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**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MINUTES**

October 18, 2006

Faculty Senate President Michael Barber called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of September 20, 2006, were approved as amended.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT MICHAEL BARBER

President Barber's report consisted of the following items:

- Guidelines for departmental governance structure were distributed via e-mail to the faculty on October 3 from Vice Provost Dwayne Smith. Appreciation was expressed to Provost Khator for her support.
- The Faculty Senate now has an e-mail list composed of approximately 2,500 names to be used in the communication process. Vice President John Ward and Secretary Dale Johnson were thanked for working on this issue. President Barber, Vice President Ward and Secretary Johnson will be moderators of the list. Administrative Assistant Ann Pipkins will be both moderator and administrator. Again, he complimented the Provost for the help with this as well as the web site, which are important means of communications to both the Senate and the rest of the faculty.
- He attended "USF's Activation Day at Busch Gardens" which was arranged by Mr. Jordan Zimmerman, USF alumnus and president of the ninth largest advertising agency in the country. Discussion and comments took place about how to improve the branding of the university. Although the focus was on undergraduate recruitment, a similar event that dealt with graduate recruitment would be an important topic for USF's ascent into top universities.
- He attended two Board of Trustees workgroups (Finance and Audit, and Academic and Campus Environment) in Sarasota, which coincided with the ribbon cutting for the new Sarasota building. Faculty in Sarasota should be complimented on the organization of the day. The main topic of the Finance & Audit Workgroup was parking. The finance group is working on approval for parking garages and discussing potential sites. There was also published information about how the cost of parking is likely to rise over the next few years. Mr. Manuel Lopez, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, would like to propose the establishment of an advisory or discussion group that would have some input into the organization of future parking. President Barber asked for nominees who are interested in discussing the parking problems. Self-nominations are acceptable. He is looking for nominees that if this committee is formed, there would be a Senator to represent the faculty or the Senate on this advisory group for parking.
- Although there was a significant amount of publicity about the incident that occurred at the Institute on Black Life, he offered no comment at this time.

- The Library dean search needs a nominee from the Senate. Anyone interested in serving and/or suggesting a nominee should contact President Barber.
- Aramark Dining Services is setting up a focus group to look at dining options on campus, and they would like two Senators to attend a meeting to comment on food services around the university. Anyone interested in food services, please contact President Barber.
- Fall commencement marshals are needed from the School of Architecture, the College of Business Administration, College of Medicine, Marine Science, and College of Nursing. If interested in functioning at one of the two Fall Commencement ceremonies, Senators should contact President Barber.
- Senator Richard Oehler volunteered to represent the Faculty Senate on the University Lecture Series Committee.
- The Research Council has prepared a preliminary report on research resources which will be a topic for discussion by the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) before being presented to the full Senate.
- Any Senators interested in knowing how the collective bargaining process works were encouraged to attend a session.
- He will be visiting faculty on the Lakeland campus the second week of November to discuss that group's relationship with the Faculty Senate. It is anticipated that President Barber will be meeting for a couple of hours with the faculty at each campus in the upcoming months. He will report on their comments and suggestions for the Faculty Senate.

REPORT FROM PROVOST RENU KHATOR

Provost Khator reported that due to the recent incident in the Institute on Black Life a grants management team, to be headed by either a grant specialist or a grant manager, will be put into place. Vice President of Research Bob Chang will begin the recruiting process so that this problem does not occur in the future.

Provost Khator announced that USF is at the top of the 21st Century Centers of Excellence list with a proposal called "Florida Center for Excellence in Biomolecular Identification and Targeted Therapeutics." A second proposal was also submitted and that one made it to group 3. In addition, USF submitted seven proposals for the World Class Scholars competition. She expressed her appreciation for the hard work all of the faculty put into these proposals.

A Faculty Awards Ceremony will be held on October 26. Everyone was invited to attend to honor their colleagues as they receive awards.

There are three dean searches underway – College of Engineering, Florida Mental Health Institute and the Library. Provost Khator encouraged everyone to attend the interviews when they are scheduled for their respective college.

REPORT FROM USF UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA PRESIDENT ROY WEATHERFORD

United Faculty of Florida (UFF) President Weatherford reported that UFF has agreed to the domestic partner benefits proposal in principle, and it is on the table with collective bargaining. Both UFF and the administration are in favor of it; however, the main point of contention remaining is how to fund it. He pointed out that the last round of bargaining was just completed and the issue may not be addressed until the next round.

At the completion of bargaining talks this year, they finished without an agreement. It may be a while before this year's contract is settled. UFF has already requested that they begin negotiations for next year's quick bargaining agreement. It will not be just salary; it will be the entire contract, which is up for renegotiation. It may be a long and difficult process and UFF would like to start it as soon as is reasonable.

