

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 6, 2000**

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee was called to order by Dr. Ida Cook, at 4:05 p.m. Members present: Provost Gary Whitehouse, Vice Provost Frank Juge, Drs. Lin Huff-Corzine, Cynthia Hutchinson, Richard Tucker, K. Phillip Taylor, Pat Higginbotham, Michael Mullens, Jamal Nayfeh, Glenn Cunningham, Naval Modani, and Aaron Liberman. Minutes of November 8, 1999 were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Cook announced that the Faculty Constitution has been distributed to all Senators, Deans, Administrators, and Chairs/Directors. It was suggested and unanimously agreed that the UCF faculty be notified that the Faculty Constitution is now accessible for download of a personal copy from the Faculty Senate website rather than send paper copies to all faculty, in order to save trees.

Dr. Cook stated that the data on the Student Evaluation of Instruction is still under analysis. She has spoken with Dr. Chuck Dzuiban, who stated that after major data cleanup, the analysis will begin soon.

Dr. Whitehouse announced that Spring 2000 enrollment is running about 5.5 to 6% in credit hours above last semester, and stated that it was a good start to the spring semester.

A question arose regarding equity funding. Provost Whitehouse responded that they expect to receive data sometime this month, but it is likely that there may not be any equity money. He also stated that UCF intended to include a budget item for a TIP-like award in its budget.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

Budget and Administrative - Dr. Glenn Cunningham reported that the committee will meet soon and a report will be ready for February. There was nothing more to report.

Graduate Council - Dr. Jamal Nayfeh reported that the three subcommittees are continuing to work on several issues. The Course Review Committee is working on several course action requests. The Procedures and Policy Committee is working on a resolution which will be forwarded to the Steering Committee in February.

Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee - In the absence of Dr. Karl-Heinrich Barsch, Dr. Lee Armstrong reported that the Committee met on January 4, 2000. The UPCC approved program and certificate proposals. There are no resolutions from the UPCC at this time.

Personnel Committee - Dr. Aaron Liberman reported that they did not have a quorum to hold a meeting, therefore, there was nothing to report.

Senate Agenda

With no resolutions to report to the Senate, it was unanimously approved to cancel the Faculty Senate meeting scheduled for January 20, 2000. It was suggested that the Standing Committees use this time to meet to complete any resolutions in progress.

OTHER

Dr. Cook reported that she had received a request from the Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee for assistance in regard to the three issues they had been asked to consider by the Steering Committee.

1. Clarification was requested regarding the UPCC resolution allowing Mathematics to utilize the NC grade. Currently, an NC may be used to replace the original grade. By adding "NC" to the list of "I" and "W" grades, NC will also not be allowed to replace the previous grade, when part of a repeat attempt. The UPCC had unanimously approved the new wording, but wanted the Steering Committee to review the issue. After discussion by the Steering Committee, the addition of "NC" to the wording of the Grade Forgiveness was unanimously approved.
2. The UPCC subcommittee has been working on the issue and challenges of the balance between teaching and research and have found ample information by the Boyer Commission on the subject. The Chronicle of Higher Education has also featured a number of pieces on the topic. It is an expansive issue and the subcommittee would like to know if the Steering Committee was looking for further information.
The Steering Committee decided that no further action would be necessary by the subcommittee. However, the Steering Committee invites the informal endorsement of the UPCC to ask the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning to consider sponsoring some further presentations on the issue, with the Senate as co-sponsor for a speaker from the Boyer Commission to highlight the continuing importance of this topic.
3. The UPCC subcommittee chaired by Dr. Husain Kassim has stated that since there is no discrimination related to holidays and make up exams/assignments, the committee felt they were dealing with a dead issue. Dr. Kassim would like further clarification from the Steering Committee on this issue. After discussion, the Steering Committee agreed that there appeared to be no further need to address the matter of possible discrimination against nonreligious persons as a result of University recognition of the need to accommodate students who need to take make up exams/assignments because of religious holiday observances.

Dr. Phil Taylor asked if there is an official university policy to make sure all GEP courses are available at night or on weekends. Dr. Whitehouse responded that there was not a specific policy. Dr. Glenn Cunningham stated that for Chemistry offerings in the past there has not been a demand for night courses. Dr. Whitehouse commented that the distribution of courses in general is a concern. UCF is moving toward requiring three year advance scheduling of courses.

Dr. Cook asked about the issue regarding the AS and BS degrees. Dr. Whitehouse reported that there will be a more generalized BS degree that can be put on top of an AS degree and that the process of approval is an external process. There is a limited number of programs -- four or five. The decision is being made at the State level where 18 GEP hours would be accepted. Dr. Whitehouse also stated that there are several statewide committees, and Dr. Denise Young is the UCF representative. He suggested that she be invited to explain the process to the Steering Committee. Dr. Whitehouse stated that it was mandated by the Legislature, that quality faculty are needed to teach these courses, and all courses should meet SACS criteria. It was agreed that however it is done, the Steering Committee hopes that it will be referred back to UCF to assure that the courses are in accordance with the GEP. The Steering Committee would like to be informed prior to the time this is finalized so that faculty can have input

Dr. Cook announced that the Board of Regents will be at UCF sometime next month. Dr. Whitehouse stated that he would let the Senators know the date.

Dr. Whitehouse explained that information on the Pegasus Award for Excellence would be communicated to the Senators when it is available, sometime in February. Funding will be provided by the Foundation Office.

Dr. Jamal Nayfeh announced that he has been promoted to Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Engineering, and will no longer be able to serve on the Faculty Senate. CONGRATULATIONS Dr. Nayfeh! His college will check with their faculty for a replacement and notify the Senate Office.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**Next Steering Committee meeting
February 10, 2000**