

1999

AY 1998/1999 SEC meeting minutes: 1998-10-07

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SEC Minutes

October 7, 1998

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 7, 1998

MINUTES

Present: Janet Moore, Andrew Cannons, James Carey, Julian Dwornik, Suresh Khator, Michael Knox, Barbara Loeding, Chris Ponticelli, John Robison, Cheryl Rodriguez, James Vastine

President's Office: David Carr

Provost's Office: Thomas Tighe, Phil Smith

Guest: John Roland, Sara Mandell

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of September 2, 1998, were approved as presented. The Minutes from the meeting of September 18, 1998, were approved as corrected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (J. Moore)

President Moore's report included the following items:

- There will be a Board of Regents (BOR) meeting at the University of South Florida (USF) on November 19-20, 1998. During the public meeting on Friday, November 20, 1998, the BOR will make the final decision about the State University System (SUS) and its status as a Research I institution. In addition, the BOR will honor a student, a faculty member and a student organization with the Distinguished Community Service Award. David Carr, Faculty Assistant to the President, has sent out a memorandum soliciting nominations. The deadline for receipt of nominations is October 15, 1998.
- BOR Minutes from the July and September meetings are available in the Faculty Senate Office.
- Confirmation has been received that the Academic Affairs policy on "Selection of Distinguished Research Professors and Distinguished Service Professors at the University of South Florida," dated October 3, 1995, has been replaced with the "Selection of Distinguished University Professors at the University of South Florida," dated August 8, 1998. • President Moore is serving on an Ad Hoc Institutional Effectiveness Committee that is chaired by Assistant Vice President Kathleen Moore. This committee is specifically focused on the development of an internal process of checks and balances throughout the university to raise institutional effectiveness. President Moore will share any committee reports in the future with the Senate

Executive Committee (SEC).

- Today is "USF Faculty Author Day" with faculty authors signing their books at the USF Bookstore. Some of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) members are out today signing their books. Congratulations were extended to all faculty authors.
- The proposed academic calendar for the next five years (1999-2004) will be mailed to all SEC members for input and recommendations.

PROVOST'S REPORT (T. Tighe)

Provost Tighe reported on the following items:

- Discussions on the A.S. to B.S. articulation proposal are currently taking place at the State level. These are discussions that the Legislature has asked take place between the university system and the state community college system seeking to define pathways for students who have A.S. degrees to complete B.S. degrees. A statewide committee has been set up involving both community college and university representatives. The committee has made its report and has suggested seven areas of work to be done in order to develop A.S. to B.S. articulation models. There has been a request to nominate faculty to serve on the committees to represent the colleges and the university. The process is on a fast track, with a December 1, 1998, deadline for draft plans. Dean Sullins is a representative from USF. Faculty need to be designated to work on these plans to see if there is a need to modify either the community college or the university curriculum, or both.
- Discussion is taking place at the State level for developing an accountability system for USF or performance based budgeting. None of the universities has been satisfied with the performance measures, that were developed by the Legislature and utilized each year, because the measures are biased. Following last year's allocations, and owing to disputes and conflicts over the performance measures, Chancellor Herbert made the commitment that performance based budgeting would not be dealt with again in that manner. Therefore, a new proposal has been drafted by University of Florida President John Lombardi to present a new approach for accountability or performance based budgeting. The new approach being proposed is to allow the universities to focus on system-wide measures. For example, if the State funds the system to meet a certain level of enrollment as a whole, then enrollment should be looked at in that manner rather than institution by institution. Therefore, the new approach would focus on accountability for the system as a whole. The same primary measures (graduation, retention, enrollment) will probably be developed and the Legislature will be asked to evaluate the Chancellor and the system as a whole for meeting certain set goals. The system would then be funded as a whole at the level of the Chancellor, and the Chancellor would reallocate funds to the universities. If permission is granted for this new approach, each institution will also develop its own internal system for relating resource distribution to measures of performance within that institution. These "unique-to-each-institution" measures would be shared with the Chancellor, but not with the Legislature; the Legislature would only look at the system-wide measures. The process of developing an internal resource allocation system and system-wide measures of performance has begun and suggestions are welcome. This proposal will also be on the BOR agenda at its November meeting.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- a. a. Secretary (Jim Vastine)

Secretary Vastine reported that Professor Tamara Sonn from the Religious Studies Department, has agreed to serve on the Senate this year as a replacement for a vacancy within the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Sonn will attend the October Faculty Senate meeting.

