

University of Central Florida
Faculty Senate
MINUTES
August 23, 2001

Dr. Michael Mullens, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of April 19, 2001 were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Dr. Mullens introduced guests: Drs. Frank Juge, John Schell, Lin-Huff Corzine, Denise Young, Patricia Bishop, Allyn Stearman, Mike Sweeney, Eric Van Stryland, Dennis Dulniak, Rosie Webb Joels, Jeff Saul, and Surelys Galano.

Dr. Juge announced that the UCF Board of Trustees held a meeting on campus on August 21-22, 2001.

- Dr. Denise Young reported on the meeting stating that the Board raised concerns about strategic planning benchmarking and inquired about campus climate. Curricular and faculty related issues included wanting a good relationship with faculty and Faculty Senate. There were many questions regarding the general education program - how well is it doing and is it achieving desired outcomes. The Board expressed belief that curriculum is domain of faculty. The board also discussed wanting to compare UCF with other institutions. The Board will be the final authority of baccalaureate and masters programs at UCF. Only doctoral programs must go to State level. The Board plans to meet every month for the first year, and every other month thereafter.
- Tenure issues brought forth a discussion regarding concept, process, who makes judgment, do students get to participate in the tenure process? Provost Whitehouse reviewed the tenure process and also did a presentation on quality, growth, characteristics and the productivity of faculty. Dr. Whitehouse stated that it would take the Board a while to understand the structure of academics.
- Question raised if the BOT is getting outside feedback to be sure they stay on task and do not overstep delegated scope of authority. Response: Consultants, using Association for Governing Boards guidelines, are doing training and are working with the BOT. There is also a Board of Trustees website. It was stated to contact Dr. Beth Barnes, Chief of Staff to the President, to get further information regarding the Board's agenda and to get information to the Board.
- Question regarding what materials the new board has been given already (e.g. Faculty Constitution). Response: Suggestions on what they should receive should be sent to Dr. Sweeney.
- Dr. Mullens commented on the Board of Trustees meeting. There were many questions regarding tenure and why we would want to award tenure. Dr. Mullens reported that Dr. Hitt made supportive comments with comparisons of tenure to other fields e.g. partnerships in law firms. Dr. Mullens also reported that the Board of Trustees is very interested in talking with students and faculty to determine best approaches. Several suggestions were made by Dr. Hitt including having representatives from Faculty Senate on committees set up by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dr. Ida Cook reported that the resolution below had been written and approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Steering Committee to change the name of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. Dr. Cook read the resolution for discussion and approval by the Faculty Senate.

RESOLUTION 2001-2002-1 FCTL Name Change

Whereas, Dr. Karen L. Smith was an exemplary teacher and motivator who served as Director of the Faculty for Teaching and Learning, contributing her intellect, positive spirit, enthusiasm and vision to the Center and

Whereas, Dr. Karen L. Smith created and promoted a vibrant, outstanding teaching, learning, and research format within which the faculty of the University of Central Florida have benefited as evidenced by increasing teaching performance, evaluation ratings, award-winning and creative teaching programs, and

Whereas, Dr. Karen L. Smith's insightful ability to envision advancements in collaborative technological pedagogy in the higher education classroom, having established a high standard of excellence for centers of teaching and learning throughout the United States, has put UCF in the national spotlight as one of the most advanced universities using pedagogical technology, the Faculty Senate of the University of Central Florida, hereby

Resolves that the Faculty Senate Resolution 1994-95-12, *Naming University Facilities*, prohibiting the naming of a facility for a retired or deceased employee "until two years following the date of...death" be waived, and The Faculty Senate hereby

Further resolves that the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Central Florida be renamed as the: Karen L. Smith Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.

No discussion was needed. The resolution was moved and seconded for consideration. The motion was unanimously approved and will be forwarded to Academic Affairs for approval.

2. Dr. Stephen Goodman, Senate Vice Chair and Chair of Committee on Committees, was not in attendance due to a previous commitment. A list of the four Standing Committee memberships was distributed.
3. **Suggested agenda issues for Standing Committees**
Dr. Mullens explained the committee assignments. All committees are encouraged to seek input from faculty on additional issues for consideration over the next year.
From Dr. Mullens and Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

a) **Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee**

- Faculty evaluations
Faculty evaluations for web based teaching
Validity of evaluations - Particularly important based on expressed concerns of the Board of Trustees
- International GTAs teaching in their 1st semester at UCF

b) **Personnel Committee**

- Senior Professorship - How do we recognize continued achievement of Full Professors?
- Faculty Parking
- Incentives for funded research

4. **Other issues suggested:**

Need to identify a way to put more focus on quality of instruction vs. publications and research in promotion and tenure process. **Referred to UPCC**

Issue of salary compression related to years in rank for associate professor and full professor in relationship to national norms. **Referred to Personnel**

Other items should be sent to Dr. Mullens

New senators were reminded that all Senate recommendations are forwarded to administration and are generally accepted.

