

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee
FROM: Faculty Senate Office
DATE: February 6, 1996
SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting held on January 11, 1996

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The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brian Petrasko, Vice Chair, at 4:08 p.m. The roll was circulated. The minutes of October 12, 1995 meeting were unanimously approved. Members present were: Petrasko, Hinshaw, Cunningham, Somerville, Rungeling, Wood, McBrayer, Malone, Talbott, Provost Whitehouse, and Dr. Juge. Guests: Drs. Duane Davis and Diane Wink.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Petrasko stated that there were six resolutions that needed to be considered. He read each resolution to the Committee.

Resolution 1995-1996-2

Whereas, There are occasional requests to award posthumous degrees to students; and

Whereas, Currently there is no University policy on awarding such degrees;

Be It Resolved, That a posthumous degree can only be awarded when the student was in good academic standing and the student's department has certified that the deceased student has completed 90 percent of course work requirements in the GEP and major components of his/her degree program at the time of his/her demise.

After some discussion and with the consent of Dr. Cunningham, Chair of the Committee that submitted the resolution, the word (approximately) was added after the word (completed). It was moved and seconded that Resolution 1995-1996-2 be forwarded to the Senate. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 1995-1996-3

Whereas, There are concerns about the appropriate use and employment of part-time faculty members;

Be It Resolved, That the Faculty Senate is in agreement with the SACS Committee recommendation that the University of Central Florida develop and implement a plan that is consistent with the goals of effective teaching, advising, and scholarly or creative activities. The plan and its implementation must ensure that appropriate numbers of full-time departmental faculty are available to participate in curriculum development, policy making, institutional planning, and governance. Furthermore, the Faculty Senate supports the University target upper limit for adjuncts of 25 percent unless specific justification is provided.

Dr. Juge reported that he has studied UCF status compared with three other institutions, namely; USF, FAU, FIU and nationally. He has also seen a recent national survey that was done. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 1995-96-3 be forwarded to the Senate. Motion was adopted.

Resolution 1995-1996-4

Whereas, Faculty serving as administrators on twelve month (annual) contracts who supervise others and/or execute financial controls are considered academic professionals, and are expected to perform reasonable assigned duties in administration, teaching, research, and service for the compensation provided by their twelve month contract;

Be It Resolved, That when such persons are assigned these duties, their contributions shall be recognized by reasonable non-monetary accommodation in their other assignments, and no overload payments will be authorized for such persons.

Dr. Davis reported on previous problems and Dr. Juge explained reasons for overload payments. It was moved and seconded to forward Resolution 1995-96-4 to the Faculty Senate. The motion was adopted.

Resolution 1995-1996-5

Whereas, Teaching is central to the mission of the University of Central Florida; and

Whereas, Chairs/Directors are expected to perform reasonable assigned duties in teaching;

Be It Resolved, That Chairs/Directors are normally expected to teach one course per semester except under exceptional circumstances and such exceptional circumstances shall be justified and approved in writing by their supervisors.

The Steering Committee discussed this resolution and decided to make the following changes which are in parenthesis.

Be It Resolved, That Chairs/Directors (of academic units are expected to teach at least two courses per contract year) except under exceptional circumstances and such exceptional circumstances shall be justified and approved in writing by their supervisors.

Because of the changes suggested by the Steering Committee, the resolution was returned to the Personnel Committee for their reconsideration.

Resolution 1995-1996-6

Whereas, Faculty would like to more clearly reflect the academic achievement of individual students in their courses; and

Whereas, Our current full letter grade grading system (A, B, C, D, F) places students with widely different achievements with the same grade;

Be It Resolved, That the University adopt a policy of plus minus grading.

Most opposition was in belief that the system would cause grade inflation. Dr. Whitehouse expressed his opinion in favor. The Committee felt the resolution language was clear and it was moved, seconded, and approved (with five members abstaining) to forward Resolution 1995-1996-6 to the Senate.

Resolution 1995-96-7

Whereas, Large numbers of students who register for courses each term withdraw prior to the

withdrawal deadline; and

Whereas, Student withdrawals from courses contribute to the excess hours for the student as well as for the University; and

Whereas, It is believed an earlier withdrawal deadline will increase the number of students who commit to completion of a course at the time of registration;

Be It Resolved, That the withdrawal deadline be moved to the end of the week which falls one third of the way into the term. For the fall and spring semesters this would normally be the end of the fifth week of class.

Dr. Diane Wink, Chair of the Undergraduate Policy Curriculum Committee, explained and answered questions by the Committee. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to forward Resolution 1995-96-7 to the Senate.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Juge reported on an Open Forum to be conducted by Dr. Wanielista on January 16, 17, and 18, 1996 regarding the Student Perception of Instruction form. The sample form will be available at the meetings.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.