President Weather addressed the issue of the Institute on Black Life pointing out that he had nothing to say about the facts of the matter, but did state that the union's policy has been for more than 20 years that if any tenured faculty member is terminated, UFF will process the grievance all the way up through binding arbitration if that is what the individual requests. In addition, UFF has the policy that the decision whether or not to go to arbitration is made at the highest level of the union's elected leaders. However, to make sure that the union itself never turns down anybody's request, it guarantees in advance that it will pay to take the case to arbitration and will defend the rights to the last stand.

REPORT FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT LIASIONS ALECIA PEACOCK AND SABREENA KHAN

The following Student Government activities were reported by Ms. Peacock and Ms. Khan:

Florida Blood Services

- Student Government is collaborating with the FBS
- Sponsoring FBS to have their blood mobiles on the grass next to Cooper Hall in conjunction with the Bull Market every Wednesday from 10-5pm
- Help advertise during Homecoming Week

Student Advocacy Program

- Student Government is collaborating with the Advocacy Program
- Help advertise the services that are available to students
- Help with the distribution of reading material

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIONS

a. Approval of Nominees for Senate Vacancies (Dale Johnson)

Secretary Johnson reported that the Senate had two vacancies in the College of Medicine for which five nominations (with curriculum vita) were received. After review of the nominations, the SEC recommended Drs. Esteban Celis and Patricia Kruk to the Faculty Senate for review and consideration. The nominations came with a motion from the SEC to approve these recommendations. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

b. Nominations for Committee on Committees (Kim Lersch)

Committee on Committees (COC) Chair Lersch presented the following nominations which had been approved by the COC and the SEC and were presented to the Faculty Senate with a motion to approve:

Kersuze Simeon-Jones, Asst. Professor, World Language Education Department & Africana Studies	Commencement and Convocation Committee
Tapas Das, Professor, Management Systems, Engineering	Committee on Faculty Issues
Paul Terry, Professor, Education	Committee on Faculty Issues
Scott Campbell, Professor, Chemical Engineering	General Education Council
Jane Noll, Instructor, Psychology	General Education Council
Tom Brantley, Assoc. Professor, Music	Undergraduate Council
Dell deChant, Instructor, Religious Studies	Undergraduate Council
Sherman Dorn, Assoc. Professor, Psychology & Social Foundation	Undergraduate Council (one-year term)

The motion to accept these nominations was seconded and unanimously passed.

c. Honorary Degree Recommendations (Rajan Sen)

Honors and Awards Council Chair Sen presented two outstanding candidates, Drs. Braulio Alonso and Jacob Israelachvili, for consideration of Honorary Degrees. Dr. Alonso was recommended for a Doctorate of Education; Dr. Israelachvili for a Doctorate of Engineering by the Honors and Award Council. The recommendations came to the Faculty Senate from both the Honors and Awards Council and the Senate Executive Committee with a motion to approve. The motion was seconded and the nominations unanimously approved. Dr. Alonso will be recognized at the December 16th Commencement which is also his 90th birthday.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Updates on Email Distribution List and Web Site (Dale Johnson)

Secretary Johnson reiterated that the Provost staff has been very helpful in working with Administrative Assistant Ann Pipkins to gather the faculty (as defined by the Constitution) e-mail addresses which have been put into an e-mail list. In addition, Travis Thompson, Coordinator of Computer Applications, has been assigned from the Provost staff to help with the web site. Secretary Johnson pointed out two issues (1) the need to re-design and better implement communications and (2) the need to bring the web site up to date. A number of people have been very helpful, and Ms. Pipkins has worked very hard on this to ensure things are in order. Secretary Johnson added that it will be possible for discussion forums on the site. In essence, it is there but is not functioning at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

a. USF Commitment to Honor (Janet Moore)

Professor Philip Reeder, Chair of the Council on Educational Policy and Issues (CEPI) introduced the topic to the Senators. He explained that Dr. Janet Moore, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, approached CEPI with the documents called “USF Commitment to Honor” and “Living the Commitment” which were drafted by Dr. Moore and a student committee. CEPI voted that the documents be referred to the SEC which discussed the issue and decided that Dr. Moore should attend today’s meeting to talk about the Commitment to Honor to the full Faculty Senate. At this time, Dr. Reeder turned the floor over to Dr. Moore

Dr. Moore explained that in her role as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies she deals with academic dishonesty on a daily basis. Although USF has a Student Code of Conduct, it does not have a policy statement about what academic integrity is. The “Commitment to Honor” and the extended statement “Living the Commitment” were being proposed to the Faculty Senate as positive statements of academic commitment recognizing that USF is a community of scholars built upon principles of intellectual integrity, academic freedom, and academic integrity as vital parts of its mission. In addition, the documents state that USF encourages and supports public scholarship and public discourse with its faculty, students, and the university community. That was the framework for writing these statements.

