

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee
FROM: Faculty Senate Office
DATE: March 19, 1999
SUBJECT: Minutes of meeting held on March 11, 1999

The Steering Committee was called to order by Dr. Ida J. Cook, Chair, at 4:06 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of February 4, 1999 were unanimously approved. Members present included Drs. Lee Armstrong, Lee Cross, Richard Tucker, Naval Modani, Rosie Joels, Gregory Frazer, and Vice Provost Frank Juge. Guest: Dr. James Campbell, Chair, Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Cook announced that Drs. E. Ramon Hosler, College of Engineering, and Edgar B. Wycoff, College of Arts and Sciences, had received the Excellence in Professional Service Award. Their awards will be announced and presented on Founder's Day.

Dr. Cook also announced that Spring Commencement is scheduled for May 8, 1999 and College representatives are needed. Drs. Naval Modani, James McBrayer, and Ida Cook volunteered to represent their colleges at commencement.

Two faculty are also needed for the Faculty/Staff Sick Leave Pool Committee. Dr. James McBrayer volunteered to serve a two year term. Dr. Cook stated she would look for the second representative from the College of Health and Public Affairs.

Dr. Frank Juge announced that the Student Evaluation of Instruction issue is moving ahead. More research is in progress. The committee plans to meet soon. Committee members are: Drs. Richard Tucker, Charles Dziubin and Morgan Wang.

Dr. Modani announced that the Constitution Committee is also moving ahead with the revisions to the Faculty Senate Constitution. The committee plans to meet after spring break, and the new Constitution will be ready by the end of Spring Semester.

There was a question regarding representation of the new School of Fiber Optics on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Modani replied that the new Constitution will address representation.

Dr. Cook stated that she had received an inquiry on the existence of a University policy on sexual harassment. The Committee on the Status of Women has begun discussion on this issue. She stated that the College of Arts and Sciences is in the process of revising the policies and procedures on

sexual harassment for their college. It was the sense of the Steering Committee that there needed to be a standardization of efforts since many students and faculty cross college lines. It was suggested that a resolution be written by the Steering Committee to go to the Faculty Senate meeting of March 25, 1999, stating that guidelines be provided to the University community that describe and define sexual harassment based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation and disability. If approved by the Senate, the resolution will be forwarded to Provost Whitehouse for approval. The resolution written by the Steering Committee was unanimously approved. Resolution 1998-1999-7 follows under New Business.

Standing Committee Reports

Budget and Administrative Committee

Dr. Modani reported that the Committee had no resolutions at this time but have plans for a meeting soon.

Graduate Council

Dr. Frazer reported that a meeting is scheduled for the next day at 12:30 p.m. The committee also had two resolutions for Steering Committee to review: 1998-1999-6 Term Limits for State-funded Assistantship, and 1998-1999-8 Tuition Support for Graduate Assistants.

Personnel

Dr. Tucker reported that the Personnel Committee had referred the matter of the Sexual Harassment issue to the Steering Committee.

Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee

Dr. James Campbell, Chair, reported for Dr. Heinrich Barsch. Dr. Campbell stated that he had shared with the UPCC the calculated results of the questionnaire he had distributed to the Faculty Senate on February 18, 1999. According to the calculations, the majority voted to return to a cumulative GPA. The second highest was to abolish honors for graduation. The report Dr. Campbell distributed confirmed the votes. He had also distributed a list of four items on pros and cons that the committee discussed: 1) return to the older system in which Honors is determined by cumulative GPA, 2) change to a system that uses GPA levels rather than percentages, 3) change to a system in which the top 15% of graduating students of each College, as determined by the last 48 UCF hours, are awarded Baccalaureate Honors without further distinction between summa, magna, and cum laude categories, 4) abolish Baccalaureate Honors as a category (SUS precedent: the University of Florida does not currently use GPA-based honors). These four options were discussed by the UPCC at length. A question arose regarding the need to address grade forgiveness. Dr. Dees had stated that most SUS schools allow only two and the University of Florida allows none. Community Colleges have previously had no limit, but within the last five years they have been forced to limit grade forgiveness to two courses. Dr. Campbell also stated that he had distributed two draft resolutions for the UPCC to consider. After further discussion on the two resolutions, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to forward to the Steering Committee: Resolution 1998-1999-5 Baccalaureate Honors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 1998-1999-5 Baccalaureate Honors

