

1998

AY 1997/1998 SEC meeting minutes: 1998-02-04

Faculty Senate

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SEC Minutes

4 Feb 1998

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

February 4, 1998 MINUTES

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

President's Office: Navita James

Provost's Office: Thomas Tighe, Tennyson Wright

President Moore called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The minutes from the meeting of January 14, 1998 were approved as corrected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (J. Moore)

President Moore announced the following items:

1. President Moore and Past President Michael Knox attended the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) in Tallahassee on January 30, 1998. The ACFS received a conference call from Chancellor Herbert during this meeting. The highlights of the Chancellor's call were that he feels strongly about remaining a member of the professorial, he supports faculty governance and collegial participation, and he foresees a transformation in higher education. He talked about the collegiate system of shared governance by faculty and collective bargaining together as being the best system. He also talked of: (1) developing a closer relationship with the Board of Regents and the Legislative bodies, (2) aiming for campuses to manage themselves and not have the Board of Regents and the Legislature micro manage them, (3) a new set of measures dealing with the quality of students as well as the quantity, (4) faculty salaries and the need for them to be raised, (5) being a strong advocate of tenure and it being a fundamental part of the academic enterprise, and (6) the role for multi-year contracts. Chancellor Herbert used such terminology as "institutional flexibility" and "accountability," whose meanings have yet to be determined. Executive Vice Chancellor David Spence attended the ACFS meeting. He distributed copies of the 1998 Legislative Briefing book which will be in the Faculty Senate office for reference purposes.

During the ACFS meeting, representatives from other SUS universities brought copies of their tenure and promotion guidelines to share with the group. These will be available in the Faculty Senate office.

The primary agenda item for the ACFS meeting was the discussion of multi-year contracts. Along that issue, President Moore sent a letter to the Editor of the Oracle in response to an article regarding multi-year contracts. Her letter presented a faculty perspective on the issue.

2. A letter was sent to the Provost that outlines the strategic planning areas that have been discussed by the SEC and the Faculty Senate. In addition, this letter officially presented the stance of the SEC and the Faculty Senate on the tenure and promotion changes.

PROVOST TIGHE

Provost Tighe complimented President Moore on her statement made in the letter to the Editor of the Oracle.

Provost Tighe announced a presentation titled "Technology Transfer: A University Perspective" to be held on Tuesday, February 10, 1998. The Presenter will be Ray Wheatley, Director of Technology Transfer, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Mr. Wheatley was invited to USF to talk about how the Southwestern Medical Center developed their technology transfer program and to share lessons that might be valuable, as well as the failures and successes experienced. This is an effort to make available to the faculty the whole area of technology transfer and to learn how to best develop it at USF.

Provost Tighe reported on performance based budgeting (PBB) by reiterating that for this fiscal period, the Legislature has set aside 3.3 million dollars which will be distributed to the universities on the basis of performance (i.e., graduation and retention rates). A method needs to be determined that would be satisfactory to everyone on how to distribute this 3.3 million dollars. The idea has been put forth that each institution should be measured against itself, because of the uniqueness of each university and its own set of circumstances. Therefore, all the universities have been asked to identify peer institutions against which to be calibrated and/or compared within the different performance areas, such as enrollment figures, program profiles, and entering GPA/SAT averages, etc. USF is in the process of selecting peer, national institutions that best match its own calibration. Provost Tighe invited comments and feedback on selecting peer institutions. Georgia State at Atlanta and the University of New Orleans were suggested to be added to the list of potential peer institutions. Provost Tighe indicated that as the framework for this process is developed, it will be shared with the Faculty Senate.

Provost Tighe addressed the class action gender discrimination suit that has been filed against USF. He conveyed that President Castor is seriously concerned about this and she would like to address those concerns in the most effective way and in a manner that respects equity to all faculty. Provost Tighe pointed out that faculty salaries is an area that needs to be addressed, as well as those of the specific individuals in the suit. He reminded the SEC that the SUS mounted a strong request to the BOR and Legislature to go beyond whatever the salary adjustment is for all State employees, and to engage a special salary enhancement process targeted particularly at faculty salaries. It is a request to bring faculty salaries into the upper quartile of the AAUP, which would result in a 10 percent salary increase over 3 years. USF would receive 7.9 million dollars of this year's request of 150 million dollars to begin the first phase. Provost Tighe indicated that President Castor's leadership was important in getting other presidents to push this and get it into the Legislative request. The Administration would like to handle the class action suit informally. Provost Tighe indicated that there is a larger issue here which is the inadequacy of faculty and staff salaries, and focused on the salary enhancement initiative that has already been started.

