

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty
FROM: Karen Biraimah - Faculty Senate Secretary
DATE: January 16, 1991
SUBJECT: Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting - January 10, 1991

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The meeting was called to order by Dr. Glenn N. Cunningham, Chair, at 4:04 p.m. The roll was passed for signature. There was a correction to the Minutes of December 6, 1990 under "Committee Reports - Instructional Committee" - second sentence, delete the word "community." The minutes were approved as amended.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Among guests present - Provost Astro, Dr. Juge, Dave Tropf, Sandra Pedicini of the Central Florida Future, and Dina Fabery, representing Dr. Nadia Patrone.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chair Cunningham stated that the resolutions previously passed by the Senate were under consideration by the university administration. Dr. Astro commented that he still has no written response because he must first confer with President Altman, who has been out of town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMISSIONS AND STANDARDS

Dr. Seth Elsheimer, representing Dr. Myler, reported that the committee has met and will present Resolution 1990-1991-9 today.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Dr. Klintworth, Chair, reported that the committee will meet next Thursday, January 17, at 4:00 p.m. Call for location.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Mr. Rusnock, Chair, reported that this committee will be meeting in January and that he needed committee members' schedules in order to arrange a convenient meeting time.

INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Dr. Cornett, Chair, reported that the committee was meeting with regard to the faculty development program, and that it was also looking into evaluation elements.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Fine, representing Dr. Davis, reported that the committee is currently working on two resolutions, one regarding the University Personnel Committee and the other is faculty selling sample textbooks to used book vendors. Dr. Cunningham added that the Senate Steering Committee was looking into the conflict and overlap of university committees. As an example, particular attention will be paid to the roles and responsibilities of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee and the University Undergraduate Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 1990-1991-9

The current criterion for University honors:
The University shall confer baccalaureate honors recognition on those students who have completed a minimum of 48 semester hours at UCF and who:

- A. Attain an overall grade point average which is in the upper 15% of the range established by all students graduating in the same college during the previous two years.
- B. Attain at least a 3.0 overall grade point average.

- C. Honors awarded will be
 - 1. Summa Cum Laude for those students in the upper 5%
 - 2. Magna Cum Laude for those students in the upper 10%, but not in the upper 5%.
 - 3. Cum Laude for those students in the upper 15% but not in the upper 10%.

should be changed to:

- A. Attain an overall grade point average which is in the upper 10% of the range established by all students graduating in the same college during the previous two years.
- B. Attain at least a 3.2 overall grade point average.
- C. Honors awarded will be
 - 1. Summa Cum Laude for those students in the upper 2.5%.
 - 2. Magna Cum Laude for those students in the upper 5%, but not in the upper 2.5%.
 - 3. Cum Laude for those students in the upper 10% but not in the upper 5%.

This resolution was proposed by the Faculty Senate Admissions & Standards Committee. Dr. Seth Elsheimer presented various aspects of this resolution. After the resolution was moved and seconded, discussion focused on the issues of grade inflation, and whether honors should be based on a particular GPA or percentile. Dr. Elsheimer commented that at present UCF awards honors to one out of every seven graduates. This resolution would provide for the awarding of honors to one out of every ten graduates. An objection to the minimum 3.2 GPA was based on the fact that UCF does not take pluses or minuses into consideration when issuing grades to students. Thus, while the 3.2 might be a reasonable requirement for honors in universities where pluses and minuses are used in the calculation of student GPAs, the senator did not feel that it was appropriate for UCF. A question was asked of how other universities decided who would be awarded honors at graduation, and Dr. Elsheimer replied that this varied among universities. Some used a minimum GPA, while others required recommendations, participation in honors programs, etc. At this juncture in the discussion, Chair Cunningham mentioned that Resolution 1990-1991-9 was meant to be an immediate "quick fix," and that it might be refined in the future. The question of grade inflation was discussed, with the suggestion made that high grades do not necessarily reflect superior students. Dr. Fine then offered a friendly amendment to eliminate Part B which states they must attain at least a 3.2 overall grade point average. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed on the amendment offered. This amendment failed by a majority of voice votes. The original motion to accept the resolution as proposed was again on the floor. Dr. Cunningham asked if there was any more discussion. The original motion was then called, and passed by a majority of voice votes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Cunningham announced that the Senate Steering Committee had consulted with Dr. Astro in an emergency budget meeting called by the Provost on December 12, 1990.

Provost Astro discussed with the Senate the current situation with regard to budgetary cuts. He announced that the LAPSE requirement

had been met, and that this had eased the university's ability to absorb the \$1.8 million cut. Dr. Astro said that the 1990-1991 teaching awards had been eliminated (as agreed upon in the December 12, 1990 emergency meeting.) He added that the awards had not been too popular on campus, and that next year they would be eliminated state-wide by the Chancellor's office. However, due to funding from the University Foundation, there would still be teaching awards this year, though the monetary awards would be substantially less than last year. Prior to the state funded awards beginning in 1988, the University Foundation had provided the funds for the teaching awards. Each college award would be \$1,000, and the university-wide teaching award would be an additional \$1,500. He said that it no longer made sense to discuss \$5,000 teaching awards amidst major budgetary and class cuts. Provost Astro then went on to comment about projected budget cuts. Though he said he hoped there will not be another cut, there is a forecast of another 5% cut next year, with the possibility of entire programs being eliminated instead of previous across-the-board cuts. Three programs currently being considered for elimination by UCF include Florida Solar Energy Center, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and G.E. Simulation Sub-contracts. The Provost said the real problem was that there would be no new money next year, and though we may get 10 to 12 new positions due to enrollment growth, this would simply mean that UCF would lose some financial flexibility. He mentioned that the administration was attempting to retain some flexibility with regard to the summer budget, and that UCF would try to meet student demands and faculty salary needs.

The Provost then announced that he had recommended to President Altman and the five college deans that the Office of Graduate Studies be eliminated at the end of this academic year. He also recommended that the responsibility for graduate studies at UCF be decentralized among the various colleges, with quality control to be assured through a strong graduate council. Dr. Astro said that these recommendations would not alter actual graduate education programs at UCF, but rather would change the organization of the bureaucracy involved with graduate studies. He said that at this point four deans who have already responded to his initiative are prepared to assume responsibility. The Provost said he would meet with all five deans next week to discuss his recommendations in greater detail. Senate Chair Cunningham reiterated his concern about quality control and the loss of a graduate school. Dr. Joels added that it was unfortunate that the faculty was not involved in these preliminary discussions, and said the issue focused on the problem of controlling standards. At this point, Provost Astro reminded the Senate that he was talking about the elimination of a graduate office, not a graduate school.

A question was asked of Dr. Astro whether there is still talk of a law school and he responded in a positive manner, stating that at the moment there was no money available for such a venture but over the course of a decade this issue would become a serious item of consideration, and that the current financial problems should not eliminate future plans for growth and development.

Next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be February 7, 1991.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Biraimah, Secretary