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FS Minutes

April 18, 2001

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. Pending a quorum, approval of the Minutes was tabled until after the Senate President's Report.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Nancy Tyson)

This being the last meeting of the 2000-2001 academic year, President Tyson thanked the Senators for their support and promised to take an active interest in Senate activities as ex-officio Past President during the next three years.

President Tyson announced a decision, subject to approval by the Senate assembly, not to distribute the entire Faculty Senate Annual Report to all Senators in hardcopy format this year as in the past, but to abbreviate the report for general distribution by eliminating those sections which are permanently archived on the Faculty Senate website: <<http://web.usf.edu/FacultySenate/guide.html>>. In the past the annual report distributed each summer has consisted of all of the previous year's Faculty Senate and Senate Executive Committee meeting minutes and approximately 30 pages of committee charges, all of which are readily accessible on the web. There seems little reason to waste paper reduplicating these lengthy documents. The proposed shorter hardcopy of the report would be distributed to all Senators minus these elements, but with the customary essential features not currently available on the internet such as the Senate President's retrospective letter, committee and council chairs' reports, and the summary List of Issues and Actions by the 2000-2001 Faculty Senate. The latter will serve as a useful index to the online version, being keyed to the Minutes by date. The full hardcopy report as distributed in past years will still be provided for the President and Provost, the Library, and anyone else including individual Senators by request. There being no objection from the floor, it was decided to proceed with this plan.

In response to a request from Jeff Mack, Vice President for Auxiliary Services, President Tyson then solicited volunteers for two committees to run during Summer 2001, one to assist a national food service consultant in reviewing bid proposals for food vending services for a new contract to begin in 2002, and the other to review contract bids for a new consolidated beverage service combining various concessions on campus. Committee on Committees Chair Jenifer Schneider volunteered for the former committee, but no volunteer came forward for the second. [President Tyson later volunteered for the second committee.] Senator Zerla noted that in the past, the people from the Marshall Center have been marginalized in forming the food service contract, and that this omission has had a negative

impact on the resulting service. He urged Senator Schneider to make sure that Marshall Center Director, Guy Conway, is invited to play a part in the formulation of the new service contract.

In closing, President Tyson appealed for a continued emphasis on faculty governance, especially in light of the University of South Florida's (USF) efforts for recognition as a Research I university. USF faculty are under a great deal of pressure to expand our institutional image in that area, but the more time given to research and scholarship the less there is for service, and it must not be allowed to detract from our necessary commitment to faculty governance. At the same time, powerful forces statewide have sought to weaken their spirit by separating educators from one another, fomenting rivalries within groups and among institutions and attacking teachers' unions and other alliances. In such times, it is essential to maintain and foster unity with colleagues elsewhere in the teaching profession--at the other state universities, as well as in the community colleges and public schools. It is her hope, President Tyson said, that all of the Senators would keep in mind the necessity for strengthening faculty influence through governance and unity, and seek to impress these points on their colleagues.

President Tyson then called the Senators' attention to a document distributed in the meeting packet consisting of the latest draft version of the Issues and Concerns of the Education Coalition being formed by the Chair and Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate of the University of Florida to bring together university, community college, private university, and public school educators, along with concerned student groups in response to the reorganization. She requested the Senate's support in concept for the document and for the formation of the Coalition so that it might be conveyed to the founders of the group, noting that such motions had previously been passed by the Senate Executive Committee and the Governmental Relations Committee. President-Elect Greg Paveza made a motion to support the document and the Coalition in concept. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the meeting of March 21, 2001, were approved as distributed.

PROVOST'S REPORT

Provost Stamps expressed his appreciation to the Faculty Senate for the support he received during the recent Provost's search. He has also received many wonderful letters and e-mails from Senate members, all of which he plans to keep.

The Provost's report focused on a proposal for establishing a new College of Community and Professional Studies. The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) was established in 1989 as a result of the merger of the Colleges of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natural Sciences and Arts and Letters. At this time, there was some debate as to whether or not to establish two colleges. However, major budget cuts occurring simultaneously precipitated the decision to establish the CAS because there had been three deans, six associate deans and one assistant dean all managing those three colleges. So, the establishment of the CAS was partly a result of budget cuts rather than a completely rational decision. The final outcome was that the CAS was made up of social sciences, humanities, natural sciences and professional programs.

