

1998

AY 1997/1998 FS meetings minutes: 1997-09-17

Faculty Senate

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FS Minutes - 17 Sep 1997

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 17, 1997

MINUTES

President Moore called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. The minutes from April 16, 1997 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (J. Moore) President Moore requested a moment of silence for the faculty who expired this past summer. They were Professors Harold Sheppard from Gerontology, DeLos Carroll from Education, Admiral Edward Baxter Billingsley from Latin American History, and Wallace Russell, Dean for College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

President Moore welcomed everyone and asked the new senators to stand and introduce themselves.

President Moore announced that a Faculty Senate binder was being made available for all senators to assist them in organizing their materials for the meetings. It contains a schedule of Faculty Senate and Senate Executive Committee meetings, a Senate Executive Committee roster, the 1997/1998 Faculty Senate roster, a list of Standing Committees and Councils of the Faculty Senate, the Constitution of the Faculty and the Bylaws to the Constitution of the University of South Florida. In addition, there is a handbook for standing committee and council chairs from the Office of Diversity Initiatives to be picked up from Sergeant-at-Arms Ponticelli.

President Moore drew the senators' attention to the agenda item regarding Tenure and Promotion Guidelines. It was necessary to strike any formal business about this item because there has not been a special meeting of the SEC or the Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee with the Provost to discuss details. Furthermore, there are sections of the guidelines that are being collectively bargained, and it would be premature for the Faculty Senate to make any motions until that is settled.

President Moore reported that time would be needed at this meeting and future SEC meetings to strategically think about the next Faculty Senate meeting. This would be a faculty roundtable where there will be five to twelve Florida legislators and/or their staff members here with Kathy Betancourt to discuss matters of interest to the faculty. President Moore would like to discuss ideas on how to make these roundtable discussions productive. One of the goals of the Faculty Senate is to foster better communication between faculty members, faculty and the administration, and faculty and the community. To aid in this process, a Faculty Senate web page is currently under construction. The web page will be updated on a regular basis. Faculty Senate and SEC minutes will be available for all faculty to read.

President Moore gave an oral report on highlights of the Senate Executive Committee deliberations during the summer. On July 2, 1997, Dr. Jean Linder, Special Assistant to the President for Education, reported on current efforts to gather data and begin the analysis for application for a Phi Beta Kappa chapter here at USF. Provost Tighe reported at the August 20, 1997, meeting on forming an ad hoc committee on strategic planning for research at USF.

President Moore reported that Provost Tighe talked at the September 3, 1997, meeting about the estimated 100,000 new high school graduates and its impact on the SUS, and some strategies that USF has been thinking about taking. Provost Tighe and Vice President Nixon of Student Affairs have been working together on a new student enrollment plan. The aim of this plan is that the enrollment would be driven by the academic programs rather than by student

enrollment.

President Moore mentioned the ongoing work of the University North Transportation Initiative which is a public and private partnership. This Initiative was created to improve local area transportation in conjunction with the Center for Urban Transportation Research. Senator Sophia Hassiotis from the College of Engineering will be the Faculty Senate representative on this Initiative.

President Castor will not be able to be at today's meeting because she is at a special meeting in Sarasota.

PROVOST TIGHE

Provost Tighe welcomed back the continuing senators, and welcomed the new ones. He conveyed President Castor's regrets that she was not able to attend. Provost Tighe filled in on her behalf today, giving a President's report.

Provost Tighe reported on the completion of a number of key searches that were underway at USF last year. Introductions included Dale Johnson, Dean of the Graduate School; Barbara Emil, Dean of Educational Outreach; Jane Applegate, Dean of the College of Education; and Michael Conniff, Director of the Latin-American Caribbean Studies Program.

Provost Tighe announced that Dean John Smith of the College of Fine Arts will be stepping down from his position next year. A national search will be undertaken for a replacement.

Provost Tighe announced that Dean David Schenck of the Sarasota campus will be resigning in one year. Dean Gordon Michalson stepped down from his position in August and was replaced with Doug Langston, Interim Dean of New College. With these two resignations, it allows an unusual opportunity to examine the administrative structure of the Sarasota campus. A decision has been reached that a single person will be appointed for the Sarasota/Manatee campus and Dean and Warden of New College. That individual will be a single administrator with responsibility for all the resources and educational programs on that campus. A search will be implemented along these lines in the near future.

Provost Tighe reported that the size of USF's entering freshman class is unchanged from last year, but the number of credentials of the new entering students in that body has increased significantly. The number of alternatively admitted students has decreased. USF has a total of 22 national merit scholars this year compared to 13 last year. The University Honors Program has enrolled 245 new students and 50 new transfer students. This is a 30 percent increase over last year meeting the criteria for that program. Overall, the proportion of students entering with high school GPA's of 4.0 or higher has increased by 36 percent over the previous year's student body. The mean SAT score was over 1100. The Provost feels that USF is closer to achieving the goal that was set, namely to enhance the profile of the entering student.

Provost Tighe announced that another program being instituted for first time students is that of offering undergraduate research opportunities. These will be special scholarships designed to work in one-on-one mentorships with faculty who have volunteered to participate in this program. Graduate level stipends have been increased to be competitive with other universities. The second installment will be pursued again this year.

