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**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MINUTES**

February 21, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m. by Faculty Senate President Michael Barber. The Minutes from the meeting of January 24, 2007, were approved as presented.

INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC BY FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT MICHAEL BARBER

The first part of the meeting was a discussion, presided over by President Judy Genshaft, of the vision, values, and goals of the developing strategic plan. The last half of the meeting was devoted to Faculty Senate business.

STRATEGIC PLAN TOWN HALL PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT JUDY GENSHAFT

After explaining the process by which the strategic plan was developed, President Genshaft reviewed the vision, mission, values, goals and strategies of the draft strategic plan titled “Shaping Our Future, 2007-12 – *Transforming Higher Education for Global Innovation.*” When the floor was opened for questions, the following suggestions were made:

- The Value of Collegiality could be split into two separate values, one dealing with collegiality and one dealing with academic freedom. The new recommended version might read: “(1) An environment of collegiality based on respect, integrity, civility, and professional responsibility. (2) Academic Freedom must be protected so faculty are free to engage in debate, participate in the free exchange of ideas, and pursue research free from administrative or political interference.” The rationale for the change was that academic freedom is different from collegiality and is central to any university.
- The document should contain a goal of pursuing knowledge for knowledge sake.
- Academic planning is something that needs to be long term. It was recommended that USF look at successful universities to use as models for internal metrics, not external. Governance is critical, not in the five year term but in the 50 year term.
- The organizational culture should be improved so that faculty would feel supported in their research work. Therefore, Goal #4 might contain a statement about how faculty work together.

President Genshaft appreciated the feedback and encouraged faculty to feel free to e-mail additional suggestions/comments to her. There will also be more town hall meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIONS

a. Status of Election Process (Dale Johnson)

Secretary Johnson announced that the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education would be holding run-off elections. The e-ballots will be sent out on Monday, February 26th. Concern was expressed that there were not enough nominations from most of the colleges with vacancies. A brief discussion was held about allowing Instructors to serve on the Faculty Senate. Secretary Johnson replied that it would involve a change to the Constitution. President Barber added that the issue had been defeated in the past by Senators, but he would be agreeable to having it discussed at the next Senate meeting. In addition, the issue of what the Senators want to do with the Senate was raised. This will also be on next month's agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Financial Code of Conduct

Provost Khator reported that a training module is being developed by the Office of Audit and Compliance and members of the Finance and Audit Work Group, including Vice President John Ward. The Faculty Senate will be given the opportunity to review the module before it is finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Graduate Program Issues (Graham Tobin)

Senator Graham Tobin brought to the attention of the Senators that a new masters program has been approved that did not go through the normal procedures. Specifically, the St. Petersburg campus has taken the Masters in Environmental Science and Policy from the Tampa campus and created its own program. He pointed out that no consultation was done with any groups on this campus and a steering committee has been set up to oversee the programs. Discussions with Graduate Dean Delcie Durham are taking place.

b. Graduate Dean Delcie Durham

With the aid of a flow chart, Dean Durham provided information on how graduate programs are approved. Dean Durham stated that the flow chart is available on the Graduate School web site.

c. Proposal to Develop Facilities Committee (Steve Tauber, John Ward)

After attending a meeting of the BOT Finance and Audit Work Group, Vice President John Ward proposed the creation of a Facilities Committee to address

the items that appear on the PECO list and determine how these decisions are made. Provost Khator has indicated that she will provide a representative from her office to serve as a liaison on this committee. Senator Steve Tauber volunteered to chair an ad hoc committee with Vice President Ward as a member. He asked that anyone interested in volunteering to assist in developing a proposal should contact him.

ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

- A representative from Travel will be invited to next month's meeting.
- The United Faculty of Florida/USF Chapter has filed a grievance against the university stating that the Financial Code of Conduct is a term and condition of employment and, as such, it must be negotiated and cannot be arbitrarily set.
- The Commencement and Convocation Committee needs marshals. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Senator Sondra Fogel.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.