Provost Stamps has researched the status of the CAS within the state university system and found that Florida State University has six separate, or independent, colleges and schools that make up the same disciplines as USF's arts and sciences. The University of Central Florida has two separate colleges, but they are focused more on technology. The University of Florida has four separate colleges. With this background information, Provost Stamps

presented a position paper to the seven chairs and directors of departments that were obviously professional programs (the School of Library Information Sciences, the School of Mass Communications, the School of Social Work, Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, Public Administration, Urban Studies Program, Communication Sciences and Disorders). He began to meet with the chairs of these departments during the time that he was still Dean of CAS and had a series of discussions of the advantages/disadvantages of establishing a professional college. The chairs took the position paper put together by Provost Stamps and under current CAS Interim Dean Khator have developed another position paper supporting the establishment of a school of professional studies.

Recently, Provost Stamps has been meeting with all of the faculty in these departments to make certain that they actually support the establishment of a school of professional studies. The Provost feels that this provides an excellent opportunity for focusing on the professional programs at USF. The new college would basically be a graduate college because the components are graduate departments. Only the Communication Sciences and Disorders department would have a doctoral program. This new college will provide the opportunity for the departments to come together and develop other interdisciplinary doctoral programs. It will also provide an opportunity for these disciplines to develop additional certificate programs. The community will also be able to better see what USF's professional programs actually are as the programs become more engaged in the community.

Provost Stamps indicated that due to the lack of knowledge regarding this year's budget, it is anticipated to have the new college up and running within two years. President Genshaft is in favor of the new college and is excited about the opportunities it will bring. A national search for the dean will be conducted to find a person with a vision to lead the new college.

Provost Stamps announced that Dr. Martin Louis Vega has been hired as the new Dean of Engineering. Three candidates for Dean of the College of Marine Science will be interviewed. The search for the Dean of Libraries is also moving forward.

UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA (Roy Weatherford)

At this time, President Tyson introduced Dr. Roy Weatherford as the 2001-2002 President of the United Faculty of Florida (UFF) who gave the following report. During his travels around the country visiting different universities, he has realized that there is a straight-line correlation. The better universities are the ones where the faculty have the most power. Dr. Weatherford pointed out that the Faculty Senate should have complete power over the curriculum and the academic process of USF. With the faculty's hard work and goodwill, he pledged to do everything he can to continue movement in that direction.

Dr. Weatherford explained that he chose to run for UFF President because the next few years seem to him to be the most portentous in terms of faculty status at USF since embarking upon collective bargaining in 1976. It is very likely that this time next year we will not be state employees. It is very likely that we will not be part of the State University System (SUS) governed by the BOR as we know it. The fundamental terms and conditions of our employment for the last twenty-five years have been those of state employees, with the BOR as their public employer, and the state-wide UFF as our collective bargaining organization. That's all going to change and when it does change, the first year or two when UFF negotiates with USF the negotiators will be us, with nobody from outside. What is done during the first couple of years of that negotiation will set the benchmark for all the future contracts and relations of the remaining academic careers for most of us. Dr. Weatherford seriously urged everyone to join with UFF so that UFF can work together with the Faculty Senate. This reorganization will mean there will no longer be the protections, such as they are, that Florida State employees used to have, and the safeguard of a strong

union with a solid base membership is therefore more crucial than ever.

Our new status will be more like the status of community colleges. We will be a body corporate which is a subordinate organization not like a political subdivision of the state because we have no governmental functions, but we will be a corporation supported, in part, by the State of Florida. The Legislature will have complete control over USF since we have no constitutional status. The Legislators think that the university should be run like a business which means maximizing output and minimizing costs. That is why the Florida Senate believes it would be a good idea to require by statute or appropriation proviso language that the teaching load of university faculty be increased by 8 percent.

