

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES - March 6, 1991

Chair, Dr. Glenn Cunningham called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Drs. Cook, Joels, Judkins, Stern and Williams. Also in attendance was Dr. Frances Smith.

Dr. Cunningham informed the Steering members that in their folders was a document entitled "UCF's commitment to Student Academic Behavior Standards." This proposed document is being submitted by Student Affairs for comment by the Steering Committee.

Minutes of the meeting of February 27, 1991 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Report of the Values and Ethics Task Force.

Dr. Fred Fedler opened the discussion on the Values and Ethics Task Force Report (henceforth called the "Report") by suggesting that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee reject it in its entirety. He said that it was intended to indoctrinate, was one-sided, and leaned toward a resurgence of McCarthyism. Dr. Cunningham said that it would be beneficial to evaluate the report section by section, giving particular feedback to the Task Force on specific problems we have with the report. After some discussion by members on various aspects of the Report, it was agreed to commence with a careful evaluation of each section.

PART I:

It was moved and seconded that Section I should be rejected, and that the AAUP statement on ethics be considered as a possible replacement. The vote was unanimous (for acceptance of the motion.)

PART II:

The following motion was entertained: "We are opposed to a requirement for a course (or courses) in cultural diversity." During a discussion which followed, it was mentioned that the proposed cultural diversity course(s) was not a solution, and that it was designed to present only a particular point of view. Dr. Flick suggested that the motion be reworded as follows: "The course is ill-defined in content and impractical to implement." The vote was unanimous (for acceptance of the motion.)

PART IIIA:

During discussion, it was mentioned that this section was racially and ethnically insensitive. It was moved to reject the section. Dr. Cunningham said he objected to this section because he did not understand how it might be applied to the individual (especially the statements on page 12.) Other concerns included a possible overlap with EEO. The following motion, suggested by Dr. Flick, was moved and seconded: "The Faculty Senate Steering Committee finds no need to formulate the kind of statement proposed in PART IIIA, and the specific recommendations on pages 11 and 12 are objectionable on several grounds: (a) practical problems of implementation, (b) clear legal questions, (c) personnel rules abhorrent to faculty, and (d) activities that overlap functions of the EEO office." The vote was unanimous (for acceptance of the motion.)

PART IIIB:

There was initial concern that this section had no significance to the rest of the report. The following motion was brought to the floor by Dr. Flick: "Since the data reported in IIIB is questionable as to survey methods, we propose that it too be deleted." The motion was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

PART IIIC:

This section, dealing with personal security, was discussed and questions regarding its relevance to the entire Report entertained. It was felt by some members that it contained misleading statements. The following motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous vote: "We support the idea of a plan for increased security; however, we question the use of the statistics in the report to support the conclusions given in the recommendation. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

LIAISONS' REPORTS: No reports given.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Glenn Cunningham told the Senate Steering Committee that there would be a presentation of the University's master plan either on March 28 or April 4, 1991. As both these dates were acceptable to most Steering Committee members, he said he would select one date and inform the Faculty.

It was agreed that the recommendations made by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee regarding the Values and Ethics Report would be sent directly to President Altman, and not brought before the entire Senate.

The next regular meeting of the Steering Committee is March 2, 1991.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Biraimah
Faculty Senate Secretary