The Academic Integrity Committee received the Provost’s support of the two statements pending endorsement from all of the constituents within the university. Therefore, Mr. David Brickhouse, Student Government Director of Governmental Relations, and Dr. Moore have been presenting the statements to the leadership of the different university groups.

At this time, President Barber opened the issue for discussion.

Dr. Moore was asked if students would have to sign these statements. The answer was “no.” She added that the Office of the General Counsel had also reviewed the documents and that office does not view them as being legally binding. The question was raised if these commitments could also apply to faculty members as well as students. Dr. Moore replied that is the way the students wrote them, which is, they see the faculty as part of an ethical community of scholars.

A point of information was asked on the sample size and the institutions. Dr. Moore replied that there were twenty institutions that participated in the Academic Integrity Assessment Survey done by researcher Dr. McKay, Professor at Rutledge University. Some of these institutions are not the same size as USF, but some of them are very similar.

At this time, Senator Steven Tauber stated that he had two amendments to introduce. However, the Parliamentary ruling was that the Senate had to first vote on whether or not to accept the proposed statements. If the Senate accepted the statements, amendments would then be discussed. Therefore, the discussion on the statements continued.

Dr. Moore clarified that USF does not have an Honor Code, but it does have a Student Code of Conduct that is suppose to help with how students behave. This statement, however, is not called an Honor Code. It is a Commitment to Honor which purposely says it is a positive statement.

Concern was expressed that the language was not thought through. However, it was pointed out that if some words are changed, then the meaning would be changed.

At this time, due to a lack of quorum, the issue was tabled until the November meeting. Any amendments should be sent directly to Dr. Moore.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Ad Hoc Communication Committee (Michael Barber)

President Barber presented the following proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Communications Committee:

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA FACULTY SENATE

Proposal to Develop an *ad hoc* Faculty Senate Communication Committee

Effective information transfer between the Faculty of the University of South Florida and the members of the Faculty Senate is a vital component of effective University governance and of critical importance to the operation of the Senate and its relationship with its constituents.

To improve both the quality and frequency of the communications between the general faculty and the Senate membership, the Senate proposes the formation of an *ad hoc* Faculty Senate Communications Committee (FSCC) that would be charged with developing the tools required to disseminate the descriptions and results of Faculty Senate activities and discussions to the faculty of the University of South Florida.

The Committee would be comprised of a Chair, who would hold the office of Secretary of the Faculty Senate together with three other Senator's who represent different Colleges within the University and would be appointed from nominees received by the Senate Executive Committee who have expressed a commitment to this activity.

Activities of the FSCC could include, but not be limited to:

Monitoring the organization, content and relevance of information contained on the Faculty Senate web site.

Generating and disseminating a brief monthly meeting synopsis to be delivered to USF faculty within three business days following the Senate's monthly meeting.

The idea behind this proposal was if the Faculty Senate was going to have an email list, a web site, newsletters, and discussion groups, it will need assistance with these items. Therefore, it was proposed, and approved by the SEC at its last meeting, that an Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Communication Committee be established. It requires volunteers to help with such things as what goes on the web site, how will the web site be utilized, what is the e-mail list used for, and what will be put up for discussions. The ad hoc committee will ensure that these things are designed around what the Senators want.

Due to a lack of quorum to vote on this proposal, a discussion was held as to whether or not this was a reasonable thing to do. It was agreed the committee should be established. The Senate Secretary, who is in charge of most of the communication matters, will chair the committee, but volunteers are needed to set up a communication crew to make this system work. President Barber added that if Senators want to have an effective Senate, they should participate. Without an effective web site, without the newsletter, without effective communication, nothing will change. This is one way to start the change. Interested Senators were encouraged to send an e-mail to the Senate Secretary listing skills, what they would like to do and how they would like to contribute. If there are enough volunteers, the committee will move forward as fast as it can.

ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

The following issues were brought up as possible future discussion topics for the Senate:

- web cast of graduation ceremonies
- 70 percent of indirect rate that the Provost controls versus the 30 percent she does not

- Faculty Survey Research results
- 50 percent match by colleges of all start up costs
- Faculty Senate as a legislative body
- college shared governance documents to review
- Peer Review Committee for tenured faculty members

There being no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.