

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES - January 24, 1991

Chair, Dr. Glenn Cunningham called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Drs. Cook, and Fedler. Also in attendance was Dr. Astro.

Minutes of the meeting of January 3, 1991 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Provost Astro responded to Senate Resolutions 1990-1991-1 through 1990-1991-9. Senate Resolutions 1990-1991-4, 5, 8 and 9, approved as written. Senate Resolution 1990-1991-1; approved as written with one proviso that any changes in organization of the Council would be reflected in the resolution. Senate Resolution 1990-1991-3, withdrawn and not subject to review. Senate Resolution 1990-1991-7, no action from Senate. Senate Resolution 1990-1991-6, accepted with one qualifier that any lobbying effort would not interfere with systemwide initiatives to contain growth in the number of AA transfers in times of financial difficulty. Revision to Senate Resolution 1990-1991-2 was suggested by Dr. Astro, after his discussion with Dr. Bass. These revisions, focusing on the formulation of the Research Council, prompted a lengthy discussion between the Provost and Senate Steering Committee members with regard to the portion of center and institute faculty on the Council. The Provost said that he will reconsider his response to Senate Resolution 1990-1991-2, and will discuss any future revisions with the Senate Steering Committee.

A discussion focusing on Liberal Studies and the housing of interdisciplinary graduate programs followed. Dr. Astro commented that not every graduate or undergraduate program must be housed in a single college, and he didn't preclude the housing of a particular program in several colleges. Dr. Joels suggested that the problems surrounding Liberal Studies, such as the fact that there were no designated faculty members and that there seemed to be no effective coordination of subjects within the program, needed to be reviewed by a faculty group. It was suggested that once Dr. Stuart Lilie gathered the pertinent package of data regarding Liberal Studies program that it be given to an appropriate Senate committee for study and potential recommendations.

Dr. Astro discussed the issue of the Graduate Office, saying that he had met with the deans yesterday (1/23/91), and that it was the resolve of the body to meet with faculty and academic administrators in each college to determine the level of involvement, costs, and responsibilities anticipated if the colleges took over the functions of the Graduate Office. The Provost mentioned that the bulk of the work was already being done in the colleges, and that the aim was to eliminate their duplication by the Graduate Office. Chair Cunningham asked if this issue was to be brought back to the Faculty Senate for study, and the Provost responded that once the material had come back from the colleges, and he had discussed it with Dr. Trefonas, a draft of the final document would be reviewed by both President Altman and the Faculty Senate. Dr. Astro suggested that a committee consisting of faculty members with extensive experience with major graduate programs be formed. The Provost commented further that the goals were to (1) decrease the meaningless flow of paper, and (2) deal with the image of the university. The discussion which followed focused on the problem of dealing with three

new deans, and whether an office of graduate studies was necessary to promote the correct "image." In closing the discussion, Dr. Astro suggested that the main objective was to make the current situation better quickly, and that inaction could simply make a bad situation worse.

LIAISONS' REPORTS:

Admissions & Standards Committee - No report.

Budget Committee - Dr. Cunningham reported that the committee was currently working on a resolution, noting that there must be members of the Faculty Senate on the University Budget Committee - with actual participation in meetings. (At this juncture, Dr. Astro commented that the faculty had not been called upon because the Budget Committee usually considered specials, and with the current budgetary problems, there had not been a need to focus on these specials. The Provost also commented that there was a need to reinvigorate the University Budget Committee.) Dr. Cunningham also commented that the Senate Budget Committee could focus much of its energy on the evaluation of administrative procedures. For example, he said the committee was looking at the simplification of forms that currently required multiple signatures, and the need to examine charge-back systems within the university.

Curriculum Committee - No report.

Instruction Committee - No report.

Personnel Committee - Dr. Terri Fine reported that the resolution regarding mid-term review is still under consideration.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 1990-1991-10, which focuses on the elimination of the practice of selling complimentary textbooks, was discussed. Some concern was voiced over the inability of the resolution to be enforced on campus. This led to a questioning of policy and procedures for allowing book-buyers to freely roam the campus without a permit. Dr. Astro said he would look into the matter immediately. The Resolution was passed by the Senate Steering Committee and will be brought before the Faculty Senate's next meeting.

Resolution 1990-1991-11, concerning the elimination of the University Personnel Committee, was brought before the Steering Committee. In the discussion which followed, it was mentioned that the resolution had originated from faculty who felt that they were not dealt with justly during the tenure and promotion process. At this point, Dr. Phil Taylor added that the University Personnel Committee had been developed for the same reason, to curb perceived injustices within the colleges and departments regarding tenure and promotion decisions. Dr. Cunningham, who has chaired the University Personnel Committee for several years, commented that the viability of the committee depended on the individual members who served. Dr. Astro added that if it was decided to retain the committee, then an initiative should be taken by the Faculty Senate to improve its function, primarily with regard to continuity and duplicate voting. Though the Senate Steering Committee believed that the resolution could be improved, it was decided by unanimous vote to send both the original resolution, as well as the following alternate resolution to the senate during the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 1990-1991-12

Whereas the University Personnel Committee, formed in the early years at UCF, has often served well as a check and balance on the recommendations of college personnel committees and deans and has acted as an effective recommending body to the Provost and President, and

Whereas this committee provides an additional source of faculty participation in the important process of tenure and promotion review that should not be surrendered, be it therefore resolved:

The Faculty Senate recommends that the University Personnel Committee be retained but refocused by the following steps:

1. Change the name to University Tenure and Promotion Committee to clarify its sole purpose and to avoid confusion with the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee.

2. Request the Faculty Senate Chair to appoint an ad hoc committee that would review qualifications for membership and other procedures to avoid conflicts of interest, to encourage thorough consideration of files, and to assure fairness.

Dr. Cunningham nominated the following to be on the "Committee on Committees" (a group charged with reviewing the overlap and duties of various university and senate committees): Drs. Cunningham, Joels, Lilie, Malocha, Modani, Stern, Taylor will meet with Drs. Astro and Juge.

OTHER:

Dr. Astro announced that the current rumor that an additional 2% cut would take place on March 1, 1991 should be disregarded for now. He also announced that there were personnel changes within the College of Health and Professional Studies (two chairs were resigning,) and that the name of the college would be changed to the College of Health and Public Affairs. He also stated that the request by the Department of Communicative Disorders to relocate had been denied. Finally, Dr. Astro asked members to forward to him any suggestions for future commencement speakers.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is February 21, 1991.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Biraimah
Faculty Senate Secretary