Dr. Weatherford emphasized that we need to convince as many legislators as possible of the straightforward, elementary facts. We need to wage a political struggle to get the Legislators to write into our future statutes a reasonable university system in the State of Florida. UFF currently supports Senator Bob Graham's attempts to pass a constitutional amendment that would create a BOR as a constitutional body to insulate us from by the Legislature. However, that would not go to ballot for a few years and then would take a while to go into effect with a reasonable chance that it never will happen. Therefore, it would not be prudent for us to let Senator Graham take responsibility for our future. Dr. Weatherford urged the Faculty Senate to work with the UFF as they work with them and as everyone works with the President, the Provost and the university administration. He hopes that everyone will work with UFF to see that the contract negotiated with USF is at least as good as the contract that faculty had with the BOR. If anyone would like to reach him, his e-mail address is roy@chuma.cas.usf.edu or through the Philosophy Department. He urged everyone to be especially vigilant and especially active during the next year in the Senate to make sure to do everything possible to improve the university.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

1. Committee on Committees (Jenifer Schneider)

Chair Schneider presented Professor Linda Moody as a late nomination for the Graduate Council. A motion was made and seconded to approve her nomination. The motion was unanimously passed.

2. Proposed Change to Bylaws (Fredric Zerla)

On behalf of the Committee on Committees (COC), Bylaws Committee Chair Zerla introduced the following proposed amendment to the *Bylaws*:

Proposed Amendment to

*The Bylaws to the Constitution of the
Faculty of the University of South Florida*

Submitted to the Faculty Senate
April 18, 2001

Article V.A.1. [Senate Committees] Committee on Committees

Existing language: The Faculty Senate shall elect a Committee on Committees which will solicit nominations for membership on the standing committees of the Senate and the university-wide committees. The Committee on Committees is composed of one representative from each college/campus/unit elected by the senators of that college/campus unit.

*The appropriate wording to be implemented in Fall 2001, depending on the outcome of the New College independence issue.

Rationale:

During the academic year 2000-2001, three meetings of the COC were called and met without a quorum. Because the COC must review nominations for University-wide councils and committees, and also must vote on various committee issues, a quorum is necessary to conduct business in a timely and efficient manner. As a result of poor attendance, the Faculty Senate Administrative Assistant and COC Chair had to summarize the discussions made during the meetings and send the items out for email votes, then wait a week or more for sufficient responses. It is therefore proposed to reduce the size of the COC membership from 14 to 11 by making the representative for the regional campus a rotating appointment, thereby making it easier to have a quorum.

The essence of the proposal is that the COC has been frequently stymied this year because it has not been able to get a quorum at meetings. Therefore, it is proposed that the size of the COC be reduced by having only one regional-campus representative.

According to the *Bylaws*, the proposal was introduced at this meeting and will be voted upon at the September Senate meeting. There was some preliminary discussion as to whether regional campus members might be convened by speaker phone, although the question arose whether this would succeed when even exchanges by email had proved impractical.

3. Research Council Charge (Amy Borenstein-Graves)

On behalf of the Research Council, Senator Borenstein-Graves presented the following proposed revision to the membership section of its charge:

Current language:

All appointees should have demonstrated productivity in research or other creative activity. Members are to be appointed for staggered three-year terms, one-third retiring each year. The retiring members may not be re-appointed during the year following the last year of their terms unless appointed to a vacancy on the council.

Proposed revision (in bold italics):

All appointees should ***be faculty who*** have demonstrated ***exceptional*** productivity in research or other creative activity. ***Neither tenure nor academic rank should be criteria for appointment to the Research Council.*** Members are to be appointed for staggered three-year terms, one-third retiring each year. The retiring members may not be re-appointed during the year following the last year of their terms unless appointed to a vacancy on the council.

The motion was made and seconded to accept the Research Council charge revision. The motion was unanimously passed.

4. Caucus for Committee on Committees (James Vastine)

The caucus was postponed until after President Genshaft's report.

President Tyson then turned the meeting over to President Genshaft to report on the

legislative session which she had recently attended and to allow the Senators to ask questions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Genshaft began by congratulating Provost Stamps on his recent appointment to the permanent office of Provost, and thanked the faculty for attending his candidate forum and so clearly showing their overwhelming support for Dr. Stamps. She congratulated President-Elect Greg Paveza and the other newly elected officers of the Faculty Senate, and thanked outgoing President Nancy Tyson and Vice-President Suresh Khator for working together during the year. And she announced the appointment of the new Vice-President for Advancement, Michael Rierson, of the University of Miami.