Provost Tighe gave an update on the strategic planning process. He acknowledged President Moore's letter which states the critical focal areas from the SEC and Faculty Senate. Feedback has been received from all the major groups on campus. He will reduce the list to 10 - 15 task forces and present it to the SEC upon completion. The Provost indicated that the Senate's focal areas will be addressed as either a part of an existing topic or as a separate task force. President Moore has asked that every effort be made to use as many of the existing committees and councils as possible when the task forces are formed.

Provost Tighe extended an invitation to President Moore and the SEC members to attend a BOR planning committee meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 1998, at USF. This meeting is being held in connection with developing a new master plan for the SUS. Provost Tighe pointed out that the character of this meeting will not involve USF as a direct participant, but rather people from outside the university community to talk about the way the university is perceived by them.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Athletics Council

Dr. Curtis Wienker, Chair of the Athletics Council, gave a report of the council's activities. The Athletics Council is an advisory group consisting primarily of faculty that meets on a regular basis to offer active and proactive advice to both the President and the Athletics Department. As faculty athletic representative of the university, Dr. Wienker's roles

involve representing the day- to-day interests of the President in intercollegiate athletics, being a bridge between the university's academic focus and its intercollegiate athletics program, making sure that the coaching staff knows the rules concerning off-campus recruitment, and attesting to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) that the student athletics have met all eligible criteria. He represents USF to Conference USA and chairs the Athletics Council.

The Athletics Council is a group of faculty members that meets every semester to evaluate the academic status of student athletes, providing a written report of their findings to the President. In addition, Dr. Wienker attends annual meetings at sister Conference USA institutions to discuss issues of academic importance. His concerns are with student athlete wellness and academic performance. USF is currently undergoing an accreditation process with regards to its intercollegiate athletics program. Subcommittees around campus are meeting to discuss academic integrity, governance, fiscal, and equity matters. A report of the self-study will be finished by the end of this semester and widely promulgated, available through the Internet, for edification, reaction, and comment prior to being submitted to the NCAA. A site visit will take place at USF this fall. He announced that a new compliance officer has been hired by USF and will start next week.

Dr. Wienker is also involved in the Conference USA Presidential Scholars Program. USF will be hosting a Management Information Science faculty member on February 19, 1998, from the University of Houston.

Discussion was held about USF moving up to 1-A status. Dr. Wienker indicated if things continue to go as smoothly as they are now, the target date would be in approximately 4 years before USF would be able to compete successfully with peers in Conference USA.

Instructional Technology Council

Chair Bowers gave a report on the activities of the Joint Task Force. The Joint Task Force consists of the Instructional Technology Council and the Academic Computing Committee. Its purpose was to look at questions of technology as it affects faculty, using technology in classroom teaching, and teaching at a distance and the various services that are provided in conjunction with it. The outcome of this effort was 21 recommendations that were endorsed by the Joint Task Force which were forwarded to the Faculty Senate and then to the Provost. After receiving approval from Provost Tighe and Vice Provost Batsche, letters were sent to the deans responsible for implementation of the appropriate recommendations for their response. On January 13, 1998, a report was received as to what had been done with the recommendations. Professor Bowers reported that the recommendations were well received, and that there are only a few areas that need to be revisited. The Instructional Technology Council has asked Professor Bowers to send a letter to the Provost thanking him, and at the same time indicating that the Council would like to continue working with him on related issues. The Task Force will continue to meet this spring.

Graduate Council

Chair Buckle reported that the motion made by Senator Banoob regarding graduate credentialing at the January 21, 1998, Faculty Senate will be on the agenda for the Graduate Council meeting scheduled for February 16, 1998. Professor Buckle indicated that even though the Graduate Council would reconsider the process outlined for approval of doctoral committee chairs, he was not certain what Dean Johnson would say regarding the supervision of doctoral committees.

In the interim, Professor Buckle received a memo regarding graduate credentialing and USF's Southern Association of Colleges (SAC) accreditation. Removal of any graduate credentialing process may possibly damage USF's credibility with SAC. He feels that this issue is outside of the Graduate Council's charge. Discussion was held regarding SAC accreditation. Speculations were made that a report to SAC outlining how credentialing is being done differently, including guidelines for the department level, may satisfy SAC requirements. President Moore suggested that the Graduate Council discuss the objections that were raised and give guidelines to the departments to identify the credentialing process so that high standards are met. It was agreed that credentialing should occur at the department level. However, the SEC members emphasized that the department needs some criteria for graduate credentialing qualifications beyond those for which the person was hired. Professor Buckle will take these suggestions back to the Graduate Council for consideration and discussion. He will give a report at the March Faculty Senate meeting.

Elections

Secretary Dwornik reported that the elections are going according to the timetable. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, February 13, 1998. It is acceptable to fax election nominations to the Faculty Senate office.