Secretary Vastine is still working on finding replacements for the existing vacancies of Senators from the Florida Mental Health Institute, College of Business, and the St. Petersburg Campus.

b. Committee on Committees (COC) (Barbara Loeding)

Chair Loeding announced that with the current nominations to Faculty Senate Standing Committees and Councils, the number of existing vacancies will be reduced from 50 to 22. Nominations will still be accepted and considered as they are received. A short discussion was held regarding discrepancies on the existing vacancy list. A motion was made to accept the Committee on Committee nominations with the corrections to the existing vacancy list. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Chair Loeding reported that the COC is considering adding a line to the nomination form to ask the nominee to identify why he/she wishes to serve on a particular committee or council. In addition, Chair Loeding indicated that it has come to the attention of the COC that there are chairs of committees or councils who have retained that position for a number of years. Therefore, the COC will first communicate with each of the chairs and ask some basic questions and create a database in order to track this situation. Such questions as How do they conduct their elections? How long has the current chair been in that position? will be included. The COC will also attempt to informally talk with members of the committees and councils to identify whether or not there is a problem that hinders the committee's effectiveness.

c. Other

Instructional Technology Council (Chair James Carey)

Chair Carey inquired of President Moore as to whether or not the Instructional Technology Council needs approval of the SEC to set up its own web site. President Moore indicated that it would be a courtesy for the Instructional Technology Council to seek approval from the SEC and the Faculty Senate for establishing a web site.

Chair Carey asked for clarification on the process for revising a council's charge. Any changes should first be submitted to the COC before it is presented to the SEC and the Faculty Senate.

For the purpose of carrying out the mission of the Instructional Technology Council, Chair Carey asked for guidance on lines of communication and becoming part of the informational loop regarding instructional technology on campus. President Moore advised Chair Carey to contact other areas, such as Academic Computing to discuss sources of information and to indicate how the Faculty Senate can assist him in this matter.

Graduate Council (Chair Andrew Cannons)

Chair Cannons announced that the web page for the Graduate Council is operational. In addition, the Graduate Council has awarded three outstanding thesis and three

outstanding dissertation awards for 1997-1998. These awards will be presented at the First Annual Graduate Awards Reception on October 29, 1998.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Policy Changes for Designation of Honors at Graduation (Dean Robert Sullins)

Dean Sullins pointed out that the basic change in the Designation of Honors at Graduation is to delete the counting of courses that are not college-level courses. This is because many of the students who transfer from community colleges have taken remedial work which is graded so disparately from institution to institution that it is difficult to make sense of it. In addition, many of the transfer students bring technical courses that are applicable to non-transfer degrees and should not be used in calculation of honors designation. Provost Tighe asked what percent of graduating students now typically receive honors. Dean Sullins replied that it is at least one-third. The Provost then asked if there had been any consideration given to changing the standard for honors or for limiting it to a percent. Dean Sullins responded that the designation of recognition of students at the Honors Convocation has been changed to reflect at least a 3.5 grade point average (GPA) and the student must be in the top 10 to 15 percent of each college. However, the topic was not brought up by the Undergraduate Council for Designation of Honors at Graduation. Past President Michael Knox made the motion to put the Policy Changes for Designation of Honors at Graduation on the next Faculty Senate agenda with the recommendation that the SEC supports the proposal. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Discussion turned to the plus and minus grading system. Dean Sullins indicated that this is a faculty issue instead of a student issue and should be approached as such. He pointed out that technically there was no problem with moving the grading system in that direction if the faculty desire to do so. No conclusions were reached at this time.

