

Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of
August 22, 2013

Reid Oetjen, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. The roll was circulated for signatures. Oetjen welcomed the senators. The senators introduced themselves.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2013 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oetjen expressed appreciation for past chairs of the Faculty Senate. Most Senate committees are fully staffed, and notifications will come soon about initial meetings. The November meeting of the Faculty Senate has been moved to Wednesday, November 20, due to a Thursday football game.

GUESTS

Ross Hinkle, Graduate Studies
Elliot Vittes, Undergraduate Studies
Joe Adams, Office of the President
Shannon O'Donoghue, Constituent Relations
Shana Roen, Constituent Relations
Rick Schell, Office of the President
Yolanda Hood, University Libraries
Carlos Smith, Florida House District 49
Joe Saunders, Florida House District 49

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

General Education Program Update – Diane Chase

Diane Chase gave an update concerning the State General Education Program Action. Many of the previous large changes have been modified with additional legislative action. The changes are to take effect in Fall 2015. The hours in the GEP have been restored to 36. Now that the state requirements are set, work will begin at the campus level to determine the balance of the GEP requirements. In response to a question, she said that student transfers between state universities would become easier.

Legislative Update – Joe Saunders

Representative Joe Saunders, Florida House District 49, gave a legislative update. Saunders is a UCF graduate and reminisced about his time working as a student assistant to Faculty Senate under Arlen Chase. Saunders' committee assignments cover many education issues. He believes that higher education in Florida is not sufficiently funded. He spoke in favor of arts for all students. He sees non-discrimination in housing and employment as an important issue. He said

that pension reform was important: if we want UCF to be an outstanding university, we need to offer a solid pension. He believes that cutbacks in Bright Futures will limit students. He said that a liberal arts education is important, and that there is an economic argument for the arts. In response to a question, he acknowledged that the previous ways of funding new buildings were diminished, and recommended that the university and its supporters continue to lobby for additional funding. Oetjen thanked him for his comments.

Presidential Remarks – John Hitt

President John C. Hitt welcomed everyone to the new year. He thanked Rep. Saunders for his visit. He commented that this is a special year for UCF, due to a \$55M grant from NASA, the first graduating class of the College of Medicine, and the 50th anniversary of the university's founding. With all of these achievements, UCF is poised for more: the Classroom II building is opening in January, enrollment is expected to be over 60,000 students, over 15,000 degrees were conferred last year, and we now have the largest total number of degrees granted in the state. In Fall 2013, the projected average SAT of the freshman class is 1248. We have 61 new National Merit Scholars.

In the area of research, the university has surpassed \$100M in grant funding for the ninth straight year. Our athletic teams are now competing in the new American Athletic Conference. WUCF-TV is thriving. Last year's budget cut of \$52.6 million has been restored by the legislature.

In response to a question, President Hitt said that UCF is working to increase recruitment and retention; we will do fine with any measurement on an even playing field.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00, with the reception following.