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# USF Faculty Senate Archives

## FS Minutes

September 8, 1999

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### FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 8, 1999

#### MINUTES

President Binford called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. As is customary at the first Faculty Senate meeting of each new academic year, President Binford asked for a moment of silence in memory of those faculty members who had passed away during the past academic year.

The Minutes from the April 21, 1999, meeting were approved as corrected.

#### **FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Jesse Binford)**

President Binford's report included the following announcements:

- As the University of South Florida (USF) moves from its former status into Research I status, it is important to remember its primary commitment to the undergraduate program. There is no reason why striving for Research I eminence should harm the undergraduate program; in fact, it should become better. With an increasing number of graduates and a cap on undergraduate enrollment, when it does occur, the quality of undergraduate education should improve.

To this effect, a little known provision found in Article V of the Bylaws to the Constitution of the Faculty of the University of South Florida affecting the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) will be revisited: "[The Senate Executive Committee] will function as the Academic Budget Advisory Council to the Provost." Upon consultation with the Provost, President Binford has encouraged the SEC to perform its legitimate role as Academic Budget Advisory Council. The SEC met with Carol Rolf, Assistant Vice President for the Academic Budget, and she has agreed to prepare a short workshop for orientation. Any information is welcome from the faculty regarding teaching and research funding matters that should come before this advisory council.

#### **PRESIDENT CASTOR**

President Castor introduced the new faculty/staff assistant, Dr. Jose Porterio. Dr. Porterio will serve in this capacity for the remainder of the academic year.

President Castor reported that USF's enrollment has been stable these past few years. At the

end of drop/add this fall, enrollment was 34,472 head count which makes this year's projection of

35,000 look like a valid number. St. Petersburg campus enrollment is up 16 percent which is good news because of a previous enrollment drop, especially given the fact that USF is trying to build a lower division program on that campus.

The Board of Regents (BOR) has approved a number of new programs that USF has been working on for some time: Ph.D. in Applied Physics, Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition, M.S. in Physical Therapy. President Castor pointed out that USF's new physical therapy program is the only one of its kind on the west coast of Florida.

President Castor pointed out that the Psychology Communication Science Disorders Building is under construction, as well as the residence halls. In addition, the Kiva in the Education Building has been renovated.

President Castor felt that the University is off to a tremendous start this year with great momentum. She expects very shortly that USF will pass the \$200 million mark in the endowment.

President Castor indicated that she has enjoyed her tenure at USF. She will be leaving in a few weeks to assume the position as President of the National Board for Professional Standards on October 1, 1999. President Castor thanked everyone for their courtesies, enthusiasm, and tremendous commitment to USF.

At this time Past President Janet Moore presented the following framed resolution to President Castor:

#### **Resolution from the Senate Executive Committee**

**WHEREAS**, Betty Castor has served faithfully as the fifth President of the University of South Florida since December 1993, and

**WHEREAS**, she has been widely proclaimed by faculty, staff, students, and administrators in the University Community as an outstanding University President, and

**WHEREAS**, she is leaving a university that highly respects and admires her exemplary administrative skills and presidential performance,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** this 8th day of September, 1999, that the University of South Florida Faculty Senate expresses deep appreciation for the excellent professional contributions and leadership of President Betty Castor.

The resolution was seconded and unanimously passed.

President Binford then presented President Castor with a dozen red, long stem roses as a special recognition from the Senate Executive Committee.

#### **PROVOST TIGHE**

Before giving his report, Provost Tighe welcomed everyone back to another academic year. He reiterated President Binford's concern about maintaining the strong commitment to undergraduate education and quality of the undergraduate experience as USF progresses toward its mission as a Research I university. The Provost's report consisted of the

following announcements:

