

1998

AY 1997/1998 SEC meeting minutes: 1998-03-18

Faculty Senate

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SEC Minutes

18 Mar 1998

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 18, 1998

MINUTES

Present: Janet Moore, Lou Bowers, Ken Buckle, Ann Cranston-Gingras, Julian Dwornik, Lois Gonzalez, Larry Hall, Tom Kemp, Michael Knox, Sara Mandell, Christy Ponticelli, Joe Simon, Trevor Purcell

Provost's Office: Thomas Tighe, Phil Smith

Guest: James D'Emilio, Chair, Faculty Committee on Student Admissions

President Moore called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The minutes from the meeting of February 25, 1998, were approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (J. Moore)

President Moore announced the following items:

1. Miami Dade Community College voted to unionize. Subsequently, its president abolished all forms of shared governance. All of their faculty senates and consortiums and campus-wide committees have been abolished.
2. President Moore, Secretary Dwornik and Ann Pipkins met with Dr. Elton Smith to review recommended changes to the January 21, 1998, Faculty Senate Minutes. The revised minutes will be included in the materials to be mailed out to the Senators for the March 25, 1998, meeting.
3. Dr. Charles Lindsey, President of the Faculty Senate at Florida Gulf Coast University, will be a guest speaker at the Faculty Senate meeting on March 25, 1998.
4. On Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 3 p.m., President Castor will address budget issues at a Legislative Issues Forum in the Marshall Center Ballroom.
5. President Moore sent a memorandum to Provost Tighe on March 2, 1998, with the Senate Executive Committee's (SEC) perspective of the four draft reports of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). Provost Tighe has forwarded the SEC's comments to the NASULGC in Washington, D.C.
6. President Moore encouraged the SEC members to participate in the Strategic Planning Process at USF and to volunteer to work on a task force of their choice.
7. President Moore will run for Faculty Senate President for the 1998/1999 Academic Year.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Senate Elections

Secretary Dwornik announced that the Senate elections have been finalized for 1998/1999. He indicated that vacancies still exist at the St. Petersburg campus and New College. Nominations to fill these positions will be solicited from the faculty at the appropriate campus. In addition, nominations for Senate Officers will take place at the March 25, 1998, Faculty Senate meeting.

Committee on Committees

Chair Cranston-Gingras announced that the deadline for receipt of nominations to fill vacancies on the university-wide committees and councils has been extended to 12 noon, Friday, March 20, 1998. The Committee on Committees will be meeting on Thursday, March 26, 1998, to review nominations.

Faculty Committee on Student Admissions

Dr. James D'Emilio, Chair of the Faculty Committee on Student Admissions (FCSA), presented several resolutions from the committee that would change the current operations of the FCSA. In explaining the resolutions, he addressed two separate, but interrelated problems that have emerged from his committee: (1) the handling of minority admissions in a manner that increases the numbers of minority students adequately, and (2) concerns with the admission policies of FTIC students under the alternative criteria and their impact on academic quality at USF. Dr. D'Emilio indicated these problems are interrelated because the relatively high number of alternatively admitted students are from minority groups. Efforts to reduce the numbers of alternatively admitted students, and at the same time to change the affirmative action policies, could have a negative effect on the enrollment of students from minority groups. He pointed out that making changes in alternative admission policies and procedures could be perceived as an effort directed against minority students.

Last year these two issues were discussed by both the FCSA and the Faculty Senate. During his review of the notes, Dr. D'Emilio indicated that the two groups were proceeding along two separate tracks. While the FCSA focused primarily on the question of minority admissions in the context of potential legal challenges, the Senate discussions were focused more on the issues of maintaining academic standards and the possible impact that high percentages of alternatively admitted students have on academic quality. The original recommendation was that FCSA review all cases for admission under alternative criteria and send minority students through the summer programs. Dr. D'Emilio felt that the present review of the applications by the faculty committee does not include the considerations from those university personnel doing the recruiting, and may work against the recruitment process. He also suggested that all alternatively admitted students be sent through the summer program. The FCSA's new resolutions are designed to give Student Services Admissions greater ability to shape the summer programs while some oversight is retained by the FCSA. Dr. D'Emilio stressed that the FCSA resolutions be adopted. This could represent a transitional period while some of the legal issues are addressed and better means are developed to identify targeted groups for summer programs.

