

## Faculty Senate Executive Steering Committee

### MINUTES

August 20, 2002

Dr. Michael Mullens, Chair, called the Faculty Senate Executive Steering Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. Minutes of the May 2, 2002 meeting were unanimously approved.

Members present: Drs. Arlen Chase, Diane Wink, Ida Cook, Martha Marinara, Consuelo Stebbins, Cynthia Young, Naval Modani, Jeffrey Kaplan, Ahmad Elshennawy, Alain Kassab, Janice Peterson, and Provost Gary Whitehouse.

Members absent: Dr. Keith Koons

Guests: Drs. John Schell, Lin Huff-Corzine, Glenn Cunningham, and David Kuhn

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Provost Gary Whitehouse announced that the latest count on students at UCF is approximately 38,600. Several procedures have changed this year making the true number difficult to establish at this date. SAT scores are at least 8 to 12 points higher this semester and GPAs are up from last year. There is a large increase in number of transfer students, at least 300, 10% more than expected.

The issue of parking and traffic was addressed as a continuing problem. Provost Whitehouse announced that a traffic light would be installed soon. Construction on Alafaya is compounding to the traffic problem. Expect the traffic on campus to get better.

It was stated that parking decals have become an issue because some faculty have been purchasing staff decals. Since they now must buy faculty decals (because the on-line system rejected requests from faculty for staff or student decals) there is a bigger demand for faculty parking spots. Only adjuncts have a choice to buy faculty or staff decals.

Dr. Chase and Provost Whitehouse discussed promotion raises. It was stated that promotion raises are on hold because of some confusion with legislative funding. The problem will be resolved as quickly as possible. Money has been held and will be paid retroactively if possible.

Dr. Cynthia Young questioned the grade appeals by students. Students have reported that there is no final exam in some classes, or that there is an option to have final exams. Some faculty also throw out exams shortly after the final exam is given making it difficult to track problems if there is a grade appeal. Faculty have the option to give final exams, but should be holding class during the final exam period. Exams should be kept at least one year.

A suggestion was made that classes be scheduled to be on the half hour to stagger time of large numbers of students/staff leaving campus. Suggested we look at T/Th, M/W and then Friday for 3-hour blocks. Dr. Whitehouse will ask Dr. Ed Neighbor to form a committee to discuss this issue. Some disciplines (e.g. sciences, languages) need to have 3 classes per week. Dr. Wink and Dr. Stebbins volunteered to serve on this committee.

Dr. Mullens announced that Kathy Wohlbold, Faculty Senate Administrative Assistant, is retiring the end of January 2003. Dr. Schell will coordinate the search.

Dr. Mullens also announced that Deans Thomas Keon and Sandra Robinson received favorable five-year reviews.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Two outstanding resolutions:

#### Resolution 2001-2002-2 Distinguished Professorship Awards

Provost Whitehouse stated that he will accept this resolution in principle and a committee, chaired by Dr. Juge, will look at specifics in conjunction with a review of all the awards given by the university.

#### Resolution 2001-2002-7 Computer Generated Evaluation Scoring Errors

Found only two cases with a problem. Also found several cases where faculty changed their evaluations and were caught. Will accept in principle and work on implementation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Committee on Committees - Dr. Arlen Chase

The five Standing committees are completed. The Reporting committees are still in process with only a few late changes needed. A few problems have surfaced regarding the Reporting committees. For example, the Admissions and Standards committee members' titles have changed within the past three years. The wording in the Constitution needs revision to reflect this. Such rewording resulting from changes in names of institutions or positions may be done procedurally. It is also a difficult committee to serve on because of the heavy workload.

The Constitution calls for faculty to be tenured and at associate professor level for some committees. Since such faculty must be placed on the Graduate and Personnel committees, membership of UPCC (which does not have such a rule) includes more junior faculty. These requirements restrict faculty service on certain committees. It also decreases the number senior faculty on the UPCC. Dr. Schell also suggested at least one person from each college dean's office attend the UPCC.

A suggestion was made that rules as to who votes on promotion to professor on Departmental/School and College committees should be reviewed.

General discussion that departments and colleges need to seek out and elect faculty willing to take the time to serve and who will take their Senate work more seriously. Faculty need take a role in encouraging their college to elect appropriate faculty to the Senate. University governance is extremely important for the benefit of all concerned. There is a need for more tenured faculty elected to the Faculty Senate. It was suggested that this issue be taken to the dean's of all colleges for discussion. A higher level of experience is needed on the UPCC and the Graduate Council. All senators should qualify to serve on any of the five standing committees.

Discussion continued on how to address this issue and the issue of making changes to the Constitution. It was suggested to have an ad hoc committee from the Steering Committee revisit the Constitution, go to the deans directly, and sending the issue to the standing committees. May also need to revisit membership on university promotion and tenure committee and other areas because of Rosen School of Hospitality Management. Other suggestions related to the UPCC structure and function: possibly make two separate committees. There were also concerns regarding the level of experience on the UPCC, Undergraduate Course Review Sub-Committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Cook to revisit the Constitution to look for needed changes and adjustments. The motion was seconded by Dr. Modani and unanimously approved.

Drs. Ida Cook, Naval Modani, Arlen Chase, and John Schell agreed to serve. Will request input from standing committees.

**Potential issues to be considered by Senate this year.**

- Technical competency and English fluency for GTAs (also minor problem with adjuncts).
  - Concerns when individuals are hired to teach who cannot communicate with the students. Is this an administrative responsibility?
  - Rules in contract say students have to have fluency test. GTAs are not considered faculty. Quality of GTAs should be the same as faculty.
  - Delegate to Personnel committee.
  - Senate could support resolution in principle in regard to this issue.
- Relationships between research centers, interdisciplinary programs and academic departments: academic programs and research
  - Need policy about movement of interdisciplinary program to a center without consultation with academic departments/ colleges
  - Should graduate programs be in non-academic units?
  - Need to look at how research centers interact with academic centers
  - Result may be competition for resources (all kinds)
- Should tenure be awarded in centers and institutes, not through departments?
- Many centers and institutes can hire faculty with no consultation with original departments. Could this make a center an entity unto itself rather than foster research in academic units?
- Do departments have to look for competitors within UCF?
- How do we best integrate teaching and research?
- Centers and faculty are funded differently. Who gets the student credit hours when faculty from centers teach in a department?

Will return this item to Steering Committee next month. Dr. Mullens was encouraged to discuss with Provost Whitehouse before the next meeting. Will invite Drs. Glenn Cunningham and David Kuhn to Steering Committee on September 12, 2002.

**OTHER**

Agenda for Thursday August 22, 2002

- Will discuss issues above
- Ask for other issues to be addressed
- Parking

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.