

## Faculty Senate Steering Committee

### MINUTES

August 16, 2001

Dr. Michael Mullens, Chair, called the Faculty Senate Executive Steering Committee to order at 4:06 p.m. Minutes of the August 16, 2001 meeting were unanimously approved.

Members present: Drs. Stephen Goodman, Diane Wink, Ida Cook, Martha Marinara, Naval Modani, Carol Bast, Cynthia Hutchinson, Ola Nnadi, and Provost Gary Whitehouse.

Members absent: Drs. Rufus Barfield, Glenn Cunningham, Keith Koons, and Ahmad Elshennawy.

Guest: Drs. John Schell and Lin Huff-Corzine

Dr. Mullens welcomed Drs. John Schell and Lin Huff-Corzine.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Dr. Naval Modani stated that he had received a letter from Dr. Beth Barnes, Chief of Staff for the President's Office, announcing the Board of Trustees orientation meeting at UCF on August 21 and 22, 2001. This is an open meeting for the University community.
- Provost Whitehouse announced that freshman enrollment at UCF this fall is higher than expected. Also, the SAT's are running 11 points higher than the previous year. The Honors College now has over 1300 students.
- Provost Whitehouse confirmed that the Board of Trustees would be on campus on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. each day. The Board expects to meet monthly. The subsequent meeting will be on September 25 and 26, 2001.
- Dr. Ida Cook inquired about the possibility of the Faculty Senate chair attending Board meetings. Dr. Whitehouse responded that the Vice President is required to attend. The President is looking into the possibility for the Faculty Senate. Someone will attend to show interest. These are open meetings and all Senate members as well as all faculty, staff and the public are welcome.
- Dr. Mullens announced that he had a busy summer attending budget meetings with the President's Advisory Staff, looking into the option of renovating the arena, and working with the Education Excellence Initiative.
- Dr. Mullens asked if there were any issues on the number of Academic Affairs representatives attending the Steering Committee and Faculty Senate meetings. There were no objections, the Steering Committee unanimously approved the concept.

**Reminder:** There will be a reception at 3:30 p.m. at the next Faculty Senate meeting on August 23, with the meeting to begin at 4:00 p.m.

As discussed in April, 2001, the Faculty Senate meeting dates and agenda's will be posted on the Faculty Senate website each month for all UCF faculty. A UCF NEWS e-mail will be sent to all faculty and administrators each month. Hard copies will continue to be forwarded to all senators through inter-office campus mail.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Renaming the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning to: Karen Smith Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. It was formally approved at the April 26, 2001 Steering Committee to forward a resolution to the Faculty Senate in August. Drs. Ida Cook and Cynthia Hutchinson volunteered to write the resolution.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Dr. Stephen Goodman, Chair Committee on Committees, reported that the committee had met to examine vacancies and preferences of members for Standing Committees. Responses from college deans were received early this week.
- Dr. Mullens asked if there were any potential committee issues for discussion this new Senate year. Dr. Wink responded that she would like to examine issues related to student evaluation of faculty. Issues include getting the evaluations back on time. Dr. Modani stated that when there are also extra questions written on evaluations they are not summarized. Dr. Schell stated that he would work on compiling questions. There is a committee looking into the issue of evaluation of web courses. Committee members include Joel Hartman, Frank Juge, and John Schell. Dr. Wink volunteered to represent the Senate on this committee. Other issues are the use of the eight questions mandated by the Board of Regents. It was decided that this subject be forwarded to the Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee, and strongly recommended that all issues be addressed. Dr. Carol Bast reminded the committee that Dr. Wanielista and Dr. Dziuban had worked on the current evaluations, and it may be a good idea for one of them to give a report to the Senate in September. Dr. Wink stated she would contact them and inform the Steering Committee on the result.
- Dr. Modani is working on the Parking Committee for Dr. Whitehouse.
- It was recommended that the plus/minus grading system continue for one year and be evaluated in August 2002.
- Dr. Sophia Dziegielewski, chair of the Personnel Committee last year attended the Steering Committee as a guest, and was concerned that a resolution on senior professorship was not discussed by the Senate, and inquired if it was to be considered this year. Dr. Dziegielewski stated that the resolution was to consider an award style for senior professors. She also had suggestions on the procedure that the committee developed. Dr. Modani suggested that she forward the identified procedure and attach to the resolution as an appendix. The resolution was not addressed at the final senate meeting because it was not on the agenda and there was no one at the meeting to present the resolution. It will be discussed at the first meeting of the Personnel Committee.
- Dr. Schell reported that Dr. Huddleston requested a review of the Academic Behavior Code. Dr. Cunningham is working on this request.

- Other issues raised for consideration by Senate this year were:

Incentives for faculty doing funded research e.g. faculty overload if doing research. Dr. Whitehouse stated that this issue is complex because some agencies will not fund individuals over 1.0 FTE. Other ways to reward faculty could be explored.

- Issues of international graduate students teaching during their first semester here at UCF.

Dr. Mullens stated that research by faculty at UCF has increased by 50%. The Research Committee should work with Dr. Soileau on salary supplements for research.

- The Steering Committee agreed by consensus to discuss the issue of Education Excellence Initiative at the next Faculty Senate meeting on August 23, 2001. Dr. Mullens stated that Dr. Martha Marinara would lead the discussion by raising a series of questions about the new governance system. If the full Senate agrees that a resolution is needed, a special ad hoc committee will be tasked with drafting the resolution. The ad hoc committee, according to the Senate Constitution, is to be appointed by the Steering Committee.

- Dr. Mullens had several suggested questions:

Will UCF fair better under the new system?  
Why should we care about the new system?  
How can higher education compete with elementary education?  
What will be the quality of service for students?

Martha Marinara will rewrite questions for consideration at the Senate meeting.

- Dr. Modani reminded the Steering Committee that a parliamentarian had not been selected to replace Dr. Phillip Taylor. Dr. Mullens replied that a parliamentarian would be selected at the next meeting in September.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.