b. Academic Renewal (Dean Robert Sullins)

Dean Sullins pointed out that there are currently two policies entitled "Amnesty" and "Salvage." Academic Renewal has been proposed to do essentially what is done by "Amnesty" and "Salvage." By combining the two, the process has been made easier to administer. It is also easier for students to understand their options for academic renewal from the outset. Both of these policies are ways for students with poor academic work from the past to start again and not have prior failures considered in their graduation GPA. In addition, Dean Sullins pointed out that in order for students to receive honors at graduation, they need to overcome all of the old grades. He indicated that both of these policies clarify things that are currently in the system. "Salvage" is when a student goes back to a community college, earns an A.A. degree, and returns to USF. There are approximately 100 students per semester that go through this process. "Amnesty," which is now Academic Renewal II, is rarely applied (maybe two or three cases per semester). These are students who would not normally be admissible except through the Faculty Committee on Student Admissions. The motion was made to put this item on the next Faculty Senate agenda with the recommendation that the SEC supports the proposed changes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

c. Importance of Teaching at USF: Report and Recommendations

President Moore asked for comments regarding this report and its recommendations

from the Committee on the Importance of Teaching (CIT). Dean Sullins pointed out that currently the student evaluation of instruction reflects student perspectives on what a particular faculty member has done in a class as opposed to looking broadly at what the department is doing for a student who progresses all the way through a program to graduation. The attempt of the CIT is to look at not only the individual, but also the department, i.e., looking at the context of the courses in preparation for other courses.

President Moore raised the question asking which departments would be the pilot groups. Provost Tighe answered that the process is underway for trying to find departments who would be test groups for this model. There would be teams of three members from departments in order to get several departments across several formal divisions from the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Fine Arts, College of Business Administration, College of Engineering, College of Education, and Architecture. The projected budget would be approximately \$1,000 per team member to support expenses. There would also be Center for Teaching Enhancement workshops to accompany this approach. Someone would be needed to coordinate the pilot project across the university, to keep the groups in communication with each other and to make sure they are following some reasonably broad guidelines developed within the limits of the committee's recommendations. The intent of the CIT report was to improve how we recognize, evaluate and promote good teaching and learning. The Provost indicated that although there is no funding at this time, the deans are supportive of trying to identify departments to use in this pilot project. Vice President Dwornik inquired as to whether or not this is going to be looked at by medicine and some of the other professional areas, or will it be more toward undergraduate studies. Dean Sullins responded that the committee was looking at the broad academic field and not the health sciences, but the colleges in that area are welcome to participate.

It was agreed that this report should be shared with the Faculty Senate and that the Senators should be given the opportunity to indicate whether or not they like this approach and if there are any reservations. A motion was made and seconded to give this report to the Faculty Senate for their consideration and discussion. Discussion was then held as to how the SEC wanted to present this report to the Faculty Senate. The Provost urged the SEC to consider presenting the report to the full Senate, endorsing the suggested broad framework, and asking for their advice. The motion was amended to say that the SEC endorses the broad concepts of this report and recommends it to the Faculty Senate for their consideration and discussion. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

d. Other

Dr. John Roland, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, presented a letter prepared by Professor Sara Mandell to the SEC in response to the Research Strategic Planning Committee's Interim Report (RSPC). One issue covered in Dr. Mandell's letter addressed the fact that this interim report focuses on departments which are in grant-obtaining disciplines and disenfranchises those departments which are not. She expressed her concern that there are departments which would become disenfranchised if this interim report becomes a final report.

Another issue Professor Mandell addressed was a draft proposal from the Provost's Office for a compression/inversion policy which would have two different scales for granting compression and inversion. That is, Ph.D. granting departments would be on one scale which agrees with CUPA and everyone else would be on the Oklahoma

Study scale. Couple that with this interim research proposal for granting, and a two-tiered university is created. Professor Mandell stated that this is something the Faculty Senate has fought against consistently, and suggested that both of these policies be taken back to the Faculty Senate. She proposed that the Faculty Senate change this policy that is bad for academics into a policy that is very good for academics (as was done with the Tenure and Promotion Guidelines last year).

