

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 8, 2001**

Dr. Michael Mullens, Chair, called the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting to order on Thursday, February 8, at 4:07 p.m. The minutes of January 11, 2001 were unanimously approved.

Members present: Drs. Lee Cross, Diane Wink, Glenn Cunningham, Phillip Taylor, Diana Velez, Naval Modani, Cynthia Hutchinson, Carol Bast, and Provost Gary Whitehouse.

Members absent: Drs. Ida Cook, Lee Armstrong, Robert Pennington, Ahmad Elshennawy, and John Leeson

Guest: Dr. John Schell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provost Whitehouse announced that he plans two open faculty reorganization transition meetings on Monday, February 19 and Tuesday, February 20, 2001. Both sessions will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Provost Whitehouse and Dr. Michael Sweeney will answer questions. Provost Whitehouse stated that the Florida Retirement System would continue. Health insurance still needs some negotiating.

Dr. Cunningham asked what kind of input would the faculty have on the new local board. Dr. Whitehouse responded that at the moment no faculty are considered to be on the board, only community business advisors. It was suggested that a retired educator could possibly be considered for the board.

Dr. Whitehouse also reported that a search for a new Director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning is in process.

NEW BUSINESS

Standing Committee Reports

Budget and Administrative Procedures

Dr. Glenn Cunningham reported the committee has two meetings scheduled within the next two weeks; therefore, there is nothing to report at this time.

Graduate Council

Policy and Procedures Subcommittee: - Dr. Cynthia Hutchinson reported that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee is working on three items that may surface as resolutions in the future: 1) the establishment of minimum qualifications for faculty supervising thesis/dissertations, 2) composition of thesis/dissertation committees, in particular members who are off campus, or not in academia and 3) the question of whether policy should be established regarding obtaining a second master's degree in the same graduate program.

Course Review and New Programs Subcommittee: Dr. Hutchinson reported that this subcommittee has approved the following: 1) a new certificate program in Teaching World Studies, which is a joint effort of the history and political science departments and the College of Education, 2) a graduate certificate program in Computer Forensics, which is a joint effort between computer science and chemistry. The Committee also acted on a variety of course action requests.

Appeals Subcommittee: - Dr. Hutchinson reported that the subcommittee met and revised the criteria for the graduate teaching award and developed criteria for the new graduate student-mentoring award.

Agreed on a procedure for selecting this year's graduate teaching award winner.

Will meet again on February 15 to pick the winner after evaluating all of the binders.

Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee

Dr. John Schell reported for Dr. Robert Pennington. Resolution 2000-2001-2 Faculty Teaching and Learning in the Tenure Process was returned to the UPCC for further review. This has been revised to make alternative methods of evaluation an option, not a requirement. Will be brought to the next Faculty Senate Meeting. A proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences, 3/2 Masters in Liberal Studies Program was unanimously approved. Non-payment of fees was discussed and will be continued at the March meeting.

Personnel Committee

Dr. John Leeson, Chair of the Committee was not available to report.

OTHER

Dr. Mullens requested one volunteer from each college to serve on the Excellence in Professional Service Award Committee. The folders for the two selected awardees must be forwarded to Provost Gary Whitehouse by February 28, 2001.

Committee members:

Dr. Cynthia Hutchinson	College of Education
Dr. Carol Bast	College of Health and Public Affairs
Dr. Naval Modani	College of Business Administration
Dr. Lee Armstrong	College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Michael Mullens	College of Engineering and Computer Science

Dr. Mullens announced that Dr. Philip Kalpin, Department of Disability Services, had requested a half hour for a presentation. The Steering Committee discussed the issue and concluded that the March and April agendas are likely to be full. It was agreed to allow ten minutes at the February meeting. Distribution of a handout to supplement the presentation was suggested. Dr. Mullens will contact Dr. Kalpin.

Dr. Mullens announced that Provost Gary Whitehouse formally approved the resolution written by the Senate Steering Committee, and approved by the Faculty Senate. The Steering Committee agreed to forward the resolution to Mr. Phil Handy, Chair of the Transition Task Force on the reorganization of education governance.

Dr. Mullens stated that he had been asked if religious holidays could be put on the university calendar. Steering Committee members pointed out this has been considered several times over the last few years by the Calendar Committee and need not be addressed again at this time.

Dr. Valerie King has requested from the Faculty Senate to consider an award on excellence in diversity. This issue will be forwarded to the Personnel Committee.

Discussion on ACFS Resolution

Dr. Mullens reported that he had met with the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates of Florida in Tallahassee on February 2, 2001. The ACFS are putting together statements of their beliefs regarding the Transition Task Force. Dr. Mullens read the recommended resolution, still to be confirmed, to the Steering Committee. This proposed resolution is in response to the Transition Task Force.

1. Education drives the quality of life in Florida: social, economic and environmental.
2. Higher education is the unique capstone of the state's educational system, simultaneously providing professional education, service and research to the citizens of Florida.
3. The inextricable core values of higher education are academic excellence and academic freedom. Historically, Faculty have been the keepers of these values and it is our job to remain vigilant and protect them.
4. Higher education, including the community colleges and state universities, should be governed separately from k-12. This is essential to maintain the uniqueness of higher education and to prevent academic excellence and academic freedom from being eroded by a lack of focus and undue political interference.
5. Operational decision making for higher education should be decentralized to Boards of Trustees, one for each institution. A governing board should be established to oversee the system, responsible for setting broad educational goals, providing lump sum budgeting, holding member institutions accountable and rationalizing program planning.
6. A faculty member and a student should be appointed as voting members of each Board of Trustees and the governing board.
7. A debate should be initiated to discuss the merits of a plan recently suggested by Florida Senator Bob Graham to make the governing board a constitutional entity.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this proposed statement. Suggestion made to include a statement on the key role of the university in the education process, the generation of new knowledge, and art and cultural matters. The Steering Committee discussed the likelihood that a faculty representative would be a member of the board and the role such a representative would need to take to represent the diverse views and needs of all academic units. Agreed that faculty representation should be requested or at least someone with academic experience. Comment made that this proposed statement elevates the discussion to fully reflect the faculty's role in the university.

Dr. Mullens asked each member of the Steering Committee if they saw any problems with the resolution from the ACFS. The Committee agreed that they saw no pitfalls with the resolution discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.