

**Faculty Senate Committee Meeting**  
Minutes of  
**August 27, 2015**

Keith Koons, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2015 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Elizabeth Dooley, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, and Dean of the College of Undergraduate Studies

Binita Devkota, Student Government Association

Bill Phillips, Center for Distributed Learning

Jana Jasinski, College of Graduate Studies

John Weishampel, College of Graduate Studies

Shannon O'Donoghue, Constituent Relations

Joe Adams, Office of the President

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Resolution 2014-2015-3 Recognition of Outstanding Service for Dr. Ida Cook approved April 23 has been renumbered to 2015-2016-1 to reflect the appropriate year the resolution was passed.

An automatic change to the Constitution and Bylaws was made to reflect the change in the Provost's title to executive vice president and provost. This change takes place automatically and does not require any action.

Dr. Robert Cassanello has been appointed the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian. Senate committee liaisons have been established:

Budget and Administrative: Robert Cassanello

Personnel: Linda Walters

Parking Advisory: Bari Hoffman-Ruddy

Graduate Council: Jim Moharam

Undergraduate Council: Hyoung Jin Cho

Dr. Koons reported on the Emergency Steering Committee meeting held June 24. A letter from the Provost prompted the meeting; rescinding Resolution 2008-2009-1 Appointment and Evaluation of School Directors and Department Chairs, approved by Provost Hickey. Provost Whittaker is uncomfortable with the requirement of voting. After thorough discussion, and determining that the spirit of the resolution is not being followed, the Steering Committee referred the issue to the Personnel committee.

The Steering committee met August 13 and determined topics that need action during the year. Relevant topics have been assigned to the appropriate Senate committees for action. Committees will report to the Senate on the topics.

He reminded everyone to look at college or department bylaws. Bylaws may be created if they don't exist, assuming the college or department wishes to develop bylaws.

Updated the Senate on the two 2014-2015 Resolutions. Noted that we should not judge the success or failure of a senate year based on the number of resolutions passed. The Senate completes a tremendous amount of work that isn't seen in a resolution. 2014-2015-1 Amend the definition of faculty and eligibility for election to the Faculty Senate in the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate Constitution; approved and implemented by the Senate. 2014-2015-2 Parental Leave Policy and Procedures; not approved. The Provost may wish to explain further.

Christie Wolf, Administrative Assistant to the Faculty Senate is now permanent. Over the summer, Christie researched and posted Senate Resolutions from 1970 through 1985. The approved resolutions appear in black; not approved appear in gray.

Concern was expressed on the rescinded resolution taking away the power of faculty in choosing a chair. Invited everyone to review the resolution. The resolution was originally numbered 2007-2008-5 and has been renumbered to 2008-2009-1 to reflect the year approved. The best solution was to refer the issue to the Personnel committee since the resolution was not being followed.

Questioned what protection we have in order to prevent future resolutions from being rescinded. Dr. Koons indicated a resolution has never been rescinded before and there is no provision in the Constitution to allow rescinding. In discussions with the Provost, we share the opinion that resolutions passed by the Senate and approved by the Provost will be established in policy and supported. Also concerned about resolutions that have been approved but never implemented into policy.

### **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

The Parental Leave Resolution 2014-2015-2 was well considered and detailed, however, it is a benefit being collectively bargained now. In regard to the Resolution for the Appointment and Selection of a Department Chair, this resolution was accepted by a former Provost that was not promulgated to policy or regulation. When a resolution is passed by the Senate, it represents a university recommendation. Provost Whittaker is accepting accountability to either reject or accept resolutions with an explanation as to what will happen next. We both agree that faculty members within a department should have a voice and feedback to the hiring authority and a voice in the selection of the chair. The nature of my objection was the word vote. I referred the resolution back to the Steering committee for clarity and the Steering committee has referred the issue back to the Personnel committee. I have regrets on the concept of rescinding a former Provost's decision, but there is no continuity within our University and it needs to be clarified.

William Self knows the nature of the discussion and knows where I stand; looking forward to a response back from the Personnel committee.