Provost Tighe addressed the issue of balance between teaching and research at USF, particularly in light of the strong pressures from the State level to increase teaching productivity. He feels that it is time to step back to the social demographics regarding the increase of the projected graduating high school population and the pressure on USF to be a strong teaching institution. Provost Tighe indicated it is also important to protect the research mission of this institution. To this end, he has appointed a committee that will be charged with considering ways to protect the research mission of the university and assure a strong and robust research enterprise into the next millennium. The committee is composed of faculty from across the university with a concentration in those areas that have the greatest potential for generating external funds. Professor Larry Hall, as Chair of the Research Council, will be asked to be a communication conduit between the SEC, the Faculty Senate and this new committee. Provost Tighe has asked Vice President Newkome and Dean Johnson to chair this committee. He has asked the committee to consult broadly with faculty to get their input.

Provost Tighe announced that 1.2 million dollars has been invested in the budget for various enhancements of the technological structure for USF. For example, \$500,000 will be placed in the base budget to be used to purchase faculty work stations. Outside lines have been enhanced, funds have been set aside to obtain more technical support, and funds have been increased for instructional technology seed grants for faculty. The Center for Teaching Enhancement has acquired Bill Patterson who is specifically targeted to assist faculty.

Provost Tighe addressed the tenure and promotion issue. He feels that the university is in the early stages of this process. He reminded the senators that the idea suggesting examination of Tenure and Promotion came from the committee appointed by the Senate a couple of years ago. The Provost was asked by the Deans to review the proposed changes. He feels that these are just suggestions for changes, but due to its importance, examination should continue, considering the criteria that drives the whole university. Provost Tighe anticipates these discussions will be ongoing throughout the fall semester and maybe into the spring semester. Once they have concluded, he would then like to re-examine the input and formally put the changes back to the Senate.

Provost Tighe reminded the senators that USF Ft. Meyers is now Gulf Coast University and is formally on its own.

Provost Tighe addressed the issue of how the higher education system will respond to the challenge of an estimated increase of 100,000 high school students over the next ten years who will be seeking admission to the university system. The Regents called for a planning effort from all SUS universities and also requested the president of each university to address the issue of how it will respond. The presidents' reports were consistent with the notion that the SUS could accommodate increased numbers of students. By and large, it was the urban universities who said they had the capacity, both by cooperative upper division arrangements at community colleges and branch campuses, to accommodate these numbers by increasing their educational outreach. USF is contemplating expanding its educational outreach services in the Pasco County areas. The Provost indicated that this university could contribute to increased enrollment with adequate resources, notably by expanding cooperative links with community colleges and increasing the capacity of our regional campuses. He added that he was impressed with how aggressively the other universities are moving in their capacity to grow and to absorb some of the student population increase.

Provost Tighe mentioned that he felt it was time to update the university's strategic plan. Faculty will be asked for input in updating the strategic direction of the university.

FACULTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT (N. James)

Dr. James announced that the deadline for applying for the Excel Program is October 10, 1997. She encouraged those interested to apply and/or to inform her of someone who might be interested in being considered for the program.

UFF REPORT (S. Singh)

Dr. Singh reported that the three issues to be addressed by the United Faculty of Florida during the course of this year are (1) due process, (2) tenure and promotion, and (3) assignment issues.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee on Committees

Senator Cranston-Gingras reported on the nominations for the university-wide committees and councils. A motion was made and seconded to accept all the nominations. The motion was unanimously passed. Senator Cranston-Gingras presented a request to change the charge of the Committee on Issues of Sexual Orientation from a 2 year term to a 3 year term. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Instructional Technology Council

Professor Bowers reported on a new initiative called VITAL (Virtual Instructional Team for the Advancement of Learning) which incorporates six of the recommendations that were made earlier this year. It is designed to assist faculty employ technology through advanced teaching and learning in the classroom or through distance learning. On

September 29, 1997 there will be an Open House to demonstrate services available to faculty.

NEW BUSINESS

ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

Senator Arnade addressed the issue of academic freedom particularly in regard to Inside USF, the faculty/staff newsletter. He will consult further with President Moore regarding this issue.

It was requested that the Faculty Senate visit the issue of the university-wide policy for the appointment of departmental chairs. It was agreed that faculty should have some say in choosing their own department chairs at this university. President Moore indicated that this issue will be taken up at the next Executive Committee meeting with a report back to the Faculty Senate.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

President Moore announced that the terms of the members of the Bylaws Committee have ended and nominations need to be taken at this meeting. The purpose of the By-laws Committee is to propose to the Senate changes in the Bylaws of the Constitution. Two new committees were developed last year that are not in the current by-laws. Nominations were taken from the floor for two vacancies on the committee. Senator Paveza, from FMHI, and Senator Silverman, from the College of Arts and Sciences, were nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. The motion unanimously passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (President Moore)

Secretary of Education Riley will be on the St. Petersburg campus as a guest on September 19, 1997. He will be a speaker at a forum on Public Policy, Education and Religion.

South African ambassador Franklin Sonn will be a guest speaker at a forum on international trade with Africa on September 29, 1997.

There will be a Florida Women's Conference on October 26 & 27, 1997. Information will be forthcoming.

Provost Tighe is honoring the Faculty Senate with a reception after this meeting in the Chandelier Room at the FMHI.

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



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