

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee
FROM: Faculty Senate Office
DATE: August 27, 1997
SUBJECT: Minutes of meeting held on August 21, 1997

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The Steering Committee was called to order by Dr. Richard D. Tucker, Chair, at 4:10 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. Minutes of May 1, 1997 were unanimously approved. Members present: Drs. Stephen Goodman, Naval Modani, Terri Fine, Glenn Cunningham, Ida Cook, Philip Taylor, Taylor Ellis, Rosie Joels, James McBrayer, Brian Petrasko, Jean Kijek, Ms. Carole Hinshaw, and Provost Gary Whitehouse and Vice provost Frank Juge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Carole Hinshaw, announced that the Library is having an open house for all UCF faculty on Wednesday, September 24, 1997. A reception and introduction of the new director, Mr. Barry Baker, is on the schedule. All are invited to attend.

Dr. Tucker announced: 1) Dr. Robert Genarro expressed his appreciation to the Faculty Senate for the prompt approval of Dr. Rudy Wodzinski's professor emeritus designation prior to his death. Dr. Wodzinski had been a highly valued professor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology.

2) Dr. Nickerson is now serving as acting chair for the Department of Statistics has notified the Faculty Senate that Dr. Morgan Wang would now be the representative from that department.

3) Dr. Ronnie Clayton has taken a position to teach at Rollins College. His membership on the Faculty & Staff Sick Leave Pool Committee will need to be filled to continue his two year term. It was noted by the Steering Committee that the Faculty Senate members' terms were not staggered. Dr. Juge stated that he would check the guidelines and report to Dr. Tucker.

4) Due to a conflict with Spring Break, the dates on the February meetings have been changed. Faculty Senate will meet on February 19 and the Steering Committee will meet on February 5. The correction has been made on a revised copy of the Schedule for 1997-1998 which will be distributed at the Faculty Senate meeting on August 28, 1997.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Stephen Goodman reported that there are 6 standing committees and 16 reporting committees. He explained the procedures for assigning members to the various committees. He also distributed a tentative list of the Standing Committees. He has solicited names from the deans for the reporting committees and is waiting for their responses. Some committees also need the Provost's approval.

Dr. Tucker reported that four grand marshals and four faculty representatives are needed for fall

commencement. Please forward recommendations to Dr. Tucker as soon as possible. Dr. Cunningham recommended Dr. Lou Trefonas as grand marshal for spring commencement.

Suggested Agenda Issues for Standing Committees:

Dr. Tucker reported that the 48 hour honors rule continues to be a concern of graduating students who are prevented from graduating with honors. It is unclear how many students are involved. A few students have stated their disapproval in letters to Provost Whitehouse, President Hitt, and to Dr. Tucker. Dr. Tucker explained about the variability in this requirement with the SUS. Discussion continued extensively regarding: reviewing the rule again, needing a clearer rationale, depends on their GPA, also a humane issue, and grade inflation, etc. Dr. Tucker will research the question further in light of other changing honor requirements. The issue may be forwarded to the Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Joels stated she heard that faculty will be rated on student retention. Dr. Glenn Cunningham stated that he found an article from the July 25 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education regarding a survey done on grade inflation. This problem is at its worst at universities with high tuition fees. (A copy of this article is attached for your perusal.)

Dr. Terri Fine, chair of the Plus/Minus Grading Implementation Committee, reported that the Committee is still working on specifics regarding +/- from other institutions and waiting for feedback from Student Government. (A copy of Dr. Fine's status report on the Plus/Minus Implementation Committee is attached.)

Dr. Goodman stated that the language in the constitution was unclear about eligibility on the Promotion and Tenure Committee for those serving on the department promotion and tenure committees. Dr. Modani suggested that it does not cause a problem, and that many departments have very few full professors.

Dr. Cook reminded Dr. Tucker of the need to evaluate Student of Instruction Forms. The Committee is long overdue in reviewing the form. Discussion followed on the need to look at statistics, how the evaluations are being used, and how the University will use the evaluations. Dr. Juge stated that departments have merit criteria for instruction that are used for faculty evaluations. Other questions followed on how the results are being used in promotion and tenure guidelines. The evaluations were not meant to be used solely, but as one element of promotion and tenure. Dr. Juge also stated that he would review department criteria for using evaluations. Dr. Cook also stated that this issue should be studied by the Personnel Committee.

Dr. Cook also mentioned that she had heard of complaints from faculty regarding the Athletic Department's advisors asking instructors to change grades for some athletes. Dr. Tucker requested that the Athletic Student Advisement Office reiterate University policy to all the advisors.

Dr. Juge updated the Steering Committee on the progress of Sustained Performance Evaluations. It has been difficult getting the committee together during summer. He has plans to convene the group early in September. The committee will look at other universities and what they have accomplished.

They need to establish the review process. It was questioned how the Faculty Senate needs to be involved. The Senate can make suggestions and recommendations to the Provost and will do so at

the appropriate time. Also, Dr. Tucker will attend the organizational meeting to share his findings from the preliminary efforts of last year. The Personnel Committee will be fully informed of the deliberations of this committee. .

Dr. Kijek asked about Dr. Mullin's memorandum regarding parking and emergency responses. Dr. Tucker responded that these requests will be forwarded to the appropriate Reporting Committees. Retirement, insurance and other personnel matters will be handled by the Personnel Committee. It was reported that Human Resources now has a homepage with a response, or question form to allow faculty to ask questions directly to them. The Personnel Committee will continue to study the issues.

Dr. Joels reported that the new Student Union is a wonderful sight to see on campus. She stated that in 1985-1986 there was a resolution by the Faculty Senate stating that UCF was the only SUS in Florida without a Student Union. All agreed that it is a wonderful and welcomed addition to the University.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.