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# AY 1999/2000 SEC meeting minutes: 00 Apr 05

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# USF Faculty Senate Archives

## SEC Minutes

April 5, 2000

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### SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

April 5, 2000

#### MINUTES

Present: Jesse Binford, Jim Carey, Julian Dwornik, Mary Evans, Suresh Khator, William Janssen, Janet Moore, Ona Riggin, Nancy Tyson, Jim Vastine, Fredric Zerla

President's Office: Jose Porterio

Provost's Office: Thomas Tighe, Phil Smith

Guests: Tom Porter

The meeting was called to order at 3:14 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of March 8, 2000 were approved as presented.

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

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) will be meeting with President-elect Judy Genshaft on April 26, 2000, from 10:00-10:30 a.m. in the Administration conference room. Discussion was held about presenting Dr. Genshaft with a wish list from the SEC members. Committee members were advised to use their own judgment.

The Office of the General Counsel has changed the method of informing the SEC about policy changes. In an effort to simplify the process and conserve paper, a notification will be sent to SEC members listing policies that are under review on the Counsel's web page. Dr. Zerla recommended that the Faculty Senate should receive the same notification as that received by the SEC members. Ms. Pipkins was asked to contact the Office of the General Counsel to request that this be done.

#### **PROVOST'S REPORT** (Thomas Tighe)

The Provost's report consisted of the following:

- During his State of the Legislative Update given on April 4, 2000, Interim President Peck summarized things that are of the most consequence for the University of South Florida (USF) and the State University System (SUS). The update was netcast as well. The Provost briefly summarized the update as follows. The House and Senate budgets, at this point, are 13 billion dollars apart in the sum of their proposals. There is a reduction for the SUS in the House bill of about 20 million dollars; the Senate

calls for a 6 million dollar reduction. However, the outcome is yet to be finalized. Both the House and Senate have made a provision for enhancement funding of the SUS at approximately 40 to 50 million dollars which is much more modest than the Chancellor had requested at 90 million dollars.

The most dominant concern now in the Legislature is the Governance Bill; that is, the bill related to the governance of higher education of the system. The bill would replace the Board of Regents (BOR) with a super board that would be overseen by a commissioner who, in turn, would have responsibility for all facets of education (K-12 through university, public/private) with the creation of independent boards appointed by the Governor for each of the ten state universities. Those independent boards would have limited power under the current pending legislation; the super board would have power over course approvals as well as budget. The Council of Presidents has expressed very strong concern to the Chancellor that they had been left out of the process. Therefore, the Council of Presidents will be meeting with the Chancellor in Tallahassee on Thursday, April 6, 2000, to discuss counter strategies.

There is a piece of legislation that calls for the creation of four new universities based upon existing regional campuses. In addition, there is a legislative bill that calls for the creation of a College of Marine Science at USF.

- The final copy of the new Strategic Plan has been mailed to everyone on campus, as well as to the BOR, the Chancellor and his staff. The Provost indicated that the new Strategic Plan sets a fundamentally strong and clear message for USF, particularly giving clear primacy to the development of scholarship and research. This document will be the guideline for how USF will distribute its resources according to priorities. The Publications Office was highly complimented for a job well done.

## **REPORTS BY COMMITTEE OFFICERS AND CHAIR**

### a. Senate Vacancies Update (Jim Vastine)

Due to the lack of response in receiving nominations to fill vacancies on some of the voting units of the Faculty Senate for the 2000/2001 academic year, Secretary Vastine contacted outgoing Senators from those voting units to find out if they would be willing to serve one additional year on an appointment basis. The Bylaws state that the replacement Senators will be selected by the Executive Committee on a temporary basis until the next annual election. For the College of Medicine, Drs. Julian Dwornik and Papineni Rao agreed to continue, as well as Dr. Kelli McCormack Brown from the College of Public Health. The outgoing Senator from the Florida Mental Health Institute declined to serve another year but nominated a colleague, Dr. Holly Hillis, who indicated that she would be willing to serve. Secretary Vastine made the motion that those people who agreed to serve be appointed as Senators for their respective voting units until the next annual election. The motion was seconded and the following discussion was held.

