

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Faculty  
**FROM:** Richard D. Tucker  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
**DATE:** April 1, 1998  
**SUBJECT:** Faculty Senate Meeting - March 19, 1998

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The meeting was called to order by Dr. Richard d. Tucker, Chair, at 4:05 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of February 19, 1998 were unanimously approved.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Dr. Tucker recognized guests: Drs. Frank Juge, Patricia Bishop, Anthony Byrd, David Dees, Diane Jacobs, Bradley Braun, and Ronald Dutton.

Dr. Tucker announced that if all business is not completed at this meeting, the meeting will continue on the following Thursday, March 26, 1998. New Senate members attending these meetings are not allowed to vote on the pending resolutions to be discussed.

Dr. Tucker reported that Drs. Rosie Joels, Phil Taylor, Ida Cook, Naval Modani, and Glenn Cunningham will serve on the nominating committee for Senate officers. Dr. Tucker requested that all nominations be forwarded to Dr. Phil Taylor, School of Communications.

The first meeting of the 1998-1999 Faculty Senate will be held on April 23, 1998. All 1997-1998 senators will also attend this meeting. Dr. Tucker announced that President and Mrs. Hitt have invited both senates to the new Burnett House, the president's home on campus for the Faculty Senate reception. Invitations with information and directions will be mailed directly.

Dr. Tucker reminded the Senate of the recent deaths of June Stillman and Dr. David Hernandez. He announced the establishment of a memorial scholarship fund in the name of June Stillman. Contributions should be mailed to Kim Daniels, Library Administration Office. United Faculty of Florida and the Faculty Senate in conjunction with the College of Education will probably set a scholarship fund in the name of Dr. David Hernandez, who was the first chair of the Faculty Senate.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### Plus/Minus Grading proposal

Dr. Fine reported that a meeting will be held soon to discuss implementation of plus/minus grading.

### **Resolution 1997-1998-3 Graduate Certificate Programs**

Dr. Malone, Chair of the Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee, described the intent of the resolution. It will establish a broad structure for all departments or programs under which graduate certificate programs will operate. Departments and programs have a great deal of discretion in

setting components and guidelines. They may be adopted to fit particular needs. She pointed out other schools within the SUS and elsewhere in the United States which operate these types of programs with success. There were several questions regarding the proposal. Dr. Gilkeson raised concerns about double counting hours and about repeating courses for better grades. Others spoke in favor of the certificate programs which show responsiveness to the metropolitan community. Dr. Joels was concerned that the Board of Regents would look negatively upon these programs. She was assured that was not a problem. Dr. Kijek stated that the certificate programs would be a positive addition to the nursing programs. Dr. West recommended a friendly amendment to change the last sentence to read: "The policies and procedures for these programs will be developed by the Graduate Policy and Procedures Committee." Dr. Phil Taylor suggested that a vote be taken on whether to allow the programs, since the Senate should not vote on each detail of the policy issues listed in this resolution. This was entered as a substitute motion and seconded by Dr. Cook. The concept of the program was endorsed by the Senate (31 in favor, 5 opposed) recommending that the GPCC execute revisions to the guidelines.

#### **Resolution 1997-1998-4 Graduate Council**

This resolution was introduced as a motion and seconded at the last meeting. Dr. Malone explained the reasons for changing the structure of the Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee including breaking an unwieldy group into smaller, more efficient groups with specific tasks. The Graduate Council will be the overall committee with 3 smaller subcommittees: Policy and Procedures Committee, Appeals Committee, and Course Review and New Programs Committee. All three subcommittees will meet once or twice a year to discuss resolutions, and the Graduate Council will meet as a whole two or three times a year in order to exchange ideas. Changing the name of the GPCC to Graduate Council also reflects similar committees at other universities. The approval by the Faculty Senate will necessitate a revision to the Constitution; it will go forward to the Faculty Assembly in Fall, 1998. Dr. Goodman has proportioned the representation for the subcommittees and has determined that the membership will not be less than the current status. The resolution passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution 1997-1998-5 Acceptance of 9 Graduate Hours**

Graduate programs will be permitted to accept up to 9 graduate hours taken at UCF by Undergraduate students as part of their undergraduate program of study. Dr. Malone explained that the hours taken in 5000 level courses by undergraduates would strengthen undergraduate programs while not affecting the competency level attained by masters students. It is not an attempt to reduce the minimum number of hours for the baccalaureate degrees nor to reduce the minimum of 30/36 hours for a masters degree. It is intended to encourage UCF's better undergraduates to continue into the graduate programs at UCF. After a lengthy discussion, it was voted with 22 in favor and 12 opposed. The resolution passed.

