

**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
FACULTY SENATE OFFICE**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Faculty  
**FROM:** Faculty Senate Office  
**DATE:** December 5, 1996  
**SUBJECT:** Faculty Senate Meeting of November 21, 1996

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The meeting was called to order by Dr. Richard D. Tucker, Chair, at 4:06 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of October 24, 1996 were unanimously approved. Guests present: President John Hitt, Frank Juge, Aaron Scavron, and three students from news reporting class: Jamie Anderson, Amy Pena, and Serquet Smith.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Dr. Tucker recognized three students from a news reporting class, Aaron Scavron, Student Body President, and Provost Whitehouse.

Dr. Whitehouse reported he had a five hour meeting with the High Tech Advisory Committee regarding the I-4 corridor of which approximately 15 local companies were represented. This is a joint project between UCF and USF which will attract companies in microelectronics and software engineering. He stated that the committee will meet quarterly.

President Hitt was introduced and he also reported on the High Tech Committee meeting. He was very impressed with the large turnout and stated that their interest in the project was positive. He announced that student enrollment for spring, 1997 is up 5 ½ to 6%. He said he will continue to discuss the usual issues with the legislative representatives - enrollment growth, the high tech corridor, and equity funding. He requested that faculty send any concerns which he should add to the legislative agenda to him. He stated that the Board of Regents meeting last week at UCF was a complete success. President Hitt also commented that the Board of Regents is aware and appreciative of the productive quality of the work at UCF and that the Board of Regents has a great respect for the faculty at UCF. He thanked the faculty on behalf of himself, Provost Whitehouse and the Board of Regents for all their achievements and good work.

Dr. Tucker reported that he had represented UCF faculty at the national meeting of the Pew Round table & Knight collaborative. He had the opportunity to meet with chairs of faculty senates throughout the country. He stated that UCF is one of thirteen institutions starting a round table this year and our two meetings will be held in January and March, 1997. The Pew round tables will be working collaboratively on university issues. He stated that at the National round table meeting, and especially among metropolitan universities, the University of Central Florida is recognized nationally.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Tucker reported that he had discussed the campus golf cart policy with Mr. William Merck, Vice President for Administration and Finance. He stated that Mr. Merck was instituting procedures for better identification on the carts, a sounding device for the carts, with training and education of drivers. He also wanted to assure the faculty that there would be more parking space once the parking garage was completed.

Dr. Tucker announced the interviewing of candidates for the Director of Libraries is currently in process. Ms. Carole Hinshaw invited the Senate to attend the open meetings.

Dr. Tucker inquired if there was a report from the Plus/Minus Committee. Dr. Fine, Chair of the Committee, reported that they are in a data collection state at this time. She has heard from one other institution that reported they had no problems with grade inflation. The committee will not meet again until all data is collected. The question was raised if the committee had considered an intermediate grade of A/B. Dr. Fine replied that since it was not in the resolution, the committee was not considering that alternative.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee - Dr. Barsch reported that issues being considered are cumulative GPA for graduation and the current use of catalog for graduation.

Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee - Dr. Malone reported that the committee has been meeting weekly to consider changes in graduate education at UCF. Students, staff, and faculty have participated in team net sessions to study issues.

Budget and Administrative Procedures - Dr. Johnson reported the committee has met twice in the last month. The next meeting is scheduled for the first Tuesday in December. Plans are to meet with Vice President Merck and Dr. Neighbor. The committee is formulating the agenda for the remainder of the year.

Personnel Committee - Dr. Cook reported that the committee has met twice and have created three subcommittees to study proposed changes in TIP, stipends for administrators' overload, and post-tenure review. The Committee will meet with Mark Roberts from Human Resources to study faculty employment issues and benefits. Next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 1996 at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Cook invited the Faculty Senate to attend. Dr. Juge remarked that Dr. David Hernandez and Mark Roberts will study the phased retirement issue. Dr. Tucker commented that he would like other members of the Senate to work with the Committee and UFF on this issue. The Steering Committee will study the impact of phased retirement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Tucker introduced a resolution he received from the Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee. He read the resolution to the Faculty Senate.

### **Resolution 1996-1997-1**

**Whereas,** An “I” grade is intended for incomplete course work that is to be completed later; and

**Whereas,** Current rules allow for “I” grades that are never changed into a letter grade; and

**Whereas,** Such use of an “I” grade may amount in practice to a very late withdrawal and therefore constitute an abuse of the intention of the “I” grade;

**Be It Resolved,** That an “I” grade must be changed by the instructor to a letter grade within one academic year or before the student’s graduation, whichever comes first. If no such change is done, the “I” grade shall automatically become an “F” grade at that time.

Dr. McBrayer made the motion to accept the resolution and Dr. Leeson seconded. Dr. Barsch noted that there was a slight change made by the Steering Committee in the fourth paragraph. Change to “within one calendar year”...He spoke in favor of this change to accommodate students who study abroad. These students are in universities that have different academic calendars and this prevents them from completing course work within the UCF academic calendar. Dr. Barsch also stated that many are concerned about the abuse in the application of “I” grades. He added that other institutions are more strict. This resolution will clarify the policy that the “I” grade must be changed to something. If not, the grade will automatically become an “F.” Dr. Joels asked if this resolution would be retroactive. The answer was NO. An additional issue was raised that there is no date in the catalog for changing the “I” grade. Dr. McBrayer suggested the need to clarify a date in the catalog. Dr. Cunningham called the question - Favor of resolution as amended to “one calendar year.” The resolution was passed unanimously with no opposition. This resolution, if approved by the Office of Academic Affairs, will be in effect for the 1997-98 academic year.

Dr. Tucker asked the Faculty Senate if they had received the e-mail message regarding a resolution on post-tenure review brought forth by the Physics Department. Dr. Tucker clarified the procedure for bringing a resolution to the Senate floor. He stated that this resolution, if accepted, can be discussed but cannot be voted on at this meeting. The resolution can be put on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting or a special meeting will have to be called. Dr. Hagan, Physics Department representative and member of the Faculty Senate, introduced the resolution. The Department of Physics requested that the resolution be considered and passed by the Faculty Senate, or a similar declaration be generated. It was moved and seconded that the Senate consider the resolution. The Senate voted unanimously to consider the resolution. Dr. Cook introduced a letter containing the resolution passed by the University of South Florida Faculty Senate. Dr. Cook and the Personnel Committee endorsed the USF resolution. Dr. Hagan stated positive reasons for opposing the BOR’s plan for post-tenure review. Dr. Tucker announced that at the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates meeting, USF had presented this resolution. The ACFS did not approve it for several reasons. They did not have enough information, and various faculty senates in other institutions had not seen the resolution. Dr. Davis recommended that the two resolutions be considered. He also stated that it is important for UCF to go on record opposing certain changes to tenure. Dr. Tucker reminded the Senate that at the present time this issue is in collective bargaining.

Dr. Jurie stated the importance of the Senate making a statement on this issue and pointed out that in Minnesota the faculty had an impact on that state's legislature withdrawing the change in tenure. Dr. Rautenstrauch asked what other states are considering changes in tenure. Dr. Ellis stated that Utah had instituted post tenure review in 1983 and Texas is considering changes. Dr. Hitt reminded the Senate that he is strongly in favor of the current system and believes there is value in tenure. At the completion of the collective bargaining sessions, he encourages UCF to develop a set of safeguards to protect faculty. Post-tenure Review may strengthen tenure in the long run. It is important that the public's view of tenure be improved, but academic freedom must be maintained. Dr. Davis moved that the Faculty Senate hold a special meeting to vote on the resolution. Dr. Joels seconded the motion. The Steering Committee, Dr. Cook, and Dr. Hagan will meet November 25, 1996, at 7:30 a.m. to compose a resolution which will be considered at the December 5, 1996 Senate meeting. Members voted - 33 yes, 4 no, the motion carried. The meeting will be held in Phillips Hall, Room 115 at 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Tucker announced that Faculty Senate meetings for 1997 will be held in the President's Board Room. The next regular Senate meeting will be January 23, 1997.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.