

University of Central Florida
Faculty Senate
February 21, 2002

Dr. Michael Mullens, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Minutes of January 24, 2002 were unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Mullens recognized guests: Drs. Tom Huddleston and Lin Huff-Corzine.

Provost Whitehouse announced that the budget is presently in flux, but moving in a positive direction. Some expected outcomes are that 5% will be deleted from the budget. However, 20 million dollars in enrollment money (expected to be recurring dollars) is expected. There is a lot of "one time" money, e.g. PECO funds, to fund remodeling of the Education Building, new Welcome Center, further expansion to partnership buildings in the research park, and other buildings. Also expect to have matching money for various projects. Tuition increase will be added on, not used to fund other items. This is beneficial and gives us more flexibility.

Promotion and tenure interviews are in progress. Forty-eight candidates are in pool. Not clear how this will be processed through the local board. They have asked to approve tenure. Not clear their role in promotions. No problems expected. Next Board of Trustees meeting will have a very busy agenda. An all day meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2002.

Open House to discuss Provost Faculty Fellowship will be March 6, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. All are invited.

Question about Governor's proposed 100 million dollars in one time money for research initiatives for modern technology. Need industry support. Expect we will work with Simulation Training and Optics.

Dr. Tom Huddleston spoke about the UCF Creed. Copies distributed. Part of building a quality undergraduate experience. We were the first university to have convocation for new freshman and first to have a creed. Creed is a statement of conduct and community with four core values: integrity, scholarship, community, and excellence. Almost parallels UCF core values in university strategic plan. Plans underway to post across campus. Faculty invited to put in their syllabus. Need to disseminate across the university. All members invited to assist in dissemination of the creed. A link is on the UCF Website.

Dr. Mullens requested acknowledgement or clarification on who was on the committee for University Excellence in Professional Service Award.

Dr. Cyndee Hutchinson, College of Education

Dr. Husain Kassim, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Rufus Barfield, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Ola Nnadi, College of Engineering and Computer Science

Dr. Jan Peterson, College of Health and Public Affairs

Dr. Naval Modani, College of Business Administration

All senators are invited to an Open House in the Student Union on February 29, 2002 to celebrate President Hitt's 10th anniversary at UCF. Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Advisory Committee of Faculty Senates met on the UCF campus on February 15, 2002. University of South Florida has issue with professor El-Arian; commentary in Chronicle of Higher Education.

Robin Gibson, attorney, and Philip Handy from Florida Board of Education discussed merits of Educational Excellence for Florida constitutional initiative. They have offered to come to Faculty Senate to discuss this. Would like to have discussion; initiative currently at over 200,000 signatures. Polls indicted public in favor at this time.

Trustee Ferris, Chair of Academic programs committee invited to next Faculty Senate meeting. Would like to ask her to be open for questions from senate members.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Robert Pennington presented two resolutions for the Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee.

Resolution 2001-2002-5 Require All Minors to be 18 hours Minimum for UCF

Whereas, the current UCF catalog indicates that there is no minimum number of hours for a minor at UCF, and

Whereas, many majors in Arts and Sciences require 18 hours for a minor to be used in the degree, and

Whereas, there exist minors in other colleges that have less than 18 hours, but faculty and students assume that the minors will count, but do not where an 18-hour minor is required,

Be it resolved that the UCF catalog policy be revised as follows:

Baccalaureate minors must contain a minimum of 18-semester hours credit.

There are only three minors that do not have 18 hours. Two are being changed to 18 hours, the third one is in review. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2001-2002-6 Change the Gordon Rule "C" Requirement Policy for UCF

Whereas, the current UCF catalog indicates that Gordon Rule policy requires that a grade of "C" (2.0) or better is required to receive Gordon Rule credit at UCF, and

Whereas, many faculty and students assume that a "C-" (1.75) will count to satisfy the Gordon Rule,

Be it resolved that the Gordon Rule grade policy be revised as follows:

Baccalaureate students must receive a minimum grade of "C-" to receive Gordon Rule credit at UCF.

To better communicate this requirement, all majors should include this in their program descriptions.

This follows in footsteps of other state universities, e.g. FSU and UF. A lengthy discussion of whether faculty feel a satisfactory Gordon Rule grade is a C or a C-. Several majors have stated that a C is necessary for specific courses. They also require C grades (not C-) for graduation. A C- average would be a 1.75 GPA, below that required by UCF to graduate.