- All dean positions have been successfully completed: (1) Dr. Joann McCarthy has been hired as Dean of International Affairs, and (2) Dr. Preston Mercer will be the new Dean of the Lakeland Campus. Dr. James Moore will be the Interim Director for the School of Architecture. A national search for a permanent director has begun.
- During this past year, the first review and selection process for the new honorary title, Distinguished University Professor, was completed. This is a new recognition title which emerged from a long deliberative process involving the Faculty Senate, the Council of Deans, and the Distinguished Professors of the university. The guidelines permit only two recipients to be named per year. This year's recipients are Dr. Susan MacManus, Department of Political Science, and Dr. Alberto Sagues, College of Engineering. The next round of nominations for the Distinguished University Professor designation will be starting soon.
- Forty-four applications were received last year for the program of interdisciplinary centers; six of these applications were funded. The funding lasts for two years and at the end of that period, based upon a faculty peer review process, a decision will be made whether or not to continue funding. Each center will be asked to submit a report at the end of the first year of existence which will be shared with the Faculty Senate.
- The High Technology Corridor Grant Process, a process whereby faculty may apply to do research in partnership with an industry or industries in the high technology corridor region, had a successful round of applications last year. This year's round of applications has just been announced.
- The University Strategic Planning Process is on track with its original time frame. Task Force reports are now available under the Academic Affairs web site. A first-draft document of the final strategic plan is in the process of being compiled from information contained in the task force reports. A first draft of the overall Strategic Plan should be ready sometime during the Fall Semester to be shared, not only on the web site, but with the Faculty Senate as well.
- Over this past summer, working with Dean Dale Johnson, USF was part of a State University System (SUS) Task Force Provosts who worked on ways to try to enhance funding at the graduate level. As a result of that task force, a recommendation has been incorporated into the SUS BOR budget request for a legislative change that would make out-of-state graduate students in-state for purposes of tuition.
- The inauguration of academic program offerings and other programs will be occurring this fall at the new Port Authority Building in downtown Tampa. New programs include the Masters in Business Administration, Masters in Public Administration and others as they are developed. The building presently houses the Small Business Development Center, the Center for Economic Development Research, and the Center for International Business. An open house will be announced.

This ended the Provost's report at which time he answered questions from the floor. One question was whether or not space will be available at the new Port Authority Building for classes other than what was mentioned? The Provost replied that there was space, but the plan is to select and offer programs for which there is a market in that area. Any nominations for such are welcomed.

Another question focused on whether or not there is any anticipation of building undergraduate laboratories on the St. Petersburg campus before such needs are met on the

Tampa campus? The Provost responded that although there are plans to modify the laboratories to make use of the existing space on the St Petersburg campus, that campus would not be given priority over the Tampa campus.

The last question dealt with whether or not the Distinguished University Professors (DUP) are monitored. For example, there is a DUP who has a diminished teaching load here at USF but teaches undergraduate courses at another college. Provost Tighe responded that there is no policy that permits or encourages reduction of teaching loads for DUP's. In addition, he added that these actions are not monitored on an individual basis from his office. He has discussed this at meetings with the Council of Deans and, in turn, has asked them to talk with their chairs to try and discourage that sort of selective favoritism. However, the Provost indicated that if anyone knows of an instance of a USF faculty member who is fully employed here and is also getting remuneration from another university, there is a policy that strictly prohibits that action.

#### **UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA** (Senator Fredric Zerla)

The new President of the United Faculty of Florida (UFF) is Dr. Mitchell Silverman. Dr. Silverman was unable to attend today's meeting; therefore, as Treasurer of the UFF, Senator Zerla was asked to give a report on the union's activities. The major thrust for the State-wide union this year is in bargaining salaries. The UFF will represent faculty with grievances and Dr. Silverman intends to have the union be a major force on campus this year.

#### **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

a. Senate Vacancies (Secretary James Vastine)

During the summer two vacancies occurred on the Senate due to resignations. One vacancy is in the College of Arts and Sciences and the other in the College of Medicine. Secretary Vastine reported that an effort is underway to find replacements in those colleges.

b. Honors and Awards Council (Senator Julian Dwornik)

As a member of the Honors and Awards Council, Senator Dwornik was asked by Chair Charlene Long to present the Council's proposed revisions to the Honorary Degree Nomination Guidelines. The motion was made to adopt the proposed revisions as distributed. Senator Nancy Jane Tyson raised the issue that in the Preamble of the guidelines the first sentence in the second paragraph states that the award is for scholarship OR high distinction (i.e., the nominee is not required to have scholarship as long as he/she has "high distinction"). She pointed out that this contradicts the third sentence in that same paragraph which states that the nominee MUST show scholarly achievements. It also contradicts the two instances in Section 2, paragraph 1, where the phrase "AND scholarship" occurs. Discussion was held and it was agreed that the proposed revisions be referred back to the Honors and Awards Council for further consideration.

c. Library Council Resolution (Chair William Janssen)

Chair Janssen gave the following background for the purpose of the Library Council resolution. It was brought to his attention by the Circulation staff at Tampa Campus Library that over the past few years USF has been losing several thousands of dollars worth of materials each year in the form of terminating employees taking library

materials with them. Currently, there are four irreplaceable volumes belonging to Yale University that were not returned when a faculty member left USF. Chair Janssen indicated that such occurrences put USF on a "black list" with respect to library loan. He pointed out that, although there is a policy with respect to people leaving the university and the returning of university property, there is no mechanism in place to enforce this policy. The purpose of the Library Council's resolution is to ensure that a formalized, internal checklist be created. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution.