Whereas, the current system of determining Baccalaureate Honors based on the grade point average earned in the semesters that comprise the last 48 UCF hours has proven impractical due to the large number of 4.0 grade point averages produced in most UCF colleges, and

Whereas, Baccalaureate Honors should reflect a student's entire academic record, and

Whereas, the University values the conference of Baccalaureate Honors,

Be It Resolved, that UCF return to its previous policy of conferring Baccalaureate Honors on those students who have completed a minimum of 48 UCF credit hours and who are in the upper 10% of the graduating class of their college as determined by overall grade point average (as described in the 1997-98 Undergraduate Catalog - p. 69).

After thorough discussion, the Steering Committee unanimously approved the resolution.

Resolution 1998-1999-6 Term Limits for State-Funded Assistantship

Whereas, graduate assistantship funding using state monies are limited and scarce, and

Whereas, some graduate assistants have been supported on these funds for long periods, and

Whereas, these funds are best used to support students for a reasonable period of time while working towards a degree, and

Whereas, these funds are then best used to recruit highly qualified new graduate students

Be It Resolved, that term limits should be defined for graduate student assistantship funded using state monies, and

Be It Further Resolved, that these terms be made consistent with the terms used for tuition waivers, that is a maximum of nine terms for master's students and 21 terms for doctoral student, inclusive of the master's degree or twelve terms for doctoral students who have transferred in up to 30 student credit hours from a master's degree.

After a short discussion, the Steering Committee unanimously approved the resolution.

Resolution 1998-1999-7 Sexual Harassment Policies and Procedures

Whereas, the Faculty Senate recognizes the issue of sexual harassment based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation and disability is complex and stems from legal and case history, and

Whereas, the university community would like guidance on these matters, and

Whereas, the state, the university and faculty can incur liability if discrimination complaints are not dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner,

Be It Resolved, that an articulation of guidelines be provided to the University of Central Florida community that describe and define sexual harassment based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation and disability, and

Be It Further Resolved, that guidelines be provided to the University of Central Florida community for the investigation and resolution of such actions.

Resolution 1998-1999-8 Tuition Support for Graduate Assistants

Whereas, graduate assistants perform a valuable service to the institution, and

Whereas, it is important to be able to attract highly qualified graduate students to our campus, and

Whereas, there are large discrepancies in tuition support for graduate students from department to department and college to college,

Be It Resolved, that the University should ensure that sufficient tuition monies are available to guarantee a certain minimum percentage of tuition support for graduate assistants on state-supported assistantship regardless of student major. It is expected that there will be sufficient resources above the minimum level that may be used at the discretion of the departments to provide for support of outstanding graduate students, and

Be It Further Resolved, that graduate students supported on state funds will receive tuition waiver monies first, and the remainder will be used to enhance tuition for those receiving partial tuition from other sources, and

Be It Further Resolved, that faculty are encouraged to provide full tuition and fee payments for those graduate assistants who are supported using their C&G and overhead funds.

The resolution was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that there was no need for this proposal to come to the Steering Committee. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to return the resolution to the Graduate Council for further clarification.

OTHER

Dr. Cook reminded the Committee that three years ago the free hour for Faculty Senate was removed because of classroom lack of space. The hour is needed for non-senate faculty. Dr. Juge suggested discussing this issue at the Deans' Council meeting. It was also suggested that Chairs and Deans not schedule the senators on Thursdays for a 5:00 p.m. class or 6:00 p.m. class on branch campuses.

Dr. Cook shared copies of memos from Dr. Malone, Chair of the Graduate Council, and asked members to consider how widely they thought they should be circulated and return suggestions to Dr. Cook.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next Steering Committee meeting - April 1, 1999