#### **Resolution 1997-1998-6 Grade Forgiveness**

Dr. Gilkeson explained that it is inappropriate for a research institution to allow grade forgiveness. Also by eliminating Grade Forgiveness this would balance fairness for UCF native students with community college transfers who have been allowed unlimited grade forgiveness. Dr. Barsch stated that students have a right to limited grade forgiveness and it should not be a faculty right. Dominic

Fariello, Student Government Association representative, spoke against the resolution explaining that as an Arts and Science major and four year UCF student, he felt that grade forgiveness was essential to students. Students should have the opportunity to have grade forgiveness in case of emergencies that may arise. It would be a disservice to students by something that they may not be able to control. Dr. Dees stated that UCF is required to accept all grade forgiveness awarded by community colleges because it is a State rule. He estimates that the average student uses one grade forgiveness during an academic year. Dr. Kijek called the question and Dr. Cook seconded. The resolution was defeated, 7 in favor and 21 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Tucker reminded the Senate that the meeting would continue the following Thursday on March 26, 1998.

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**March 26, 1997**  
**continued from March 19, 1998**

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The meeting was reconvened by Dr. Richard D. Tucker, Chair, at 4:05 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Tucker announced that the process for selecting grand marshals and faculty representatives is progressing.

A request was made that all senators who plan to attend the reception at the President's home, send their home addresses to Kathy Wohlbald, Faculty Senate Office, for invitation purposes.

The Honors Program is conducting a fund raiser -- Grand prize: Reserved Parking for one year.

Dr. Tucker also announced that the next Faculty Senate meeting will be a joint meeting of 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 senators.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Resolution 1997-1998-7 Grade Roll Submission**

Dr. Carol Bast explained the intent of this resolution from the Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee. This proposal will give any faculty the option to submit grades electronically in order to speed grade delivery to the Registrar's Office. She spoke with Joel Hartman and he has indicated that software is being developed to allow this procedure. Some negative responses included not having the capability, Mac users, added work for staff, and some faculty would rather have hard copies. Positive comments included benefit to the area campuses, use of less paperwork, and saved time. Since this resolution does not include implementation, department chairs should establish procedures to avoid extra staff time. The goal would be to properly evaluate students. It was moved and seconded to go forward with the resolution with the intent to form a committee to look at the implementation of electronic roll submission. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Resolution 1997-1998-8 Grade Distribution**

Dr. Gilkeson completed a basic statistical analysis of grading which shows that grade inflation does exist at UCF. He stated that two members of his subcommittee drafted the resolution, with the other member in disapproval. The publishing of grade distribution is intended to provide information so students may make informed choices in selecting classes. Dr. Barsch expressed concern that the information would be used negatively. A lengthy discussion followed regarding faculty names being used and if that was necessary, student credit hours, grade ranges for departments, and the procedure having the opposite effect of students avoiding "hard" classes. A motion was made and seconded, 7 in favor and 22 against. The resolution for grade distribution was defeated.

### **Resolution 1997-1998-9 Undergraduate GPA Calculation**

Dr. Mullens explained that the current policy for calculating GPA for community college transfer students gives these students an advantage over native UCF students. The fact that community colleges have unlimited grade forgiveness and easier grading enables community college transfer students to arrive with higher grades than native students. Dr. Kubala asked if this resolution would impact the articulation agreement. Dr. Dees responded that it would not have an impact, because the articulation agreement does not require UCF to accept GPA's from community colleges. Dr. Cook asked if transient students would be affected. Dr. Dees replied "No." The question was called and seconded. The motion passed with 25 in favor and 4 against.

### **Resolution 1997-1998-10 Baccalaureate Honors**

Dr. Mullens explained the intent of the resolution. That all UCF graduates with at least 48 hours of UCF course credit be considered for honors recognition based on the GPA from all semesters that include their last 48 hours of UCF course work. The Senate understood the resolution and there was very little discussion. The question was called and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.