

University of Central Florida
Faculty Senate Executive Steering Committee
MINUTES
Thursday January 10, 2002

Dr. Michael Mullens, Chair, called the Faculty Senate Executive Steering Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. Minutes of the November 8, 2001 were unanimously approved.

Present: Drs. Michael Mullens, Stephen Goodman, Diane Wink, Ida Cook, Rufus Barfield, Glenn Cunningham, Keith Koons, Martha Marinara, Naval Modani, Ahmad Elshennawy, Ola Nnadi, Carol Bast, and Provost Gary Whitehouse.

Absent: Dr. Cynthia Hutchinson

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Dr. Mullens recognized Drs. Stephen Sorg, John Schell, Charles Dziuban, and Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine.

Provost Gary Whitehouse announced that there have been recent faculty dismissals for sexual harassment, most involving students. Programs are being developed to address the problem.

TIP and RIA open meetings are scheduled for next week. There is still uncertainty regarding the exact number that will be funded. Expect to have half the TIPs plus rollovers (34 to 54 TIPs). There are 13 new and 3 rollovers in RIAs.

Budget looks better than anticipated. Overall cut was about 4.9% with some giveback with nonrecurring dollars. Academic units cut less than campus as a whole. Also released some of the excess tuition money. It may be possible to receive a significant increase based on new enrollment for next year. Expect increases in tuition - 5% undergraduate and 10 % graduate/out of state.

Question raised in regard to the Board of Education's position in faculty raises. Provost Whitehouse stated it is still unclear. There is also a challenge to the lack of raises for faculty earning over \$90,000. Provost Whitehouse will revisit the issue at the next meeting.

Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine asked if the Faculty Handbook should be linked to the Faculty Senate Website. The Steering Committee agreed it was a good idea.

Dr. Michael Mullens announced that he received a letter from a student against plus/minus grading. A formal review process is planned for plus/minus grading. Data will be analyzed to look at the impact of plus/minus grading. Data from Dr. Terri Fine's committee, which implemented and researched the plus/minus system for almost three years, found no difference between plus/minus and no plus/minus. Dr. Ida Cook stated that the FCTL are collecting data to determine the percentage of faculty actually using the plus/minus grading system. Dr. John Schell stated that at present the plus/minus grading is 80% plus and 20% minus.

Dr. Mullens announced that research is 35% over last year at UCF. The College of Education is now leading in research funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Steve Sorg presented ITV/WEB course evaluation report. He noted the changes in Item 5 and Item 12. He stated that the response rates in Web –based instructional modes are low. A new mechanism for getting better response rates will be done on a trial basis in Spring 2002. At present they are considering adding additional course evaluations to reflect unique aspects of ITV/WEB courses. Some suggested questions in the report. Dr. Ida Cook moved to accept the report; it was seconded and unanimously passed. Motion to refer the report to UPCC for review and possible resolution was also unanimously approved. The recommendation from the Committee on Evaluation of Instruction and the Student Perception of Instruction form will be forwarded to the UPCC for their review on February 5, 2002.

Standing Committee reports

Budget Committee: Dr. Glenn Cunningham reported that the committee has discussed excessive phone charges on campus. More charges back to departments were made at end of December. Have looked at other options including cell phones. The committee plans to continue the investigation of phone charges at the February meeting. Provost Whitehouse suggested discussing the issue with Joel Hartman, Provost and VP for Information Technologies and Research.

Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee: Dr. Bast reported the committee has had two meetings. Attendance was low at the December 11th meeting. Problem may be related to the fact the date was after the end of finals but before graduation. It was discussed that faculty should be in attendance even if it is after finals. It was also stated that a December meeting is almost mandatory for UPCC members because of all the end of semester proposals (an outcome of work all fall in the colleges) going to the UPCC.

Two UPCC members raised the issue that there are no meetings scheduled after March. Dr. Modani stated that there is provision for continuity of committees for emergency items over the summer but also suggested that any regular work can and should be completed at the regularly scheduled meetings. Emergency meetings should be only from unforeseen circumstances. It was also stated that meetings in April have low attendance because elections are held in April and the process of changing members is in motion. It was suggested that new programs should be discussed in the spring in preparation for fall. College academic units need to review their timing. The problem is also with the Undergraduate Course Review Committee. The UPCC is receiving some new proposals at the last minute. This issue will be tabled for the next meeting in February.

Dr. Bast continued with her report that two resolutions were passed in regard to the 30-hour rule. Done in response to the fact that so many students are having the 30-hour rule waived

Proposed resolution will say that baccalaureate students must complete a minimum of 30 of their last 36 hours at UCF. The UPCC also suggested that all majors should have mandatory UCF residency requirements in their baccalaureate program descriptions. This

was interpreted by the Steering Committee's guide for implementation of the first resolution. Full resolution from Dr. Pennington will be electronically communicated to steering committee members for review. This resolution should be circulated to the Steering Committee electronically when received from Dr. Pennington. Meeting of January 8, 2002 was better attended.

Graduate Council: Dr. Stephen Goodman reported appeals; course reviews subcommittees have not met. Policy and procedures working on examination of course review and composition of dissertations and impact of plus/minus on graduate students.

Personnel: Dr. Elshennawy reported meeting scheduled for Tuesday. Will be reviewed at February Steering Committee meeting.

Dr. Cook reported on the progress of Educational Excellence Initiative. Received a resolution in draft from University of Florida Faculty Senate, and statements by university presidents have been distributed to Steering Committee. What action members should take was discussed. Should the Senate or individual faculty pursue it? Many issues were raised. Faculty encouraged discussing possibility of a resolution with colleagues. Dr. Modani recommended a resolution could be ready for the February meeting. Will be researched by Steering Committee and Provost Whitehouse.

OTHER:

Volunteers to work on TIP Appeals Committee:

Dr. Modani, for Business, Dr Wink for Health and Public Affairs, Dr. Elshennawy for Engineering, Dr. Marinara for Arts and Sciences, Dr. Hutchinson for Education.

Agenda for January 24, 2002 Senate

Teaching evaluations – Dr. Dziuban

UPCC resolution on 30-hour rule

IEE – Report by Dr. Ida Cook

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.