

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
Faculty Senate Office

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee  
FROM: Jeffrey Cornett - Faculty Senate Secretary  
DATE: August 1, 1992  
SUBJECT: Minutes of Faculty Senate Steering Meeting - July 21, 1992

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The special meeting was called to order by Dr. Glenn N. Cunningham, Chair, at 10:10 a.m. The roll was passed for signature. The approval of the minutes of the June 30th were delayed until the next meeting. Steering Committee members in attendance were Ida Cook, Jeff Cornett, Glenn Cunningham, John Gupton, Barbara Judkins, and Charles Nuckolls. Provost Richard Astro was in attendance as well.

Dr. Cunningham indicated that he was finalizing the membership of the research committee. He indicated that he had a concern the process for review of the general education program suggested by Provost Astro, and that he had requested that Dr. Astro explain his thinking on this important matter.

Dr. Astro discussed his resignation and that he hoped that the review of the general education program would be well underway before his resignation takes effect. He reviewed elements of his tenure as provost. Dr. Gupton indicated that he felt that Dr. Astro had accomplished a significant number of things and that his leadership was appreciated. Dr. Astro stated that the general education program should be reviewed periodically, that the conversation itself is inherently useful, and that it might serve as a bridge for continuity that could carry over with his replacement. He also indicated that it might engage faculty, chairs, and deans, and also help in the selection of a new Provost.

Dr. Astro shared his philosophy about the function of a general education and indicated that it was no longer clear what students ought to know. He shared a review of several major philosophical positions on general and liberal education. Dr. Cornett indicated that our students need exposure to these conflicting/competing conceptions. He also suggested that assessment of both student and faculty might be more authentically oriented and include approaches such as portfolio construction. Dr. Astro indicated that the discussion about what students should know and how we would hold them accountable would be an important one and that it needed to be led by a broad based faculty group. He stated that he believed that Dean Sheriden would make an excellent chair of this group because of his skills and his leadership of Arts and Sciences where the general education program is based. Dr. Cunningham asked the Steering Committee members for feedback. Dr. Cornett indicated his strong support for Dean Sheriden, but suggested that he be named ex officio. The other members of the Steering Committee and Dr. Astro concurred.

Dr. Astro stressed that he believed we could address two major concerns this year: enrollment management and the general education program. He also pledged to work to eliminate the discontinuity between orientation practices and academic advisement. He indicated problems with the current situation, including inappropriate student orientation practices.

Enrollment problems and funding equity issues were raised and the example of Florida International University was discussed. Concern was indicated that UCF was being penalized for "playing by the rules."

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey W. Cornett  
Secretary