Enjoyed the new faculty orientation. It was a large group and enjoyed meeting everyone. Also enjoyed the socialization at the Welcome reception hosted by Dr. Hitt. A number of individuals discussed a Faculty Club. If and when a concept of a hotel continues to emerge, there may be appropriate space for faculty.

We have committed our performance funding for another 100 tenure track faculty lines. Of the 100 new faculty for 2015, 33 are dedicated to the six approved clusters: Rational Design of Materials for Energy Conversion and Propulsion, UCF – A Prominent World Leader in Prosthetic Interfaces; Resilient, Intelligent and Sustainable Energy Systems; Sustainable Coastal Systems; Cyber Security and Privacy; and Genomics and Bioinformatics for Biomedicine to Biodiversity. The next round will probably be over a two-year period.

COACHE survey from Harvard has been completed. We are putting together a committee represented by two Senators, two UFF representatives, and a number of administrators to respond to the results. If you have a scholarly interest in the raw data, contact Cynthia Young.

Board of Trustees Strategic Planning committee is working on a new strategic plan for the university. There are three dimensions; each dimension having a steering committee or commission being appointed with approximately five members from within the university and five members outside the university. The commissions are Philosophy, Value, and Distinctive Impact. Because these commissions are small and focused they can't be representative. There is some overlap with the Strategic Planning Council. We will be planning five forums planned; two open forums on campus.

Question raised regarding the COACHE survey committee and why only two senators and two UFF representatives? No strong feelings regarding the number. Just wanted to make sure the Senate and UFF had representation. Benefits are only a small part of the COACHE survey. I would anticipate that two to three Senate committees will be dealing with the results over the next couple of years.

Question raised regarding faculty new hires for 2016 and 2017, will we be utilizing the cluster process to allocate those additional 100? To clarify, last year we hired 100 new faculty that are starting now. During the past year we planned for 100 additional faculty that will start next fall. We don't know about the following year yet, we have a lot of catch up to do on infrastructure.

Keith Koons presented an overview of the Faculty Senate for new members. The presentation included: the Role of the Senate; the Role of a Senator; Senate Committees and Councils; Joint Committees and Councils; Committee Staffing; and Resolutions. The presentation is available on the Faculty Senate website at [www.facultysenate.ucf.edu](http://www.facultysenate.ucf.edu).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There is no old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Koons introduced Michael Morsberger, Vice President for Alumni Relations and Development. Mr. Morsberger thanked the senators for the invitation. He has been at UCF for 90-days and just finished moving his family to Orlando. Discussed his background and previous positions. He has met with the deans and discussed their aspirations and expectations relating to the current campaign in which we hope to go public with next fall. Of the 500 million dollar goal, we already have 200 million in commitments. We want to take a fresh look at our goals and our capacity and make sure these goals align with the strategic plan. We would like to see more in the way of endowed professorships and fellowships.

Dr. Koons introduced President Hitt. Dr. Hitt thanked the Senators for their service and for their willingness to participate in the governance of our university.

This fall, 200 new faculty members joined our Knights family. This is our largest number for a new school year in more than a decade. New faculty include 100 new faculty positions in addition to the 100 faculty who replaced retiring and departing faculty members. Next year we plan to add another 100 faculty members. This two-year hiring effort increased the number of tenured and tenure-track positions by 25%.

The average SAT2 score of incoming freshman is at 1262, up six points over last year. Also, the average GPA of the freshman class is 3.99, compared to 3.92 last year. The projected SAT scores and GPA for freshmen entering the Burnett Honors College are at 1402 and 4.4. We enrolled 69 freshman National Merit Scholars. Preliminary enrollment is just over 63,000; an increase of 2.0 to 2.8 percent. The College of Medicine welcomed its third class of 121 students; growing the student population to 460. The students were selected from a pool of 4,875 applicants. Much of our advancement as a university stems from 5 goals of undergrad education, international prominence, international focus, inclusivity and diversity, and to be a leading partnership university.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn at 5:03 p.m.