Sergeant-at-Arms Fredric Zerla opined that he did not like the motion. He referred to Dr. Carl Riggs' philosophy of three years on the Senate and then a person had to be off the Senate for one year before running a second time. This has kept the Senate from being a plutocracy as some of the other Senates in the nation have become. Dr. Zerla indicated that he is aware of the dilemma of finding replacements, but he does want to set a precedent. He would like to preserve the idea of three years on the Senate with one year off in between terms.

Past President Moore made the recommendation that the SEC work to find replacements for the College of Business and the College of Medicine. A decision could then be made at the next SEC meeting whether or not to make appointments. President Binford offered to work with the College of Business to recruit new Senators. Several SEC members recommended working through the governance organization of each college to find Senators. Senator-at-Large Julian Dwornik agreed to contact the past president of the College of Medicine Faculty Council for nominees. Dr. Zerla suggested that since Dr. Hillis has indicated an interest in serving a one-year term as a temporary appointment that she, along with the other individuals contacted by Secretary Vastine, be declared the elected Senator for a three year term. However, President Binford indicated that the SEC should stay with the one-year temporary appointment as stated in the Bylaws. It was agreed that the issue will be further discussed at the May SEC meeting once members have had an opportunity to contact their respective colleges.

b. Committee on Committees (presented by Secretary Jim Vastine)

On behalf of Chair Pamela Tucker for the Committee on Committees (COC), Secretary Vastine made a motion that Dr. Debra Osborne be approved for membership on the Publications Council. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Location for Faculty Recognition (Janet Moore)

Past President Janet Moore revisited an issue brought up by former President Betty Castor last year with the SEC to establish more tradition, more of a sense of faculty, and more of a sense of place. At that time, the Silver Room in the Marshall Room was discussed as one area where pictures of retiring faculty are currently displayed. However, the group which was responsible for overseeing the Silver Room is no longer in existence and the pictures have not been kept up to date. There are three plaques in the USF Room of the Library – one bearing the names of the Faculty Senate Presidents, one bearing the names of the Distinguished Scholar Award recipients, and one bearing the names of the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award. These have not been updated since 1988. Past President Moore stated that this is something that should be addressed in the future by updating the existing plaques and ordering new ones. She volunteered to write a letter to President Genshaft explaining to her the situation and asking for her support to accomplish this task. Due to Dr. Zerla's interest and ideas about this issue, he was appointed to work with Ms. Pipkins on this issue.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Resolution on Proposals to Abolish the BOR (Jesse Binford and Nancy Jane Tyson)  
President Binford and Parliamentarian Tyson drafted the following resolution on the Proposals to Abolish the BOR for approval by the SEC:

### **RESOLUTION ON PROPOSALS TO ABOLISH THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

#### **SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE FACULTY SENATE**

April 19, 2000

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate of the University of South Florida unanimously approved the following resolution and requests endorsement by the Faculty Senate:

**Whereas**, the Board of Regents (BOR) in its present form provides the stability and protection that the State Universities need in times of fluctuating political interests at the state and local levels, and

**Whereas**, a dedicated and centralized funding effort is essential to promote adequate opportunities in higher education for the citizens of Florida in a climate of inadequate tuition revenues and legislative under-funding, and

**Whereas**, a strong centralized BOR dedicated to higher education prevents an undesirable proliferation of institutions and wasteful duplication of expensive programs within the University System, and

**Whereas**, the existing long-range plan of the BOR encourages cooperative and concerted action to accomplish statewide and even national goals in teaching, research, and service, among and within the Universities, and

**Whereas**, any change of such magnitude should be approved only after long and careful consideration by the Governor and citizens of the State of Florida.

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate of the University of South Florida strongly opposes the measures currently before the Legislature to abolish the Board of Regents and implement individual University governing boards in its place.

