

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes of
September 5, 2013

Reid Oetjen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. The roll was circulated for signatures.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2013 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Kerry Welch, Associate Vice President, Student Development and Enrollment Services
Max Poole, Senior Associate Dean, Graduate Studies
Rick Schell, Vice President and Chief of Staff, Office of the President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oetjen announced that the Board of Governors was prepared to approve Jan Ignash as Interim Chancellor.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST

In the absence of the provost, Diane Chase gave his report.

1. There is a proposal for a program in Industrial Engineering jointly sponsored with a campus in Peru. This will soon go to the BOT for approval.
2. The Provost is looking to establish an “international pathway program” involving the Center for Multilingual and Multicultural Studies. This would function as a bridge program for foreign students, using a partnership school, to prepare them to enter certain undergraduate programs.
3. A vote is being conducted at this time by the UFF, to approve recent contract negotiations. Approval from this vote is needed to authorize the state-funded raises of \$1000 or \$1400. For the upcoming contract, the administration is offering 1% raises.

OLD BUSINESS

Senate Committees

Oetjen reported that all Senate reporting committees are staffed. He asked for volunteers to serve as liaisons with committees. The following liaisons were named:

Budget and Administrative – Thomas Wu
Personnel – Manoj Chopra (nominated but not present to accept)
Graduate Council – Jim Moharam
Undergraduate Council – Robert Wood
Parking Advisory – Bernardo Ramirez

NEW BUSINESS

Graduate Student Council – Kerry Welch

Kerry Welch reported that last year a group was working on issues of friction between SGA and graduate students. They identified nine areas to work on. A new group is being developed, consisting of graduate students from every college, some undergraduate students, and some faculty. He asked for faculty volunteers to serve. After a suggestion from Ida Cook, the committee agreed to send this request to the Graduate Council.

Update on Office of Diversity Initiatives – Rick Schell

Rick Schell gave an update on the Office of Diversity Initiatives. This office reports to him as chief of staff, in order to ensure easy access to the president. Valarie King, who has led this office for almost 20 years, is retiring at the end of September. This seemed to be a good time to review the office and its function. For the last six months, a small committee has been looking at the office and comparing it to similar offices at other universities and private companies. The consensus of the committee was that the office should continue to function at the university level. The mission and goals would be updated but be essentially the same. No changes were needed in the operation of the office and the staffing would be maintained, with a national search conducted for King's replacement. Schell distributed a copy of the proposed mission and goals statement and asked that faculty circulate it and send him feedback. In response to a question, Schell said that UCF will continue to use the federal definition of diversity. This update will be added to the agenda of the next Senate meeting as an item of information.

Publication of SPOI Data

Oetjen brought up the idea of publishing information from SPOI data. Diane Chase said that previously, data for questions 9-16 from all responses were made public on the UCF website. With the revised question format, which questions, if any, should be made public? Various opinions were expressed: number 9 only, do the minimum required by statute, questions 3, 4, 5 and 9 since they are similar to the previously published questions. Diane Chase said that the administration would take direction from the Faculty Senate about the solution. Koons moved to table this item so that additional information can be gathered; it was seconded and carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Oetjen reported that there is a new director of Student Disability Services. Oetjen is planning to meet with him and invite him to address the Senate.

Wood asked why UCF is not on a published list of the best universities to work for. Oetjen will send this question to the Personnel Committee.

Diane Chase reported that an effort was made in the summer to talk to non-faculty units to improve student success and graduation. Cook will be on a committee related to this; she asks for suggestions about how to help students.

In the light of several recent news items, Cook expressed a concern about alcohol and behavior on campus.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40.