The following discussion was held. The idea of a terminating employee not receiving a final paycheck until all library materials are returned would not work because most people have direct deposit. Senator Samir Banoob questioned why the Senate should be involved in this matter. He indicated that this is an action that the administration should be handling without the involvement of the Senate. Past President Michael Knox felt that a more gentle approach via a letter or telephone call would be appropriate instead of this demand attitude. Chair Janssen indicated that the gentle approach is the checklist which makes certain that there is nothing outstanding. President Binford reiterated that the Library Council is asking the Faculty Senate to endorse the resolution in order to implement the existing policy in a more formalized fashion.

It was suggested that a more specific recommendation from the Library Council would be helpful in regard to the return of library resources, particularly interlibrary loan materials, that the administration do whatever is necessary to make sure that existing policies are vigorously enforced. A motion was made and seconded to replace "university property" with "university books" in the resolution. The motion to amend the resolution was unanimously passed. A second motion was made and seconded to delete the last sentence of the resolution. The motion was passed.

A third motion was made and seconded that the resolution go back to the Library Council, take today's comments (that a checklist be established and appropriate legal action be reinforced) into consideration, and bring it back to the Faculty Senate later this semester. The motion was passed to send the resolution back to the Library Council for further consideration.

d. Presidential Search Advisory Committee (President Jesse Binford)

President Binford has been appointed by the Chancellor to serve on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. The BOR has appointed a consulting firm to select eight to ten candidates for review based upon the criteria set forth by the Chancellor and the BOR. The credentials of these candidates will then be forwarded to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for review. The Regents Selection Committee will review the credentials along with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and make a final selection to recommend to the BOR. When this item was discussed at the August SEC meeting, there was a consensus that there were too few faculty on the Advisory Committee. Therefore, the SEC asked President Binford to appoint a subcommittee of 10 to 12 faculty to review credentials of the candidates and make its recommendations to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. After reading the letter he sent to Mr. Dennis Ross, Chair of the Regents Selection Committee which outlined the above-mentioned charge, President Binford opened the floor for discussion.

The size of the Advisory Search Committee was discussed. It originally consisted of 52 members, but was increased to 55 with the addition of three more students.

Undergraduate Chair Ed Silbert pointed out that the SEC realized the actual size of the Advisory Search Committee could not be changed, but that an effort should be made to utilize Distinguished Professors to help screen the candidates, thereby truncating the search process down to a manageable size. There was Senate objection to having a consulting firm determine whose application will be forwarded for an academic position. It was suggested, therefore, that there needs to be some faculty involved in the initial selection or exclusion process. Senator Banoob suggested that President Binford ask for 5 more faculty on the committee, and that it would not be solely limited to the choices of the consulting firm. Senator Barbara Loeding suggested expanding the consulting firm application number to 20 to give a more broad representation to the pool. Other comments included that, if it is not possible to increase the number of faculty representation on the original Advisory Search Committee, the compromise would be to have 8 to 12 faculty from the Faculty Senate to review the pool of candidates and make its recommendations.

Past President Michael Knox remarked that the plan to have a small group of Senators give their comments on the candidates is good, but still that is only one voice on the Advisory Search Committee. He pointed out that the Senate could be strong and more powerful than a single or ten votes on the Advisory Search Committee. For example, if there is early access to the data and the Senate could take action on any objectionable candidates, independent action could be taken to stop that candidacy. He, therefore, recommended that all Senators be invited to review candidate credentials. President Binford indicated that according to the timetable established by the Regents Selection Committee, January/February is when the credentials will become available. A final decision should be made in March. At this time, President Binford read the 13 criteria for the presidential candidates. President Binford will proceed with the selection of 10 to 12 Senators for a subcommittee.

## **ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR**

- a. With less than three weeks before President Castor leaves USF, Senator Charles Arnade asked Provost Tighe if there has been any decision made regarding an Acting President. Provost Tighe responded that he did not have any information on the appointment of an Acting President, but that the final decision will be made by Chancellor Herbert. However, President Castor will be on campus through her last week.
- b. Provost Tighe was asked if the administration has taken an adversarial stand against free speech. His response was that there was a committee appointed during the summer to review the situation (preachers outside Cooper Hall) and, although this committee has made recommendations to the administration, no conclusions have been reached. The administration has not taken any position on the issue. President Binford indicated that the reason there is not a policy in effect is because nothing has come before the Faculty Senate.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Sergeant-at-Arms Fredric Zerla announced that he is this year's Faculty Senate representative on the United Way Campaign which will begin in late September.

President Binford announced a reception immediately following today's meeting to honor

out-going Faculty Senate President Janet Moore and to welcome the new Senators. The reception will be held in the Chandelier Lounge of the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute. Provost Tighe invited everyone to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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