A third issue raised by Professor Mandell in her letter was that the *Constitution of the Faculty of the University of South Florida* determines that the formation of committees which are multi-college committees be a function of the Faculty Senate. There is a set procedure whereby such committees are formed. That is, nominations are sought by the Senate, these nominations go to the Committee on Committees for evaluation for recommendation to the full Senate, and then the names are forwarded to the appropriate administrator. Professor Mandell pointed out that if an administrator can form an ad hoc committee that spans the campus for one purpose, then an administrator can form a committee for any purpose whatsoever. The Provost responded that when the RSPC was formed, he did consult with President Janet Moore from whom he received nominations. In addition, the RSPC has deans as members. He feels that the proper procedure was followed in forming the RSPC. Parallel to the formation of committees, the issue of having only one faculty member on the Research Board was addressed. Professor Mandell pointed out that there needs to be more than one faculty member on a committee that is going to determine policy for faculty. If the Research Board was reformed so that there was a balance between administrators and the faculty, then there would be faculty input from elected members coming through the Faculty Senate. She pointed out that a broader faculty view would represent what this group and the Senate stand for and what the university is.

Sergeant-at-Arms Ponticelli pointed out that the RSPC's interim report has already been discussed by the SEC and the Faculty Senate. Therefore, she recommended moving on to the next item on the agenda. Professor Mandell responded that her reason for being at the meeting today was to ask the SEC to present these issues to the Faculty Senate for their consideration. Past President Knox recommended that the Department of Religious Studies should make a specific motion at the next Faculty Senate meeting to be considered under New Business. President Moore pointed out that since it is an interim report, the RSPC should be open to these ideas. However, the Provost clarified that the RSPC's report was interim only because the committee had not finished the other parts of their charge. So, this report is complete as presented. In addition, there is a Research Board that has been established and approved by President Castor. The Provost feels that this Research Board is necessary in order to address the university's research mechanism and to advance the university. President Moore concluded the discussion by saying that the issues that Professor Mandell brought up at today's meeting were worthy of the time, and she thanked Professor Mandell and the Department of Religious Studies for their efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Silver Room in the Marshall Center

President Moore received a letter from Emeritus Professor Richard Dutton, College of Business Administration, suggesting that the Honors and Awards Council be consulted in assisting with the Silver Room. The Silver Room is a room to honor professors with 25 years or more of service at the university. This was started by a student group that is no longer at the university, therefore, the room is not being maintained. Last

year President Moore talked with Luis Visot, Director of the Marshall Center, urging him to update the Silver Room but nothing has been done. Dr. Dutton has again asked that this be pursued. The suggestion was made that he take this issue to the Honors and Awards Council. Past President Knox made the suggestion to have the service expanded to include Emeriti Professors. In addition, he suggested having the room set up with a couch and chairs somewhat like a faculty lounge for retired faculty to which family members could be brought and/or to meet with students. This room could be used as a mechanism to keep track of our history here at the university. Other locations which were suggested to check out for a lounge were the Alumni Center, the Faculty Club and the Library. President Moore will forward Dr. Dutton's letter and these recommendations to Dr. Charlene Long, Chair of the Honors and Awards Council, and ask that council to look into this matter.

b. Honors and Awards Council

David Carr brought up the issue of USF awarding Honorary Degrees to in-house faculty members. President Moore indicated that the Honors and Awards Council (HAC) should update its charge to clarify that USF will no longer award Honorary Degrees to in-house faculty. Having served as past chair of the HAC and being familiar with this issue, Vice President Dwornik was asked to contact the current chair of the HAC, Dr. Charlene Long, to work with her on updating the HAC's charge.

c. Other

President Moore announced that agenda items for the Faculty Senate meeting on October 21, 1998, will include the Policy Changes for Designation of Honors, the Academic Renewal Proposal, the Importance of Teaching at USF: Report and Recommendations, and the Committee on Committees report.

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

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