

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
April 9, 2009

Dr. Manoj Chopra, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of March 5, 2009 were approved as recorded by unanimous vote.

A question was raised regarding the status of the announcement about recycled paper that Dr. Morrison-Shetlar volunteered to develop. She is not present at today's meeting, but an update will be requested for the Senate meeting.

Steering Officers Present: Drs. Chopra, Jewett, and Chase.

Steering Committee Members Present: Drs. Belfield, Covelli, Gause, Gunter, Kamrath, Kassab, Kaufman, Koons, Kovach, Leigh, LiKamWa, Lynxwiler, Nutta, Pennington, and Quigley.

Administrators Present: Drs. Hickey and Chase.

Steering Committee Members Not Present: Drs. Cook, Carson, and Daniell.

Recognition of Guests: Drs. Elliot Vittes and Diane Wink.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Arlen Chase relayed an announcement from the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates. There is an initiative in the legislature that could cut faculty salaries as of July 1. The House proposed a 4% cut for all state employees making \$26,000 to \$80,000 and a 5% cut for those making over 80,000. The Senate has proposed a 1% cut for those making over \$100,000, but not include faculty. John Delaney, President in Residence for the Board of Governors, is fighting against the proposed salary cut. FSU President T. K. Wetherell wrote on an OPEd article in favor of a one penny sales tax increase. This should all be resolved by the end of April.

Provost's Update

Next week President Hitt, UF President Bernie Machen, and the board chairs of UCF and UF will be going to Tallahassee to argue against cutting faculty salary. The proposal has gained a lot of support in Tallahassee. One compromise may be to cut all SUS budgets by a like amount and let universities decide where to cut. A question was raised about whether salary cuts are legal according to collective bargaining. Answer: State law probably trumps all bargaining agreements, but that might litigated. Even if gets challenged, the state would likely still take the money up front and only return it if later mandated to do so.

Budget update: The House budget cuts UCF's budget by 57 million (a 24% cut); the Senate by \$22.3 million (an 8% cut). These cuts are on top of the cuts we've had already. The Senate budget adds back in \$10 million in Indian Gaming funds. Both the House and the Senate propose to add back in federal stimulus funds; the House at \$18 million, and the Senate at \$17 million. The net cut to the UCF budget would be: from the House's proposal, 38.5 million (15%

cut); from the Senate's proposal, \$4.6 million (2% cut). Adding back in tuition revenue, UCF would end up with: House, \$24.6 million cut (6% cut); Senate: \$9.6 million increase (2% increase).

One major concern is that a significant portion of the budget will be non-recurring federal stimulus money which is only available for two years. What happens after two years? If the recurring money doesn't come back, UCF will be left with an \$18 million hole in the budget. Another concern is that the Senate budget is dependent on finding new revenue, and the issue of new revenue might not be resolved until a special session in June. Additionally, if the economy keeps dropping then by July the governor might withhold part of the quarterly payments again (as in the past 2 years), despite what the budget says.

In the fourth quarter of this current fiscal year, \$9.6 million has been removed from the UCF budget. The hope is that it will be replaced with non-recurring stimulus money. The UCF budget is becoming increasingly dependent on tuition revenues and non-recurring funds. Also in the budget is recurring lottery money, which comes sporadically and its delivery is affected because lottery revenues are reduced.

The sense is that despite the economic downturn, the legislature is trying to protect higher education, but the cash flow problem means that they don't have the money to do so.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

New Senate

A list of the 2009-2010 senators has been distributed.

Nomination of the Slate of Officers

After canvassing members, the nominating committee suggests the following slate of candidates for 2009-2010:

Chair: Ida Cook

Vice Chair: Diane Wink

Secretary: Alain Kassab

The slate will be presented to the full senate at the April 23rd Senate meeting.

Student Perception of Instruction Forms

The ad hoc committee on Student Perception of Instruction Forms would like to add them to the agenda for the April Senate meeting as an informational item. This will allow senators to review them over the summer and perhaps get more members to address concerns brought up at the last meeting. A suggestion is made to put the new forms online so that all faculty can access them and make their own suggestions. The delivery issue is an important one but does not fall under the purview of this committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Administrative Committee – *Dr. LiKamWa reporting*

The committee did not meet.

Graduate Council – *Dr. Kassab reporting*

The Program Review committee is reviewing an MA in Real Estate.

Personnel – *Dr. Leigh reporting*

The committee did not meet.

Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee – *Dr. Pennington reporting*

There is a meeting next week to conclude the business of the semester. The committee will be reviewing several program and course changes in various colleges.

OTHER BUSINESS

Textbook Affordability Update

Faculty should include their own contact information (not just the contact for the department) on the order form so they can be contacted directly if questions arise about an order, especially over the summer. The bookstore made \$750,000 less in sales this year, and is looking very carefully at what is being ordered.

The incentive deadline for book orders was March 20th. The bookstore needs to know which textbooks they should be buying back, and faculty who are still deciding should contact the bookstore and let them know that. The bookstore will be getting the list of courses from the Registrar's office. The deadline for book orders for the Fall semester is in July, as per legislative mandate.

ADJUOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.