

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee
FROM: Faculty Senate Office
DATE: March 21, 1994
SUBJECT: Minutes of Fac. Sen. Steering Meeting of March 10, 1994

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The meeting was called to order by Dr. Naval Modani, Chair, at 4:05 p.m. The roll was passed. The minutes of February 17, 1994 Steering Committee meeting were approved with one correction to Page 2, Paragraph 2, line 10, after "process" insert -- at the college level --. Members present were Drs. Cook, Cunningham, Petrasko, Sepulveda, Sheridan, Taylor, Wahlman, Wood and Prof. Joyce Dorner.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Modani introduced Dr. Elliot Vittes to provide background information on the Arboretum. Dr. Vittes, who used to chair the Environmental Committee, outlined his recollection of events of the past few years and distributed articles from the Orlando Sentinel dealing with UCF master planning efforts and the Arboretum. Presidents Altman and Bryan had indicated plans for a much larger Arboretum than being discussed at present. No official action was taken, however. Members expressed strong support for maintaining and enhancing the natural beauty and aesthetics on the campus. Strong support was also expressed for an Arboretum larger than the approximately 10 acre parcel of land. Concern was expressed regarding some of the statements made at the last Senate meeting.

Dr. Modani indicated that Dr. Ellis and other interested parties are trying to fashion a solution to the Arboretum issue that is acceptable to all parties. Members voiced the need to be vigilant regarding this issue. Dr. Cook said that we are obligated as the Faculty Senate to go on record to express our support for the Arboretum and share our concerns with the administration. Dr. Cunningham said that the purpose of Resolution 1993-1994-7 was to commit the administration to work with interested parties, to monitor developments, and to define the boundaries of the Arboretum. Dr. Vittes was asked to prepare a chronology of Arboretum developments.

NEW BUSINESS:

Some members voiced concern about a lack of faculty debate and discussion on the Senate floor. The Senate should consider issues and make recommendations to the administration. The administration can decide whether to accept the recommendations or not. The administration should provide information rather than be an active participant in the debate.

Dr. Cunningham distributed his report on the summer operations of several faculty senates. All have problems with committee meetings during the summer months. Most senates have the Steering Committee attend to issues arising during the summer months.

Dr. Modani referred to the Senate meeting on April 7, 1994 to elect officers and the Steering Committee. Colleges are electing the new senate members and the election results are to be forwarded to the Senate office

by March 11, 1994. The Steering Committee in its meeting on March 24, 1994 would decide on the nominations for new officers. Dr. Modani said that he would ask the new senators for their preferences to serve on Standing Committees so that these committees for next year may be constituted before the end of the spring semester. This would allow them to start at the beginning of the Fall semester. Dr. Cook suggested that the Steering Committee develop a list of issues for the Standing Committees and give it to them as early as possible.

A question was raised regarding willingness of faculty members to serve on Standing Committees as well as on Reporting Committees. Dr. Modani indicated that sometimes it is difficult to get the consent of faculty members to serve on committees. Dr. Wood said that if faculty feel their efforts are merely a token and if committee work is not properly acknowledged at the service level, they are turned off and do not want to serve. He also said that the University Promotion and Tenure Committee does not consider service in making their decisions. Suggestions were made to have an award for service similar to those for teaching and research. Discussion followed on how some colleges do not consider service on Faculty Senate as important. Some faculty only volunteer to get visibility for promotion and tenure.

Dr. Modani informed the members that a meeting of the chairs of the college TIP selection committees is being scheduled with Provost Whitehouse, Dr. Juge, and Dr. Modani. This meeting is to discuss the process for the current year so that we can have better guidelines for next year. Dr. Modani also said that all classroom instruction would be considered for the awards next year.

The issue of equity funding was discussed. Members expressed strong support for Senate input on utilizing the additional funds. Dr. Cunningham expressed concern about lack of proper equipment in large classrooms and suggested that some of the additional funds should be used to upgrade and properly equip classrooms. Other members cited the need to enhance library resources such as videos, etc. Dr. Cunningham suggested that classrooms need to be upgraded now so that we are ready for the fall semester.

Some members expressed concern about restrictions on the use of the President's Dining Room and the BOR room. Dr. Cook questioned the propriety of the rules restricting the use of these rooms. Dr. Modani was asked to find out the details and report back to the Steering Committee. Dr. Modani was also asked to meet with Provost Whitehouse and appraise him of the other issues discussed earlier.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.