If we do not change the policy, students who have a C- grade would need to repeat the Gordon Rule course. Question asked: If grades were segmented into three parts (A, B, C), would student have passed under old system? Some faculty feel students with C- may have received a D grade, before plus/minus some would have gotten a C.

Since some faculty are still giving only A, B, C, D grades (no, minus grades are given), would it be fairer to students to allow C- to meet Gordon Rule requirement?

Dr. Marinara stated that the composition program examined this and found the difference between the C and C- was slight and students still had basic competence. If this rule is not passed, faculty may stop giving C-.

The Department of Mathematics has stated they cannot give a C-. If student must retake the exam, they may need to use grade forgiveness and/or take the course again.

Question: Would it be retroactive? Yes, it would be for this year to account for C- grades that were given in the fall. It will be administratively implemented this year.

Dr. Whitehouse stated if this resolution passes, students would not be put in jeopardy. A friendly amendment to state this was not put forward because of this assurance. A motion was made and seconded to revise the Gordon Rule. Twenty-two (22) voted in favor, eight (8) opposed. The motion passed.

Dr. Sophia Dziegielewski gave a brief history of issues surrounding the following resolution.

Resolution 2001-2002-7 Computer Generated Evaluation Scoring Errors

Whereas, all faculty utilize computer generated evaluations to assess annual teaching contributions,

Whereas, these evaluations are often used as supporting information to support faculty efforts toward promotion, tenure and numerous award criteria; and,

Whereas, there is no formal policy for either addressing or recognizing computer generated errors when and if such errors should occur;

Be It Resolved that a policy to address this problem with computer generated student evaluations be created allowing faculty recourse creating a formal procedure available to faculty to address or grieve this situation. See Appendix A for a sample of such a procedure.

No discussion or questions. Resolution was unanimously approved.
(Committee sent an appendix with suggestion on procedure to be used when policy is developed. This appendix will be forwarded to Dr. Whitehouse with the resolution.)

Dr. Dziegielewski gave a brief history of issues surrounding the following resolution. Felt that summary sheet could be put on-line since that is what is available in the library.

Resolution 2001-2002-8 Issue of On-line Student Perception of Instruction

Whereas, student perceptions of faculty performance are currently available for student review; and,

Whereas, students are requesting greater and more convenient access for review of course evaluations,

Be it resolved that the committee supports the recommendation that the SUMMARY sheet for student perceptions of evaluation be placed on-line.

A lengthy discussion incurred regarding implications of this resolution. It was not clear if it would be only the eight state mandated or all sixteen items. Currently the eight state mandated items are in the library.

Question raised: Would evaluations be available to non-UCF students/faculty who might want to view evaluation results? Yes, it is expected this would happen. Elizabeth Killingsworth, UCF librarian, stated that items on electronic reserve are open to only those with UCF library privileges and this could be done with evaluations.

Concern was raised that some of the items that were most predictive of overall evaluation, from research presented at the Senate meeting last month, are not part of the eight mandated items.

A friendly amendment was made that faculty evaluations be available on-line only with a UCF ID. The motion was seconded with no discussion. Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Dr. Tucker that the resolution go back to the Personnel Committee to address the issue of how many of the evaluation items (8 state mandated or all 16 items) would be posted on-line. The motion to return the resolution to the Personnel Committee was seconded and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee - Dr. Sophia Dziegielewski

Working on issues including family leave act and how it is related to faculty. Also looking at how they track resolutions to determine acted on or not acted on.

(Currently Provost office sends back resolutions to Senate with an acceptance. At present there are two resolutions in process.)

Budget and Administrative Committee - Dr. Arlen Chase

No business to report.

Graduate Council - Dr. David Hagan

The Council is in the process of developing criteria for awarding of posthumous graduate degree. Also discussing plus minus grading. B average required for graduation with no lower than C in no more than two C grades. Current recommendation is that it be C-/C or C+. A resolution to this regard is in process.

Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee - Dr. Pennington

The UPCC is currently working on a resolution on revision of evaluation of teaching instruments with extension to reflect M and W classes. The Committee has agreed to meet in April to prepare items for Board of Trustee meeting in September.

Other

Dr. Ida Cook announced FCTL is raising money for Relay for Life. A reserved parking space will be given away.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM