

FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 9, 2000

Dr. Michael Mullens, Chair, called the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting to order on Thursday, November 9, at 4:05 p.m. The minutes of October 12, 2000 were unanimously approved.

Members present: Drs. Lee Cross, Diane Wink, Ida Cook, Glenn Cunningham, Phillip Taylor, Diana Velez, Naval Modani, Cynthia Hutchinson, Robert Pennington, Cynthia Hutchinson, Ahmad Elshennawy, Carol Bast, and John Leeson.

Members absent: Dr. Lee Armstrong, and Provost Gary Whitehouse

Guest: Dr. John Schell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Phil Taylor questioned the cancellation of classes for next semester. It was stated that quite a large budget cut in several departments has taken place this fiscal year. Considering the growth of the University and receiving a larger funding, why are such large budget cuts being imposed on the departments? Dr. John Schell stated that there would be a budget meeting on Monday afternoon, November 15, 2000. The Steering Committee agreed to request a detailed account of the budget from Academic Affairs. Dr. Glenn Cunningham moved that the Steering Committee receive information with an explanation for the distribution of funds for academics. Dr. Cook seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Cook announced that as a GEP committee member, she is proceeding in reviewing the ASPS course, which Dr. Jay Corzine gave a report to the Senate last week.

Dr. Cook also reported that she met three weeks ago with the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates to address concerns regarding the abolishment of the Board of Regents, and the hearings on reorganization. A taskforce is planning to meet at Valencia West Campus next week. Dr. Cook stated that the ACFS composed a letter addressing concerns about the reorganization. The letter, mailed to the legislature, addresses several key points: how schools are funded, intermediary governing body, and how the reorganization would affect the quality of education at universities. The ACFS is concerned that coherence will be lost. The taskforce will be meeting in Tampa in January and in Miami in February. These are public hearings. Dr. Cook emphasized the importance of attending these meetings, and to communicate the excellent job the faculty performs at UCF. Taskforce members need to know we are concerned. Information on these public sessions will be distributed to inform students and Student Government that the taskforce is visiting Orlando.

Parking: Concerns regarding parking were discussed. Mr. Merck stated that campus faculty with regular appointments on campus can obtain a service pass for the year, allowing them to park in special service locations located throughout campus. Passes can be obtained by request through Parking Services. Dr. Mullens stated that he would further discuss the parking issue with Mr. Merck.

Evaluations: It was stated that Dr. Coleman's office had the list of incorrect evaluations. Discussed the computer error.

OLD BUSINESS

Research Incentive Award

Dr. Glenn Cunningham distributed the final draft for the new Research Incentive Award. Dr. Cunningham reported that the subcommittee had collected information from several administrators on campus, did away with outside reviewers, and deleted some criteria for consistency. Each college will choose a peer review committee, which will select its recommended awardees. A motion was made to forward the final draft to Provost Whitehouse. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Reporting Committee Reports

Budget and Administrative Procedures

Dr. Glenn Cunningham reported that the review on the Pegasus model is in progress. The Committee will be looking into monies allocated to UCF, and alteration and improvement programs. They are planning discussion with Mr. William Merck regarding these issues.

Graduate Council

Policy and Procedures Subcommittee: - Dr. Cyndee Hutchinson reported that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee is submitting a resolution on credit hour requirements in doctoral programs. The language is identical to the current policy and catalog copy, with only one change proposed: the removal of the current requirement, 57 semester hours of course work.

Resolution 2000-2001-1 Doctoral Course Requirement Change

Whereas research requirements vary across doctoral programs, and

Whereas current university policy on credit hour requirements affords individual departments little flexibility in designing their programs of doctoral study, and

Whereas current university policy on credit hour requirements is not consistent with most mature, doctoral granting research institutions,

Be It Resolved that university course requirements for doctoral programs be amended to read: "The course requirements for a doctoral degree will consist of lectures, seminars, discussions, independent research, and independent study. Each program of study will include a minimum of 72 semester hours of graduate credit beyond the baccalaureate degree, with at least 6 semester hours of course work taken at UCF outside the student's program area. A university-wide minimum of at least 15 hours of dissertation credit is required for all doctoral programs. Specific programs may require more."

Dr. Cunningham moved to accept the resolution and Dr. Pennington seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

In addition to the resolution, this subcommittee has been working on the issue of reporting activity in graduate certificate programs (in line with a Sunset resolution for inactive certificate programs passed by last year's Senate). The subcommittee completed the development of a standard reporting device to be submitted annually to the Office of Graduate Studies by the coordinators of certificate programs.

This subcommittee developed implementation guidelines to help resolve an assortment of special cases and circumstances that are likely to arise in conjunction with last year's resolution that changed the number of hours graduate students need to register for each semester to be considered full time.

- Course Review and New Programs Subcommittee: Dr. Hutchinson reported that this subcommittee approved the following: A revision to the Education Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership, a new specialty track in Domestic Violence for the Master's program in Applied Sociology, a new specialty track in Maya Studies for the Master's program in Liberal Studies. Today the subcommittee approved a graduate certificate in Play Therapy in Counselor Education. They did not approve the M.S. track in Industrial Engineering Studies. They approved the revisions to the MBA program in the College of Business.

They also acted on a wide variety of course action requests and special topics requests.

- Appeals Subcommittee: Dr. Hutchinson reported that this subcommittee will meet on November 9, 2000 to discuss the possibility of a new award for Excellence in Graduate Advising.

Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee – Dr. Robert Pennington reported that the Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee considered several proposals from the College of Arts and Sciences. Specifically, Philosophy changes to the Philosophy major and minor and Humanities major and minor; B.S. degree program revision in Biology; Women's Studies minor, and a Certificate in Women's studies; and a minor in North American Indian Studies. All were unanimously approved by the UPCC.

Dr. Pennington stated that Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan gave a report on the issue of evaluations, and teaching/learning and tenure. Dr. Karen Smith attended the subcommittee meeting on October 19, 2000. Policy recommendations and ideas for improving the faculty evaluation procedure at UCF were discussed. Dr. Smith suggested customizing for individual academic units. However there is still a need to have one evaluation to cover all teaching delivery styles and the current form needs revision.

Dr. Modani questioned if tenure was discussed. The perception is the focus is always research but this varies among departments and colleges. Dr. Pennington stated that at the moment the subcommittee is focusing on the faculty evaluations because UCF needs a solution to this problem as soon as possible. However, Dr. Smith and the subcommittee will also be discussing the tenure portion of this issue.

Personnel Committee - Dr. John Leeson reported that the Committee met on November 7th. The Committee discussed the exploration of Prep Professorships. Faculty responses gathered to date did not favor such a rank, regardless of whether it was teaching or research-based. The Committee will continue their survey on the issue.

The Committee also discussed formal faculty mentoring on campus. There does not appear to be a formal mentoring process although several colleges appear to have different activities that are being provided. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Personnel Committee not to pursue the development of a formal mentoring system.

The Committee discussed the scoring of evaluations/perception of instruction, and the fact that comments are not scored.

OTHER

Dr. Mullens reported that he had received a call from Kim Whitney, College of Education, regarding Student Government needing a student of the month to recognize. Ms. Whitney was probing for expectations of criteria, or if each college could develop their own criteria. The Steering Committee agreed that the Faculty Senate should have no comment on this issue.

Dr. Naval Modani questioned the TIP timetable. Dr. John Schell replied that TIP is in progress. The TIP criteria are due on December 10, 2000. Eligibility will be announced on December 7, 2000. It was suggested that eligibility notification be delayed until the TIP qualification documents are completed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.