There are three broad questions that the FCSA has been dealing with: (1) If we do want to maintain programs that actively seek to assist disadvantaged individuals that have the potential to succeed, how do we identify those students without using race, ethnicity, or cultural background as criteria for admissions? (2) How can the faculty play a constructive role in overseeing the admissions process while recognizing that so much of the process may be out of the hands of the faculty? (3) How can faculty working in admissions, general education, and undergraduate education be better informed to ensure support for the alternatively admitted students once they are here? Dr. D'Emilio pointed out that by taking admission decisions out of the jurisdiction of the Minority Sub-Committee and putting them into the jurisdiction of the faculty, this created an abrupt change of policy which had been in place for 13 years.

Discussion was held regarding the FCSA's resolutions. President Moore was interested in information about transfers from the community colleges. Other members were interested in the progress of the alternatively admitted students at USF. President Moore indicated that the SEC needs more information about alternative admissions policies and enrollment figures to better understand the situation. Senator Simon reminded the SEC that he is the faculty representative of the Enrollment Planning Steering Committee (EPSC). The EPSC is addressing these same issues and could be of assistance. It was recommended that meetings of the FCSA and the EPSC be arranged before bringing the proposed resolutions back to the SEC.

PROVOST TIGHE

Provost Tighe announced that requests have been sent to university faculty, staff, and students asking for their participation on the task forces of the Strategic Planning Process.

Provost Tighe announced that certificate programs are being developed at the graduate level. There have been reductions in the number of graduate hours previously recorded at USF through the College of Education. The certificate programs would be aimed at enrollment, as well as at the areas in the region where there is a need to be met.

Provost Tighe reviewed the proposed revisions to the tenure and promotion guidelines. The revisions have been based on a whole series of consultations with chairs, deans, and governing bodies on each campus, as well as feedback from full Senate discussions and the United Faculty of Florida (UFF). The proposed number of changes has moved from the original nine to seven. The two that were dropped included the proposal about the probationary period and the proposal for the faculty review board. The proposed revisions to the tenure and promotion guidelines are: (1) institutional criteria for tenure and promotion, (2) review of progress toward tenure, (3) tenure upon initial appointment, (4) early tenure and promotion consideration, (5) exceptions to the standard probationary period, (6) tenure and promotion committee membership, and (7) external letters for tenure and promotion applications. Provost Tighe requested that these proposed revisions be presented in their current form at the forthcoming Faculty Senate so that he can get an expression from the full Senate as quickly as possible.

Provost Tighe announced that the guidelines for the Distinguished Professor are in the process of being revised. The revisions will be distributed to the SEC before its next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There being no Old Business, President Moore moved on to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

The Office of the General Counsel's revised USF policy and procedure 5-014 (Disposal of Surplus Property) was reviewed. Section II B. was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to make the following changes to this section:

II. B. STATEMENT OF POLICY (page 1) [changes are underlined]

Definition of Equipment or Property: The words "equipment" or "property" used in this section are interchangeable and refer to equipment, fixtures, books, and other tangible property of a non-consumable and non-expendable nature, the value or cost of which is \$500 or more, and the normal expected life of which is one year.

The purpose for this revision is to allow the libraries to continue with their current procedure of handling books and materials that are under \$100. The motion was unanimously passed.

Tom Kemp suggested that the Faculty Senate meetings be broadcast to the other campuses. President Moore asked Lou Bowers, Chair of the Instructional Technology Council, to research the possibility of broadcasting and report back to the SEC.

The following items will be on the agenda for the next Faculty Senate meeting on March 25, 1998: Revisions to the Proposed Changes to Tenure and Promotion Guidelines, a report by Drs. Charles Lindsey and Gil Hutchcraft from Florida Gulf Coast University, and officer elections.

Professor Bowers invited everyone to the Technology Expo on Friday, March 20, 1998, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Marshall Center, Rooms 271 and 272. Faculty will be demonstrating their use of technology in the classroom or at a distance during this expo.

A suggested item for a future SEC meeting was the request that the Senate make the final decisions for the

composition of the Standing Committees and Councils of the Faculty Senate, and not the administrators.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



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