

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
FACULTY SENATE

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty
FROM: Faculty Senate Office
DATE: February 26, 1997
SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Meeting - February 20, 1997

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The meeting was called to order by Dr. Richard D. Tucker, Chair, at 4:06 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of the Special Faculty Senate meeting held on December 5, 1996 regarding Post-Tenure Review were unanimously approved. The minutes of January 23, 1997 were also unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Dr. Tucker introduced Dr. David Nickerson from the Department of Statistics. He is replacing Dr. Paul Somerville who will be taking a sabbatical leave of absence. Dr. Tucker recognized guests: President John Hitt, Dean Kathryn Seidel, Dr. David Dees, Mr. Jon Flint, Mr. Joel Hartman, and Joanne Griggs.

Dr. Tucker announced a request made by the Legislature via the Board of Regents. The University must make recommendations on spending the proposed 10% increase in tuition funding. The committee to work on the report will consist of four students, four faculty, Drs. Richard Tucker, Tom Huddleston, Carol Wilson, Kathryn Seidel, and chaired by Mr. Bill Merck. Funds will be used to enhance instruction, financial aid, and student support services. The total available funds will be approximately \$3,200,000. Any comments or recommendations should be conveyed through the departments to the college deans.

Dr. Tucker commended Mr. Bill Merck on the swift action of the golf cart situation. The new policy, beginning February 20, 1997, will consist of identification displayed on each cart. All departments will be contacted to initiate driver training. Noise devices may be added to the carts at a later date depending on cost.

Dr. Tucker announced that he had attended the Western States Association of Faculty Governance Conference in Houston. At this conference the association voted to change from a regional to a national organization, and Dr. Tucker is now a member at large of the Executive Committee. This group provides a network for faculty who are involved in senate governance throughout the United States.

Dr. Tucker reported that two grand marshals have been selected for commencement on May 3, 1997.

Dr. John Schell, English Department, will represent the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Carl Balado, Educational Services, will represent the College of Education.

President Hitt reported on legislative agenda. The State Legislature has made education a top priority this term. FTE growth at UCF will be funded. Also equity funding is a high priority in the Legislature. UCF may receive significant funding to bring the university up to an equal level with other SUS. There has been a good response to the development of the I-4 Hi-tech corridor. UCF is likely to receive additional funding for this effort. Partnership money may also be allocated. President Hitt stated that it looks like a very good year for UCF!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Barsch introduced Resolution 1996-1997-3 Cumulative GPA for Graduation. He explained the reasons for the resolution. Some senators were concerned that students would manipulate the policy and take “easier courses” during the last 45 hours. Dr. Dees stated that it is not likely since very few students have the option to take easier courses during the last semesters before graduation, and that transfer students are often at a disadvantage. Dr. Leeson suggested that honors should mean sustained excellence throughout an academic career. Others questioned the selection of “45 hours.” After extensive discussion, Dr. Tucker recommended the phrase concerning honors graduates be separated into another resolution. Suggestions to change “Cumulative” to “UCF Undergraduate GPA for Graduation” in the resolution, and at the end of the first “Be It Resolved” add “computes only the UCF GPA.” It was moved and seconded to return the resolution to the UPCC for further clarification. The motion was passed 25 - 7.

Dean Seidel reported on the GEP Committee. The Committee will forward the final draft to the Steering Committee on March 6, 1997 for consideration to be presented to the Senate on March 20, 1997.

Dr. Tucker reminded all committees that all resolutions must be presented to the Steering Committee by March 6, 1997 if they are to be presented at the Senate meeting of March 20, 1997.

The Student Union is scheduled to open on March 17. Student Affairs has invited the Faculty Senate to meet there for a future meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee: Dr. Ida Cook, Chair, reported that Dr. Juge is compiling data for retiring faculty and phased retirement. Dr. Cook also stated that the Department of Human Resources and the Personnel Committee met to resolve some issues regarding insurance and retirement. Human Resources will be publishing a newsletter written by Dr. David Hernandez and Mark Roberts. The newsletter will report on retirement procedures. The Department of Human Resources is preparing an in house Website for direct faculty communication. This is intended to alleviate any personnel difficulties that faculty have been experiencing. Dr. Cook also recommended encouraging faculty with a problem to write to Mark Roberts directly, and to forward any information to the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee. Dr. Cook stated that a direct contact person may be designated

shortly by the Department of Human Resources to work specifically on faculty issues.

Dr. Tucker commended Dr. Cook, Dr. Hernandez, and Dr. David Abbott for their diligent work on this issue; working with the United Faculty of Florida, the Faculty Senate, and the University of Central Florida administration.

Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee: Dr. Linda Malone, Chair, reported that a proposal for a Ph.D. in Public Affairs has been approved for implementation. They are looking into the possibility of forming an ad hoc committee to study issues in graduate education.

Budget and Administrative Procedures Committee: Dr. Walter Johnson, Chair, will hold the next meeting on February 28, 1997. He has been asked to serve on an ongoing review committee to study a number of budget issues, including the Pegasus Model.

Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee: Dr. Heinrich Barsch, Chair, reported that the committee met on February 11, 1997. There have been continuous discussions regarding the reorganization of the academic calendar. There are many constraints on the Calendar Committee. Because of various rules, deadlines, and other calendar guidelines, it is becoming more difficult to designate enough days between finals and graduation. The most probable solution discussed allows grades for graduating students to be reported one day earlier than for other students.

OTHER

Dr. Tucker stated that he is now a member of the University Budget Committee. He thanked Dr. Naval Modani for his service this past summer to the committee.

Provost Whitehouse reported that the searches for deans in the College of Education and the College of Business are still in process. The agenda at present is scheduling meetings and interviewing candidates.

Dr. Whitehouse also stated that PEP awards have been computed for this year. He will be soliciting feedback from candidates and reviewers on the process.

Dr. Tucker introduced Mr. Jon Flint, President, UCF Foundation. He explained the role of the Foundation and how it works to gain funding from private sources. He stated that his office has two missions. 1) Awareness of UCF to the community of Central Florida, and 2) Enhance support to the University of Central Florida. Currently the Foundation has \$48,000,000 in total assets which includes the Research Pavilion. He described how the focus was on negotiating major gifts. The President's home is being built entirely from private funds. They have a Corporate Foundation Program and a new grant writer. Mr. Flint commended the faculty for their good work and quality of teaching. Donors will always support the University when they see how their donations are utilized. The Alumni are major donors and their loyalty is indispensable to UCF. The Foundation also focuses on establishing scholarships.

For the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Tucker presented the new video "UCF Ascendant." The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

RESOLUTION 1996-1997-3 General Education Program (GEP)

Whereas, The University's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness was reiterated in Faculty Senate Resolution 1995-1996-01; and

Whereas, Faculty Senate Resolution 1995-1996-01 resulted in a faculty committee to study inclusion of diversity in curriculum and to further refine the General Education Program to give the University a competitive edge; and

Whereas, There needs to be flexibility at the college, department, and program levels in interpreting the best way to address and implement a diversity requirement; and

Whereas, UCF students have varying General Education Program experiences; and

Whereas, There is currently no faculty committee with exclusive jurisdiction over issues related to "general education" at UCF;

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Faculty Senate establish a General Education Oversight Committee as a reporting committee and with exclusive jurisdiction over all issues related to "general education".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the University establish a "General Education Program Diversity Requirement". Students must take one of the diversity courses within the General Education Program and approved by the General Education Oversight Committee to satisfy this requirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the University establish a "Diversity Graduation Requirement". This requirement can be satisfied by meeting the "General Education Program Diversity Requirement" OR by activities or courses in a major, or by other courses jointly approved by a program and the General Education Oversight Committee.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, That the University adopt a "learning communities model" by which some students can complete parts of the General Education Program requirements.

RESOLUTION 1996-1997-4

Whereas, UCF has recently undergone months of strategic planning, involving scores of people from both inside and outside the University Community, and

Whereas, As faculty we are concerned with both the equity and efficacy of funding for the university's operating units and programs, as well as with implementation of the strategic plan; and

Whereas, We recognize that implementing the University's strategic plans depends upon actions taken not just by the central administration, but also at the level of the colleges and operating units as well;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That, while the Senate supports the use of formula funding for basic, across-the-board distributions in support of the on-going operating activities of the University's colleges and other units, it also recognizes that strategic initiatives inherent in the University's strategic plans cannot be pursued entirely through formula-driven funding models.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, accordingly, the Senate urges that processes be developed by which specific initiatives and programs can be funded by means other than through enrollment-driven or other formula-funding approaches. Development of such processes is appropriate for the University wide budget, for the academic affairs budget, and for the budgets of individual colleges and operating units, and might include the refinement and adaptation of the existing practice of providing "specials" within the University-wide and Academic Affairs budgets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is vitally important such processes assure maximum participation by faculty from within their operating units and departments, and that such processes are maximally visible to and understood by all members of the University community. It should be understood also that this resolution does not constitute a lack of support from the Faculty for the aims and purposes of formula-based budgeting appropriately employed; rather it suggests enhancement and refinement of such models in order that they may be more effective, equitable, and supportive of the University's strategic goals.

RESOLUTION 1996/1997-5

Whereas, Efforts aimed at re-examining the University's budget processes are now beginning, and the Senate supports such efforts to synchronize planning and budgeting; and

Whereas, The Senate believes that effective budgeting requires that all units and parties involved in the budget process understand it; and

Whereas, The Senate believes that a spirit of openness regarding budgeting should prevail, not only at the University level but at the level of the colleges and individual academic units as well;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the Senate urges that the processes and criteria by which budget allocations are made, both at the University level and within all colleges and units, should be clearly communicated to all the participants in that process, including faculty at the departmental and program levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That to this end, it is recommended that a formal mechanism, or mechanisms, be established for fostering such communication. Such mechanisms should include, but be not necessarily limited to, annual, formal written or oral reporting by the President or Provost to the Faculty Senate, and by similar reporting by the deans and other heads of the various colleges and operating units to their respective faculties.