

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee
FROM: Faculty Senate Office
DATE: October 16, 1996
SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting held on October 10, 1996

=====

The Steering Committee was called to order by Dr. Richard Tucker, Chair at 4:06 p.m. The roll was circulated. Members present: S. Goodman, C. Hinshaw, T. Fine, J. Leeson, R. Reedy, K. Taylor, T. Ellis, R. Joels, J. McBrayer, B. Petrasko, G. Frazer, and Provost Gary Whitehouse.

Corrections to the Minutes of September 12, 1996 were: Dr. Modani was in attendance, and Dr. Reedy did not comment on the parking situation.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS:

Plus/Minus Implementation Status Report: Dr. Fine reported that the Plus/Minus Implementation Committee has met once. She indicated that there were some concerns regarding the policy adding to grade inflation. In addition, it may be possible for someone to graduate with less than a 2.0 GPA. The committee is in the process of contacting the three universities (FAU, UF, and FSU) that use plus/minus to compare issues and problems of this grading system. Each university does the process differently with different cutoff points. Mr. Tim Larson, Associate Director of Computer Services, has been added to the committee to work on the technical implementations. He will be collecting data on 100 transfer students who transferred from other institutions with plus/minus grading. A comparison study will be done. Since there is no input from students, it was suggested that they be questioned to get their opinions about the grading system. The committee concluded, with direction from the UCF legal counsel, that it is legal to grade students under the new policy even though they had started under an older catalog. It was determined by the Steering Committee that the policy will not be implemented in time to be in next year's catalog. Dr. Fine stated that at this time the committee has not received any information from accrediting agencies.

Constitutional Revision Report: Dr. Tucker reported that Dr. Modani and Dr. Cunningham have been working on proposed amendments to the Senate Constitution. Dr. Tucker, Dr. Modani and Dr. Goodman met with Mr. Joel Hartman to discuss the structure of the Computer Policy and Instructional Resources Committees. The final revision was well received by Mr. Hartman. The Information Technology Resource Policy Committee will be a reporting committee that combines the functions of the Computer Policy Committee and the Instructional Resources Committee. Number of members, voting members, selection criteria, how it is to be moved forward was discussed. Dr. Tucker explained it needed to be voted on by the Faculty Assembly or a majority of the voting membership. After considerable discussion, the committee unanimously recommended that the revision be forwarded to the Faculty Senate. This will be an item on the agenda for the next Senate meeting on October 24, 1996. Copies from the current Constitution (3.10.10 and 3.10.11) and the new revision will be mailed to the Senate members.

Dr. Tucker announced that Mr. Joel Hartman has been invited to the Faculty Senate meeting on October 24, 1996. Mr. Hartman is planning a presentation for the Faculty Senate and expects to answer any questions that arise. Some suggested items to discuss: 1) Faculty needs, 2) Student demand, and 3) Instructional technology for smaller classes.

TIP Appeal: Dr. Tucker stated that a motion was brought forward by Dr. Jay Jurie, President of the United Faculty of Florida. Dr. Tucker read the following motion to the committee:

“Be it moved by the UCF Faculty Senate that the Faculty Senate create a committee to which faculty members denied Teaching Incentive Program (TIP) awards may appeal said denials for review, and further, that upon request, such committee provide written reasons for any denials which may be upheld in review.”

Dr. Tucker stated that he had referred this motion to the Personnel Committee. At the present time, the Collective Bargaining Agreement has not been approved within the SUS. After a lengthy discussion, it was unanimously determined that this was not an issue for the Faculty Senate. This decision will be reported to the Faculty Senate at the October 24, 1996 meeting.

OTHER

Dr. Tucker announced that Student Government is now reinstated, and he has written a letter of congratulations to the new Student Body President, Mr. Aaron Scavron. Student Body Vice President is Stacey George.

The Office of Academic Affairs still needs four Senate members for the Sick Leave Pool Committee. Dr. Tucker will announce this need at the Faculty Senate meeting.

Grand Marshals appointed for Fall Commencement, 1996 include Dr. K. Phillip Taylor for the College of Business Administration and Ms. Anne Marie Allison for the College of Arts and Sciences. The Grand Marshals for Engineering/Education, and the College of Health and Public Affairs are still in question. Faculty representative for the Engineering/Education will be Dr. James McBrayer. Dr. Petrasko volunteered for representative at Spring Commencement, 1997. Faculty representatives are still needed for colleges of Arts & Sciences, Health & Public Affairs, and Business Administration.

Dr. Tucker reported that he met with Dr. Diane Jacobs to discuss studying the structure of graduate education and how the Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee would coordinate that effort with her.

Dr. Tucker also announced that he received an invitation to the Florida Solar Energy Center dedication on Thursday, October 17, 1996 from 3 to 5 p.m. No one from the Steering Committee was available to attend. Dr. Tucker will send regrets.

Dr. Tucker informed the committee that periodically he receives updates of the Florida Administrative Code. He will make any necessary corrections and will inform the committee when relevant issues arise.

Provost Whitehouse announced that the Board of Regents asked us to revise the TIP guidelines. Dr. Modani, Dr. Tucker and Dan Coleman reviewed the guidelines. Eight individuals have been added to the list after changes were made, and letters have been sent. Provost Whitehouse thanked the Steering Committee for its prompt response in making changes to the TIP guidelines. He also stated that TIP awards have increased to 71, with 11 awards being redistributed for faculty who have left UCF. These new awards changed the distribution among colleges with Business Administration adding one and Education reducing one.

Provost Whitehouse announced that he will not be able to attend the Faculty Senate meeting on October 24, 1996.

Dr. Rosie Joels questioned if there were college quotas involved in PEP. Provost Whitehouse confirmed there were no quotas. Dr. Joels also asked for a clarification on the eligibility of phased retirees. Dr. Tucker responded that the Board of Regents has ruled that they are not eligible.

Dr. Leeson and Dr. Joels asked for a study on the potential danger of busses and golf carts on campus. Provost Whitehouse indicated that he would bring these concerns to the attention of Vice President Merck.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.