

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
February 27, 2003

Dr. Michael Mullens, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of January 23, 2003 were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

Dr. Mullens introduced Drs. Bob Armacost, Ron Atwell, Lynn Huff-Corzine, Kathleen Seidel and Student Government representatives. Motion to change the agenda to add Sexual Orientation resolution, presented by Dr. Killingsworth. Motion to add a resolution to the agenda to be discussed today and then added to the March agenda made, seconded and approved.

Dr. Whitehouse announced that there is still waiting period on the budget concern.

Faculty encouraged to participate in the Provost search. Dr. Tucker reported we have five final candidates. Background checks are underway. Candidate Terry Hickey, Provost of the University of Akron, will be on campus next Monday and Tuesday with other candidates to follow. The formal time for Faculty Senate members to meet the candidate is 3pm Monday. **Question:** Is there any information posted about the candidates? The Provost Search information is available on the Provost's web page. This includes schedules and the CV of the candidates.

Final candidates are:

Dr. Terry L. Hickey, Senior Vice President and Provost, The University of Akron
Dr. Gary S. Krahenbuhl, Senior Vice President, Arizona State University
Dr. Peter W. Rabideau, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University
Dr. Kathryn Lee Seidel, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Central Florida
Dr. Allen Soyster, Dean of Engineering, Northeastern University

Dr. Huff-Corzine reported about RIAs which were distributed among the colleges as follows: 2 for CROEL & IST, 6 for Art & Science, 2 for Business (plus 1 recycled), 2 for Education, 3 for Engineering & Computer Science, 2 for Health & Public Affairs, 1 for Hospitality Management and 4 At-Large. There are 10% more than last year. **Question:** Did the Faculty Senate Resolution result in the additional RIA's? Dr. Whitehouse said resolution has not yet been formally accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Constitution Revision

Motion to endorse recommendation for the Faculty Senate Constitution revision. Dr. Ida Cook, Chair of the Constitution Revision Committee, reported the committee made changes, which are reflected in document previously forwarded to the Faculty Senate. (See attached). **Question:** What about the Honor's College committee? Wording will be the same as in the previous version of the Constitution, but will be identified as the Advisory Committee for the Burnett Honor's College. Dr. Ida Cook thanked the Constitution Committee for their work. There was motion to accept the recommendation of the committee. Motion unanimously approved. Dr. Mullens asked Dr. Modani to explain the next steps to put the Constitution in effect. Dr. Modani stated the Faculty Assembly must be called by the president (sometime in April) where the revised constitution will need to be approved.

UPCC Readmission Policy

Motion to endorse recommendation from the UPCC regarding changes to readmission policy in the catalog. Dr. Mullens introduced Dr. Atwell to discuss the readmission policy.

There are four recommendations:

1. Students are not eligible for readmission after exclusion that is the second academic dismissal, unless there are documented extenuating circumstances.
2. Any disqualified student with UCF grade point deficiency equal to or greater than 15 grade points is not eligible for readmission unless there are documented extenuating circumstances,
3. Readmitted students who drop or withdraw from all courses during the readmitting semester for whatever reason must reapply for readmission.
4. Change to where students are given one opportunity to apply or petition for reinstatement, instead of processing it every semester for disqualified students it's one appeal during the disqualification period and for excluded students per twelve calendar months.

Question: Does disqualified refer only to academic performance? Yes, it's academic performance; however, this does not deal with student conduct. **Question:** What is the grade point deficiency now? At this point there is no grade point deficiency requirement and some students get into a situation with a major grade point deficiency. Extenuating circumstances would be considered for some students.

Question: Is there any provision for elimination of grades from old and deficient courses? It has been discussed but is not in this proposal. There has been some discussion of an "academic bankruptcy" rule after some period of time. There is a group addressing this issue. Question about calendar year vs 12 months. Current wording relates to 12 months. There was motion to accept the recommendation of the committee. Motion unanimously approved

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATIVE - Dr. Glenn Cunningham reported that there have been several problems addressed. One is with students in work-study in the Fall with 1500 applicants and only 500 spots available. Problem not as extensive this Spring. Dr. Cunningham meeting with Dr. Huddleston about possible changes. Also discussed problems with student aid and problems with payroll and Peoplesoft. Student aid problem is worse than payroll problem because of greater numbers.