The resolution was discussed. Dr. Tyson indicated that the resolution would be sent to Governor Bush, Chancellor Herbert, the USF Legislative Delegation, and Mr. Thomas Petway, Chair of the BOR. Past President Janet Moore brought up the point that the mega board will not be able to focus specifically on higher education issues. Therefore, she recommended that this be reflected in the third Whereas by adding ... dedicated to higher education ... . Secretary Jim Vastine recommended that the fourth Whereas be changed to read as follows (changes appear here in italics): Whereas, this legislative proposal to abolish the BOR, as with any change of such magnitude, should not be approved until after thorough, careful consideration by appropriate constituencies and concerned citizens of the State of Florida. The motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution as amended. The motion was unanimously passed.

b. Plus/Minus Grade Implementation Update (Jesse Binford)

President Binford announced that the plus/minus grading system will be implemented in time for mid-term grades for the Fall 2000 semester. For courses which have more than one section, faculty teaching those courses have been asked to agree on the grading system to be used. Another issue is communicating to all university teaching staff (continuing and new as of Fall, 2000) via departments and other university units that offer courses. According to Dr. Curtis Wienker, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, that communication is in the process of being prepared and should be disseminated shortly so that the news reaches the appropriate teaching staff and department faculty before the summer, ideally prior to final departmental faculty meetings later this semester.

c. Online Faculty Evaluations (Tom Porter)

Dr. Tom Porter, from the Office of Evaluation and Testing, attended today's meeting to obtain feedback from the SEC regarding plans to deploy online faculty evaluations for distance learning classes. Distance Learning (DL) approached Evaluation and Testing (ET) with the fact that DL has a lot of classes that have a major, if not a dominant, online component and DL would like to conduct its faculty evaluations for those classes online as well. Dr. Porter pointed out that such a process has a variety of problems. Three issues addressed for which he was asking for feedback were: (1) the pragmatics; (2) security; and (3) BOR and university compliance (see attached handout). Dr. Porter indicated one problem could be that those faculty who teach DL courses which are strictly online may want to have their evaluations done during the last meeting of the class and not online. And, there are faculty who teach classes where the dominant modality may be online but want to have their evaluations done in the traditional fashion. In addition, there are other classes where there is a lot of online activity and although it will not be the dominant form, the faculty want to have the evaluations done online.

Discussion was held. The issue was raised about the number of student responses which would be received online. Dr. Porter stated that the response rate is an issue regardless of the modality. Students can be convinced that their responses will be confidential, but not anonymous because of the process to ascertain for whom they filled out the evaluation. He indicated that there is a proposal for DL to create a survey with responses collected and sent back to the DL server to generate reports. Dr. Porter then asked if this online evaluation process could set up a negative precedent for the faculty. Dr. Tyson stated that the unavoidable loss of anonymity would actually be likely to improve the evaluation. That is, people who have something negative to say, and they are not absolutely certain it will be anonymous and not be read by the faculty member, are less likely to say it. So, as far as the faculty are concerned it is not really a good thing, but it would not hurt their evaluation. In addition, Dr. Tyson suggested that students be given the option of doing evaluations either in class or online. Dr. Evans recommended that this process first be conducted as a pilot study to find out to what extent it is acceptable to both faculty and students.

Dr. Porter indicated that, with the SEC's approval, he would like to activate the process this summer because of the fewer number of DL classes offered and the fact that the data for summer classes does not have to be included in the BOR report. Then, at the end of the summer term he would report back to the SEC.

It was agreed that the issue of online faculty evaluations for DL classes will be put on the agenda for the April Faculty Senate meeting. Copies of Dr. Porter's handout will be included with the meeting materials.

d. Online Voting (Secretary Jim Vastine)

Secretary Vastine announced that he is interested in conducting the Faculty Senate elections online next year. He indicated that if the SEC and Faculty Senate were amenable to the idea, he would work on the process for next year. It was agreed that he should proceed.

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

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