Undergraduate Council

President Moore presented a copy of the recommendations from Senator Gonzalez, Chair of the Undergraduate Council regarding the General Education Council. The recommendations call for the General Education Council to be subsumed and become a Liberal Arts Subcommittee of the Undergraduate Council. This is in the process of being reviewed by Dean Sullins before vacancies can be filled with the appropriate faculty.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Senator Ponticelli reported that there is a vacancy in the College of Medicine due to the resignation of Dr. Yves Homsy. Dr. Marc Rozner, from the Department of Anesthesiology, will fill the vacancy until elections are held.

OLD BUSINESS

President Moore talked to Provost Tighe regarding the sabbatical program option. She indicated that the Provost would like the Senate to vote on the option. Discussion was held regarding the sabbatical program resolution. President Moore reported that the sabbatical option cannot be effective with the 1998/1999 applications. Additionally, Vice Provost Wright specified that the Sabbatical Committee is not considering the 2/3 award as an option. Concern for funding the 2/3 option was expressed since there is no central pool to fund sabbaticals. Discussion was held regarding sabbatical leave applications being denied based upon lack of funds in departmental budgets. Nevertheless, the sabbatical resolution will be presented at the Faculty Senate meeting on February 18, 1998.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding the budgeting of time for Faculty Senate meetings. President Moore recommended that the practice be continued of inviting both the President and the Provost to the meetings. One proposal she recommended to the Provost was that their reports be limited to ten minutes. President Moore emphasized that the Senators were probably more interested in conducting dialogue with them rather than hearing details of a report. This would allow more time for questions and answers. Provost Tighe will share these recommendations with President Castor for feedback.

President Moore will remind Senators that there will be a time limit on issues and on how long a Senator speaks on an issue. Traditionally, the time limit is seven minutes per issue. If more time is needed, a vote will be taken to decide whether or not to continue the discussion. President Moore prefers the extended debate time limit of ten minutes, and has been operating this way for critical issues. However, there is a need to limit debate to seven minutes in general, and thereafter to have the issue referred to the appropriate committee and/or council, vote on it, or table it. Past President Knox added the recommendation to monitor not only who is recognized, but also how many are speaking in favor of an issue. If there are no people against it, he recommended that the discussion be stopped sooner, after asking if there were any objections to closing. Senator Purcell pointed out that it is possible to limit the number of times that each person speaks on each issue as well.

Another suggestion for re-structuring the Faculty Senate meetings was to have the meetings begin at 3 p.m. Concern was expressed that there may not be a quorum to begin the meetings. A second suggestion was to schedule the meetings from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. President Moore will query the Senators at the meeting on February 18th as to whether or not they would like to have future meetings begin at 3 p.m. The Senate meeting on February 18, 1998, will be held 3:15 - 5:15 p.m.

Vice President Mandell will ask Senator Singh to report on USF's stance on multi-year contracts at the February 18th Senate meeting. President Moore will allow time for a question and answer period after his report.

The Travel Design Team has asked to give a 15-minute power point presentation at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Discussion was held regarding the new travel reimbursement procedure. Past President Knox recommended that the Team be invited to give their presentation at 3 p.m. before the regular Senate meeting on February 18th. It was unanimously agreed to do so.

OTHER

As a member of the Bargaining Council, Vice President Mandell attended an emergency meeting due to an impasse regarding multi-year contracts. The background is that in the 1996/97 contract, the Board insisted that there be multi-year contracts at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). The way it was bargained, the multi-year contracts would supplement, not supplant, tenure at that university. A joint committee comprised of the Board and UFF was formed to look into the data coming out of FGCU to determine how it was working. The findings indicate that multi-year contracts have supplanted tenure. The Board is insisting that there be multi-year contracts at all ten universities that will supplement tenure. Therefore, an impasse has occurred. Senator Mandell pointed out that there are two ways to deal with this impasse: (1) go straight to the Legislature or (2) choose a mediator. President Moore cautioned SEC members that there are reports going out about multi-year contracts that are not true.

Discussion was held regarding the recent article in the Oracle about the Governmental Relations Committee and the wrong information contained therein. Final selection of the membership will be conducted by the Faculty Senate and not by the Provost. Also, the SEC was responsible for the formation of this committee and wants it to be viewed as a faculty committee. President Moore asked that the SEC members make others aware of this.

There are more proposed new/revised USF policies and procedures from the General Counsel to be reviewed. These will be dealt with at the next SEC meeting.

The Agenda for the February 18, 1998, Faculty Senate meeting was discussed. Items to be included are the Faculty/Staff Campaign, the Travel Design Team, the Instructional Technology Council, the sabbatical 2/3 pay option, and a report on multi-year contracts.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.



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