5. **Educational Excellence Initiative**

Floor opened for discussion of the proposed Educational Excellence Initiative. Key components are:

- The State University System composed of a Chancellor and a Board of Governors will be a stand-alone institution.
- The State University System will be protected by a constitutional amendment.
- Terms of the Board of Governors will be 9 years.
- A local University Board of Trustees will govern each university.
- Each local Board is appointed as follows: one-third by the Governor and two-thirds by the Board of Governors
- Term of the Trustees is six years.

Dr. Rosie Webb Joels (member of Steering Committee for the initiative) was invited to present an overview of the background on the initiative. She stated it has been in the pipeline over two years. She reminded the Senate of the Johns Committee (before the Board of Regents), which was very destructive as a result of actions such as termination of faculty for rumors. Board of Regents has been effective as firewall against political meddling and approval of unneeded programs.

Senator and former Governor Graham has lead charge to develop the Educational Excellence Initiative. There is a twenty-five-member steering committee. Several are from Central Florida. Poling/focus groups are in the process of completion.

Proposal will be Amendment 19 on ballot in 2002, if a decision is made to go forward. The proposal will retain local Board of Trustees, but will install an independent statewide Board of Governors for the state university system. Decision on proceeding with the proposed amendment will be made in early fall.

Possible issues against the success of the initiative: it is a complex issue, many individuals do not know or care about higher education governance, governor will have unlimited money to work against initiative. If the decision is made to go forward, signatures from 400,000 registered voters will be needed. Resources from public agencies cannot be used to support initiative.

Dr. Mullens invited the faculty to openly discuss issues related to the initiative. He recognized Dr. Martha Marinara who presented a series of questions to reflect both sides of the issue. (See attachment for questions presented to the senate members for discussion.)

Discussion questions or points follow:

1. Are the boards and the location of the university always related?
Some major universities have great endowments but no local boards.
2. Are they really the same type of entity? Do we not really want a board local, or just very interested in UCF issues?
Clarification: Local means our UCF board, not where board member lives.
3. Can we prevent/reduce the possibility that the board will be a patronage system?
A longer term of office will help prevent problems.
4. What is the purpose of this discussion today?
To gauge level of faculty interest, to determine if there is desire to bring to full faculty, or develop a resolution.
5. What was wrong with the old system that the new one is meant to fix, and what is wrong with the new one which any change will fix?
 - a) New system is ill defined and policies and procedures are being developed as they go along. e.g. budget request for Board of Education based on Secretary's opinion.
 - b) All board members are appointees of the governor.
 - c) Past Board members were not all universally friends of education.
 - d) Often new degree programs were turned down but sometimes there was no need for them.
 - e) Greater good of State may have been to put money in systems where it was needed.
 - f) Many new programs have been approved since the new governance structure was enacted. Some of these were or would have been turned down under the old system.
6. Need to help new Board understand the role of creation of new knowledge and the education process. We have administrators working to educate the Board.

7. What is it that we are concerned about? Tenure, academic freedom, the ability to design and implement curriculum. Legislative imposition of academic requirements such as the Gordon Rule.
8. AGB (Association of Governing Boards) suggested that the first board is the best. Our BOR is recognized as an excellent board.

We will become a corporate enterprise and will not be a state agency in July 2002. Our university president has almost no power. Governor has great power in appointment of boards.

Question: If new board members are appointed in four years and if the governor changes, can he revise rules and decisions made by local boards? Answer: Yes

Concern also arose about the possibility of the loss of benefits for staff, such as the tuition voucher system. We have instituted the program, but could we be forbidden to continue to do so? Answer: Possibly

Dr. Sweeney reminded the Senate that the Board has a staggered term, but the governor can remove them at will.

The faculty of UCF would like to have input into selection of administrators who run this university. They have previously selected academic leaders. Procedures for selection of a new president were raised as an early issue of the new Board of Trustees.

There was also concern that there are some items that are faculty issues vs. administrative issues.

All members are encouraged to think about and speak to the issue.

There is no criteria for Board of Trustees itself. It was suggested that universities might want to make some contributions to decisions. Now there is duplication of systems over 11 universities instead of only one system.

All the new programs, some of which may be duplicative or not needed, come out of total state university system budget and this will make less money available to run existing programs.

Concerns summarized:

- There is no buffer between state politics (governor and legislature) and the university system.
- The governing body for the state university system is also responsible for k-12 and community colleges; these systems are fundamentally different; there is a lack of focus on university issues.
- The entire governance system is not protected. It can be changed again at any time.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.