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AY 1997/1998 FS meetings minutes: 1997-10-15

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FS Minutes - 15 Oct 1997

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

October 15, 1997

MINUTES

President Moore called the meeting to order at 3:22 p.m. The minutes from September 17, 1997, were approved as corrected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (J. Moore)

President Moore announced that the Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology has three vacancies for full time faculty members in the State University System. If any qualified faculty are interested, a resume should be sent to the Office of Government Relations.

President Moore encouraged Senators to contribute to the University Community Campaign.

President Moore announced that there is a vacancy in the Senate for one Library seat. James Vastine has been appointed to fill this vacancy until the next election. There is also a vacancy in Business Administration and on the St. Petersburg campus. She asked Senators from these areas to contact faculty to encourage them to fill these seats.

President Moore announced that there is an Enrollment Planning Steering Committee that is being created to look at the long-range plan for student enrollment. She has appointed Senator Joseph Simon to represent the Faculty Senate on this committee.

President Moore announced that Professor Kathleen Heidi was appointed to serve a two-year term on the Leadership Council.

President Moore announced that over 300 petitions from USF were sent this past summer to the Coalition to Reclaim Education's Share. Lynda Russell and a video crew from the Coalition interviewed President Moore about the Faculty Senate's position on the Constitutional amendment. A variety of interviews were solicited from around the state from the different leaders of support groups that have supported this Constitutional amendment petition.

President Moore announced that the State Advisory Council of Faculty Senates will meet Friday, October 17, 1997, in Tallahassee. As Chair of SACFS, Faculty Senate Past President Michael Knox will convene this meeting. Topics to be discussed are sustained performance evaluation, TIP and PEP awards, multi-year contracts, performance based budget issues, and the search process for a new Chancellor.

President Moore indicated that Senators should become familiar with the SUS performance based program budgeting and the manner in which the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee B proposes to assess each university.

President Moore announced that the SEC and other Senators met on October 8, 1997, to make strategic plans for an effective presentation of some of the foremost concerns from faculty at large during today's roundtable. She recommended that this meeting be approached positively as the legislators and staff are engaged in some of the positions on important matters.

PRESIDENT CASTOR

President Castor announced that two members of the State legislature would be attending the roundtable with members of the Senate staff. They will be Representative Bob Casey, a physician from Gainesville and Chair of the House Education Committee, and Senator John Grant, Chair of the Senate Education Committee. Members of the Legislative staff include Linda Collins with the Senate Ways and Means Committee who handles appropriation for higher education and Michael O'Farrell of the Senate Education Committee. Two SUS members include Nancy Stepina who does legislative liaison work, and Bob Hankar with the BOR staff.

President Castor indicated that the university has put in a bid to purchase the Psychiatric Center from Tampa General Hospital. There will be a special session that will deal with public schools and public school facilities. The special session will be held at the beginning of November.

President Castor announced that the legislative staff has been moving around the state to each of the institutions. This meeting today is the first time they have met with faculty in this manner. President Castor indicated that she is pleased that the Faculty Senate is working on appointing a Legislative Committee to work directly with Kathy Betancourt on issues that affect faculty and the university.

President Castor announced that during the past several months there have been several successful faculty forums. One was a follow-up on the Mexican faculty forum that was held this summer which featured faculty talking about the lessons they learned and how they can incorporate the information here within the various departments. There was a successful meeting with groups representing the World Bank whose backgrounds were in Latin American and African Affairs. Faculty in education and public health were interested in opportunities to do collaborative work in the future. Another meeting was held to discuss the possibility of the university sponsoring a charter school in the USF City area. A decision as to whether or not to do this is still in the preliminary stages of discussion.

President Castor announced that Dr. Navita James is helping to develop the Excel Intern Program this year. Brochures and applications are available from Dr. James. President Castor encouraged Senators to take the time to nominate someone or to apply for the program themselves.

President Castor announced that there will be a capital campaign kick-off announcement on October 30 at which time the amount to be raised will be revealed. At this same time, the USF commitments will also be revealed.

President Castor announced the efforts to expand on campus housing. There will be three new facilities, two of which will be traditional residence halls and the third will be for non-traditional students. The fourth project will be a complete renovation of Gamma Hall. President Castor indicated that the USF Foundation will be utilized as the developer. This will help to speed up this project.

President Castor announced that the Board of Regents and the Council of Presidents would be meeting. One agenda item will be the process for selecting a new chancellor. Another agenda item will be trying to calculate the cost associated with any expansion of the university system.

President Castor encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming Homecoming events. She also praised the other intercollegiate teams such as the women's volleyball and the men's soccer teams.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Graduate Council

Chair Buckle reviewed the memo from Dr. Johnson, Dean of the Graduate School, which suspended graduate faculty credentialing while the Dean and the Graduate Council finished changes to policies. They are presently working on making changes to the graduate catalog and every location where graduate credentialing appears. Chair Buckle indicated that the Graduate School would be delegating responsibilities for graduate credentialing down to the departments within the colleges.

Library Council

Chair Kemp reported that the allocations for various departmental budgets have been released. He called everyone's attention to the opportunity to request special funding that would enhance any subject area which they felt needed a boost. The request can range up to \$10,000. The deadline to apply for this special funding is October 24, 1997.

ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

President Castor reiterated that when it comes to performance based budgeting and the allocation of funds, the graduation rate analyses do not represent USF's efforts well. She indicated that this topic keeps arising because it is an easy one to come back to.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

President Castor introduced the Legislators and their staff to the Faculty Senate and guests. Attendees included Linda Collins with the Senate Ways & Means Committee, Senator John Grant, Chair of the Education Committee, and his aid Jamie Savage, Representative Victor Crist, Representative Bob Casey, Chair of the House Committee on Education, Dr. Michael O'Farrell with the Senate Education Committee, Nancy Sapino, Legislative Liaison for the BOR, and Bob Hankard, member of the Chancellor's staff.

President Moore indicated what the faculty believes to be the purpose of the university, which is primarily to provide a quality education at a post-secondary level. She also stated that the faculty see themselves as the keepers of knowledge and truth, as well as the people responsible for developing new knowledge and new processes for learning. President Moore indicated that the goals of faculty are broken down into three areas: (1) teaching, (2) research, and (3) service.

At this roundtable these areas will be briefly presented in terms of the ways they relate to the whole university. President Moore talked briefly about some of the working conditions needed for quality education. She emphasized the importance of faculty having full support and having the right tools in order to do their jobs more effectively, such as in the area of technology, equipment replacement, better teaching facilities, as well as support for the library in order to provide a quality education. Senator Bartsch presented information in support of the faculty's belief in the liberal arts education. She emphasized that a liberal arts curriculum prepares students with the background needed to become informed citizens.

Senator Leon Mandell covered the value of research and graduate efforts at the university. He presented a picture of research that is a little bit different than the one found in the performance based budgeting and put it in the context of the purpose of the university. Senator Mandell pointed out that education and research are congruent, that is, they are one in the same. Another component of what research does for the university, besides provide a mature expression of education, is define the distinction of the university. The reputation of a university reflects the reputation of its professors and the reputation of the professors reflects their research productivity. So, in order to have a university of distinction it must have research productive faculty. Senator Mandell pointed out that research is largely a graduate student enterprise. Therefore, it is important for professors to seek external research funding in order to support their graduate endeavors. He indicated that support is needed for graduate endeavors because it directly compliments instruction. Senator Mandell emphasized the importance of USF's geopolitical location and why it should be invested in in order for it to become a great university.

Representative Casey pointed out that the responsibility of the representatives of democracy is three-fold: (1) good public safety, (2) public education, and (3) to generate public/private economic development. He indicated that they are really all in one, because without good public safety you cannot have a good campus, you can't teach, and businesses cannot thrive. Public education is what people expect government to provide for them. When public education and government are put together, we have public/private economic development that is vital. Representative Casey indicated that only when these three areas of safety, education, and economic development are working together then things could move forward. He felt that with the help of the university, higher education in Florida could be one of the best.

Senator Crist reiterated his continuing strong support with the faculty on their issues of concern, such as tenure,

affirmative action, and funding. He said he works in the arts, therefore, he believes and understands the value of the arts to society. Senator Crist indicated that it is research that establishes the academic credentials for a university. Currently, he sees one of the hot spots is the issue of money and that more funding is needed in order for faculty to do some of their projects. He pointed out that USF has the strongest president of any of the SUS presidents and because of that the university has received more support in the last few years than in the past. President Castor has been successful in spearheading projects. Projects currently being worked on include the leverage of 1.1 million dollars with another 11 million dollars worth of equipment and facilities to purchase the mental health facility. In addition, diligent work has been done to bring 6.8 millions dollars for the new broadcast station to be built on campus. Senator Crist indicated that the most important issue is that of trying to cut State mandates to give the university the autonomy it needs in order to run its own business in the manner in which it needs to be run. He emphasized that it is the university's responsibility to get information to the legislators so that they can go to bat for USF when the time is right.

Senator Bulmash indicated that the university has business needs of the community that need to be addressed. He indicated that more funding is needed in order to provide the qualified students the business community is requesting. Discussion was held regarding the relationship between the university and the business community, especially in view of the fact that businesses rely upon USF to provide employees. Representative Casey pointed out that the university has been asking the community to do more with less and it has the reached the point where that is no longer feasible. He indicated that the legislators intend to address this issue at the upcoming education session.

Past President Knox pointed out the outcome measures that have to do with graduation rates and that USF is different than the other universities. He indicated that students at USF do not graduate in 4 years due to the fact that a lot of students are working full time, have families and children, and come here from off campus. Senator Knox feels that people should be encouraged to obtain an education at USF and that Florida legislators not put a premium on students who will be graduating in 4 years by giving those universities more money to encourage that tradition. He indicated that this is not a model of the future and all qualified people should be encouraged to come to USF even if they do have full time positions, spouses and children.

Representative Casey's response was that his mission is to give USF the opportunity to operate within the geopolitical arena that exists here in the Tampa area. He indicated he is willing to fight for flexibility for each university. The university should be unique and able to serve the community needs which are defined by USF. Representative Casey reiterated that the legislators are going to fight for the uniqueness of each of the institutions within the SUS.

Senator Ponticelli raised the issue of the conditions of the classroom facilities at USF, such as broken furniture, lack of seating space, environment control, and lack of supplies. She emphasized that attention should be given to the little things that are critical to the operation of a university. Discussion was held regarding the funding need for the renovation of existing buildings and the construction of new ones on this campus.

Discussion was held on the topic of the implications of the 120-hour limitation for graduation. Ms. Collins gave a synopsis of the Senate Ways and Means Committee's performance based budgeting as it relates to the hour limitation. She indicated that there is still a long way to go to lay out the appropriate measures for dealing with the hour limitation for graduation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



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