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# AY 2006/2007 SEC meeting minutes: 06 Dec 06

Faculty Senate

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**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

December 6, 2006

3:00 – 5:00 p.m., SVC 5012

Present: Michael Barber, Larry Branch, Roger Brindley, Ilene Frank, Susan Greenbaum, Dale Johnson, Kim Lersch, Pritish Mukherjee, Carol Mullen, Philip Reeder, Dewey Rundus, Steve Tauber, Graham Tobin, John Ward, David Williams

Provost's

Office: Renu Khator, Dwayne Smith, Ralph Wilcox

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. The Minutes from the November 1, 2006, meeting were approved as amended.

**REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT  
MICHAEL BARBER**

President Barber's report consisted of the following:

- The USF Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting will be held Thursday, December 7, on the Tampa campus.
- His visit with the Lakeland faculty was informational and time well spent.
- His visit with Sarasota faculty was rescheduled for January.

**REPORT FROM PROVOST KHATOR**

Provost Khator congratulated USF and Dr. Susan Greenbaum on receiving the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement classification. Dr. Greenbaum recommended to the Provost that she send out a message to those who were involved and thank them for their efforts, particularly Associate Vice President Kathleen Moore and Mr. Dan Gardner, Director of Institutional Effectiveness.

Vice Provost Dwayne Smith discussed the *AAUP Faculty Gender Equity Indicators 2006* report and a handout entitled *The Status of Women Faculty Members at USF – Comparisons with National Peers and State University System of Florida, Research Universities 2005-06*.

Vice Provost Ralph Wilcox then briefly discussed the new draft strategic plan. This draft plan will be presented to the BOT at its meeting on December 7 for its endorsement in principle. The planning process will continue.

Vice Provost Wilcox added that the goal with the Faculty Senate group is to determine how best to continue having conversations about the strategic plan. The question is whether it will be more productive to have extended conversations with the Senate Executive Committee or the Faculty Senate at large.

## REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

### a. Senate Absences (Steve Tauber)

Sergeant-at-Arms Steve Tauber brought to the table the *Bylaws* rule that any Senator with two unexcused absences from meetings during the academic year will be interpreted as having resigned from the Senate. Seven Senators have missed three meetings with an eighth member who is on leave this semester without designating a proxy at any of the three meetings. The Senators that have missed are from Architecture (1), Arts and Sciences (2), Business (1), and Medicine (4). Sergeant-at-Arms Tauber recommended that based upon the *Bylaws* these Senators should be considered resigned and the Faculty Senate should seek replacements from the colleges.

It was decided that a warning from Sergeant-at-Arms Tauber be sent via e-mail to the Senators to inform them of the *Bylaws* rule and that they will be replaced if they do not attend the next Faculty Senate meeting. The procedures to follow if they are going to be absent and what constitutes an absence should also be included in the message. President Barber will announce the same information at the January Faculty Senate meeting.

A brief discussion took place regarding the lack of participation in the Faculty Senate by the St. Petersburg faculty. Parliamentarian Graham Tobin and Secretary Dale Johnson were asked to look into what could be done regarding this situation.

Discussion was also held about the creation of a Bylaws Committee. No final decision was reached at this time.

## OLD BUSINESS

### a. Discussion – The Role of the Faculty Senate (Pritish Mukherjee)

Senator-at-Large Mukherjee pointed out that prior to proceeding on the path to a Constitution it is important to grasp what it really means operationally and what the Faculty Senate does in terms of faculty governance. Three modes of governance could include legislative, executive, and deliberative / consultative roles. It appears that our present role is the last of these modes. Although some Constitutions appear to delegate legislative powers to the Faculty Senate these are often effectively short-circuited by veto powers at upper executive levels of the University. Also, an all-inclusive University Senate (if mandated by the Constitution) would dilute faculty input into the decision-making process. Discussion was held as to how to make the Faculty Senate more effective in its present mode as a deliberative/consultative body. It was agreed that one way would be for the Faculty Senate to proactively define issue(s) that are significant for faculty at large, to develop constructive solutions/recommendations and work with administration to enable implementation.

## NEW BUSINESS

a. Graduate Teaching Award (Michael Barber)

The Graduate Council was asked to consider developing a graduate teaching award, as well as a graduate mentoring award.

b. Regional Campus Representative on Senate Executive Committee (Michael Barber)

Members agreed that an invitation should be extended to Lakeland and Sarasota to send a representative as an observer to the SEC meetings.

c. Faculty Liaisons on BOT Workgroups (Michael Barber)

President Genshaft appoints nominees to the BOT workgroups. Senators John Ward and Dale Johnson noted that they have been asked to serve.

d. New Senator Orientation (Michael Barber)

There will be a New Senator Orientation. President Barber would like to organize a meeting between the SEC and all new Senators in 2007. A suggestion was made to pair a junior and senior Senator as a mentor for each new Senator.

e. Salary-Gender Gap Issue (Michael Barber)

This topic will be put on the agenda for the January Faculty Senate meeting. Vice Provost Smith will be asked to repeat his presentation from today's meeting.

f. Academic Toolkit (Philip Reeder)

On behalf of the Council on Educational Policy and Issues (CEPI), Chair Reeder asked that the council be granted permission to use the Faculty Senate website to send out a letter to solicit information from faculty to be used in an academic toolkit. A motion was made and seconded to grant this permission. The motion was unanimously passed.

g. CEPI and Committee on Faculty Issues (CFI) membership (Phil Reeder)

CEPI Chair Reeder reported that due to the inappropriate actions of a committee member, this individual was asked by him to resign from CEPI. The faculty member sent to President Barber a notification of resignation from both CEPI and the Committee on Faculty Issues. President Barber acknowledged and accepted the individual's resignations. The individual then sent a second message asking that the resignations be rescinded. The SEC members discussed the situation as to whether or not (1) Chair Reeder was within his rights as chair to ask for resignation of a committee member and

(2) if a resignation can be rescinded. The decision was made that Chair Reeder's actions were appropriate and since President Barber had acknowledged the resignations they could not be rescinded.

h. Financial Code of Conduct

It was agreed to have this item on the agenda for the January Faculty Senate meeting.

i. Timed Items for the Senate Meetings

President Barber announced that in order for the Faculty Senate to get through its business items, assigned time limits for everyone will be enforced at the meetings.

**FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY 24, 2007 MEETING**

1. Strategic Plan
2. Salary-Gender Gap Issues (Dwayne Smith)
3. Financial Code of Conduct

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.