As for the legislative update, there wasn't much new to tell, President Genshaft reported, and then went on to describe the chaotic scenario in Tallahassee. The couple of weeks left in the session would no doubt be very heated. The Senate and House are far apart on a lot of issues, and could well come to impasse in those areas. The outcome of Senator Sullivan's bills on the regional campuses--USF-St. Pete, USF-Sarasota/New College, and St. Pete Junior College--is especially hard to call. There is more legislation on the table this session than ever before, lots of new legislators, and the atmosphere is wild. The reorganization legislation and the Reorganization Transition Committee appointed to process it are proceeding in disorder and haste. The move to make New College independent is sad and strikes many legislators as absurd.

President Genshaft mentioned that the Governor wants to meet with the University Presidents about every six weeks. There will be a meeting of this group on Friday (April 20). All of the Presidents will be stressing academic freedom as a core value and a basic tenet and will be talking to the Governor about that. When a Senator questioned whether the President meant "academic freedom and tenure," the President responded "yes, absolutely. Absolutely sacred."

In response to a question about her activities during her recent visit to the legislature in Tallahassee, President Genshaft noted her concern with enrollment funding. Florida went into a billion dollar deficit with Medicaid and they're treating all of the state agencies to a 25% cut over the next several years, and higher education is one of the state agencies. They are trying to cut the amount of money they're giving all of the state universities proportionately. The House is more inclined to help us with the enrollment budget than the Senate. She was in Tallahassee arguing for the Senate to come more in line with the House and arguing that USF was unfairly capped, because when USF turned in their projected enrollment it was less than what they later anticipated it would be. The Chancellor told her before he left, "Don't worry, Judy, I'll take care of you." He meant that he would take the money from universities that didn't make their enrollment targets and give it to USF. But now that he is gone his promise is gone with him, and she is forced to lobby for it. The 30% of our money that comes from the legislature is the money to pay for teaching (salaries), so it is very important not to sustain cuts. Anyone wanting to make an impression on the legislators needs to understand that the only way to get through to them is to give them a piece of paper with no more than three points on it in big print. Otherwise, the pace is so frenetic that you will never get their attention.

President Tyson asked President Genshaft whether she was putting together a list of nominees for the USF Board of Trustees. President Genshaft replied that the Governor had urged the public to submit names of nominees and that anyone so nominated had to be willing to make a full financial disclosure and answer several essay questions. Senator Robison asked whether she thought the Governor would consider appointing retired faculty

to the Board. The President replied that there would be nothing to lose by nominating them, and they would certainly not be appointed if they were not put forward. President Tyson asked whether President Genshaft had submitted any nominees. She replied that she had not and did not believe it was "wise" for her to do so because if a person she nominated did not get the appointment, it would not be "good for us."

President Genshaft announced that, in answer to the question raised at the last Faculty Senate meeting, there would be a one-year Faculty Assistant position advertised on the internet, and the person selected would work with her. There has also been a search committee formed and a job description out for the Associate Vice President for Diversity and Equal Opportunities position. There will soon be candidates brought in for the Vice President for Research position. Our university continues to move forward. Our numbers for research grants and contracts are up. We anticipate going over the 171 million dollar mark next year. Our enrollments are very high in spite of all the turmoil that's been going on, and our graduate enrollment is up by 37%. Furthermore enrollment is up at all of our regional campuses. Also, the President stated that she has never seen students as happy as the USF students are with the classroom setting, the professors and the interaction the professors have with the students. The students are really, really pleased with the good teaching and mentoring they receive.

At this time, the remaining Senators broke up into their voting units to select a representative to serve on next year's Committee on Committees.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Fredric Zerla along with Sherman Dorn, Sara Mandell and other Senators presented the following:

Be it resolved that the USF Faculty Senate express its appreciation to Nancy Jane Tyson for her service as a Faculty Senator and President of the Faculty Senate for the year 2000 - 2001.

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

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