, Lynxwiler, Moslehy, Oetjen, Pennington, Rahrooh, Schulte, Seidel, and Sivo.

Administrators Present: Drs. Hickey and D. Chase.

Steering Committee Members Not Present: Drs. Brown, Cash, Edwards, Kaufman, and Kovach.

Recognition of Guests: Drs. Dulniak and Vittes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provost's Update

Provost Hickey welcomed the new members of the Steering Committee. The state budget has been resolved between House and Senate and must now be voted on. The provost encourages faculty to thank our legislators for coming to the aid of higher education. The proposed \$57 million cut (26% of the budget) was reduced to a cut of \$35 million in recurring funds (14% of budget) for this coming year. As of July, UCF will have lost 30% of our general revenue budget. We will receive \$18 million a year for 2 years (2009-10 and 2010-11) from federal stimulus money which will help with the transition that will be necessary. With a budget cut of \$35 million, the university will still have to make program cuts. Eventually, differential tuition will help build back up the revenue, but for 2009-10 the anticipated revenue from differential tuition is \$6 million. That revenue will grow every year and in a few years will be approximately \$25 million.

This year, the budget is likely to contain an 8% base tuition increase and a 7% differential tuition increase. Base tuition is built into the long-term expenditures of the university, while differential tuition is restricted in use. For differential tuition, 30% is mandated to be used for student financial aid and the remaining funds must be spent on undergraduate education on items directly related to student success, such as advisors. There will be no university faculty and staff pay cuts; however, this increased the overall budget cut to UCF.

Additional cuts are anticipated in 2010-11. Differential tuition is expected to provide \$10 million in 2010-11 and \$15 million in 2011-12. Some differential tuition will be distributed to the units. In order to have a balanced budget once the stimulus money runs out, program eliminations will be necessary, although not as many as previously expected. The university will attempt to accommodate students as much as possible and will try to mitigate the impact on graduation. The goal is to ensure that all full-time students in their junior and senior years are

able to graduate with their current majors. The next step is to decide which programs to eliminate. The criteria for that determination were outlined in the most recent Provost's Update email, and include centrality to the university and productivity. These decisions will have to be carried out in a logical, business-like manner, based on current program performance. UCF does not have the luxury to protect programs that might one day succeed. Regarding the timetable, decisions will have to be made relatively quickly in order to give notifications of layoffs in July. Notification of layoffs must take place before August 8th, which is the date the new contract is issued. Faculty who have been with UCF for three or more years must be given two full semesters of notice; those employed for less than 3 years must have one semester's notice. Although it will need to be handled quickly, the process will be as consultative as possible.

Question: Will the process will be transparent and shared with the senate? Answer: Yes. Senate and faculty focus groups will be held to discuss the process for determining the proposed cuts and for members of the faculty to provide their opinions and feedback. The first meeting will be Wednesday May, 6th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fairwinds Alumni Center. A phase-out plan will be implemented for each program being eliminated. The eliminations must be accomplished by the time that the stimulus money runs out. All units are to be reviewed, including centers and institutes, academic units and administrative units.

Introduction of Members

All members of the Steering Committee introduced themselves. Drs. Cook and Wink noted that they welcome input to bring to the upcoming budget meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee on Committees

Dr. Wink provided a brief overview of the role of the Committee on Committees (ConC). Over the summer, the ConC will work on populating the Senate standing and reporting committees. Dr. Wink will be contacting the ConC members to set up a meeting. The ConC faces the challenge of finding good members for the various committees, and Dr. Wink encourages the ConC members to find a means by which they will be able to send notices to all of the faculty in their colleges. Dr. Cook provided an overview of the Senate standing committees.

Constitutional revisions

Various issues have arisen that may require revisions to the Faculty Senate constitution. Dr. Cook proposed setting up an ad hoc committee of the steering committee to work on constitutional revisions. In order to be able to complete the work within the upcoming academic year, the committee will need to begin in the summer.

Standing Committee Liaisons

There is a liaison from Steering to each of the standing committees. The liaisons are non-voting members who report back to the Steering committee and assist and guide those committees as

they do their work. Those Steering members interested in serving as a liaison should email Dr. Wink or Dr. Cook.

Ad Hoc Constitutional Revision Committee

Dr. Cook called for a motion to establish an ad hoc constitutional revision committee. Motion made to establish an ad hoc committee with the codicil that it be constituted in July once the impact of the budget cuts is known. Motion seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Cook made a call for volunteers. The members of the ad hoc Constitutional Revision Committee will be: Bob Pennington, Rich Gause, Stephen Goodman, and Reid Oetjen. The committee will be looking for more members.

Issues for the 2009-2010 Standing Committees

Dr. Cook opened the floor for suggestions of items that might be addressed by the 2009-2010 standing committees. The following items were suggested:

- The potential affects of the Bologna Accord in Europe, particularly with regard to degree equivalencies.
- Technology/online course management.
- Student perception of instruction.
- Promotion and Tenure guidelines: consistency between colleges; clarity of college-specific rules.
- Transparency of budget cuts and the overall philosophy guiding the budget priorities.

Further suggestions are welcome and should be emailed to Dr. Cook.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Advisory Council of Faculty Senates will be meeting next week in Tallahassee, and Dr. Cook will be attending. By that time, the state budget will have been finalized. Dr. Cook will report back on how other universities are dealing with the current situation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.