Met with director of travel and with Mr. Merck. Things are better than two years ago, but all problems not yet solved. The committee continues to work on this. Seems to be a problem because people preparing travel paperwork keeps changing and travel paperwork is a complex process. There are also some communication problems.

Traffic and parking. Much has been done to try to address the problems. Suggestion made that Mr. Merck be invited to address Senate about what is being done; e.g. four lanes for back road, no way to prevent cut through traffic, bus service between campus and research park, and campus and local apartments (use increased over last six months). There are plans for more and larger garages.

Budget office changes discussed and will be further considered at next meeting. The focus of discussion is on changes due to change from Board of Regents to Board of Trustees and needs to be more responsive. Will be meeting with Joel Hartman to discuss phone system, computer system and departmental charges related to these services. Will also be discussing plans for improvements in the services he oversees.

Graduate Council – Dr. Stephen Goodman reported the Course Review Committee has approved revisions and new programs. The Graduate Council reviewed the award nominations for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. The Policy and Procedures subcommittee has begun to look at graduate assistant tuition waiver policy. Currently in initial exploration process reviewing related issues.

Personnel Committee - Dr. Vanryckeghem reported the parking/traffic subcommittee has tentative resolutions. The committee will meet next week to discuss the resolutions, which will be forwarded to the Steering committee and presented to the Faculty Senate meeting in March. Salary equity committee has met every other week.

Undergraduate Policy and Procedures Committee - Dr. Pennington reported the committee met on February 11 and the next meeting will be on March 11. Subcommittee looking at American Sign Language is awaiting feedback and will be discussed at their next meeting. If approved, it will be brought to the March meeting.

OTHER

Plus Minus Grading

Dr. Mullens introduced Dr. Armacost, from University Analysis & Planning Support, who reported on research related to the effect of plus and minus grading since it was started in 2001. Dr. Armacost presented an overview of research on the plus minus grading (See attached). Brief discussion of how having grades calculated differently in different sections of the same course can be a problem, especially when a student does not know during registration which sections are doing which approach.

Dr. Mullens introduced Juan Camacho, Student Government Representative, who spoke against the use of plus/minus grades. Students feel this system puts them at a disadvantage and is counter productive to students as a whole. There is a penalty with A- and no ability to have A+. Survey of student body (done in conjunction with an election) shows 84% say there is no benefit to plus/minus system. One problem is that it is not used universally; so two sections of the same course may or may not have plus/minus grades. Students do not know which faculty are using plus/minus when registering.

Sexual Orientation Resolution

Dr. Mullens recognized Dr. Elizabeth Killingsworth who presented a resolution regarding a sexual orientation nondiscrimination policy.

Be it resolved that University administration consistently include "sexual orientation" in all possible nondiscrimination statements; further the Faculty Senate recommends that the university administration request that the Board of Trustees and its legal counsel in appropriate consultation with governing agencies adopt this language in nondiscrimination policies regarding employment at the University.

Dr. Mullens opened the floor for discussion. The resolution will be voted on at the March meeting. **Question** as to why not yet included? Dr. Whitehouse stated our lawyers said it could not be included in any SUS statements. Response that it is in the nondiscrimination statement at several community colleges. Mr. Cole (university counsel) will be asked to join us at the March meeting. Dr. Cook suggested we address at next meeting. If administration wishes to share more information later, they can share. Also noted this resolution would usually come through the Personnel Committee. The committee had so many issues this year that this issue has not been addressed. Multiple suggestions that we go through regular system as much as possible. **Question:** Is there any indication that this has had an impact on applications? In some departments candidates for specific positions have asked if this is in our statements. Some faculty stated they had never heard this question. Motion to send to the Personnel Committee made and seconded. Call for a vote made and seconded and unanimously approved. Motion defeated. Will be addressed at Senate meeting in March.

Athletic compliance - Ms. Pegjohngy Moses was not able to attend. No action.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**Next Faculty Senate Meeting
March 27, 2003**