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# AY 2007/2008 SEC meeting minutes: 07 Oct 31

Faculty Senate

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**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 31, 2007**

Present: Michael Barber, Laurence Branch, Jennifer Cainas, Emanuel Donchin, Dale Johnson, Gail Donaldson, Susan Greenbaum, Christine Probes, James Strange, Paul Terry, Larry Thompson, Graham Tobin, John Ward

Provost's Office: Renu Khator, Dwayne Smith, Ralph Wilcox

Guests: Glen Besterfield, Michael Bowen

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of October 10, 2007, were accepted as presented.

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

President Barber congratulated Senator Kim Lersch on her promotion to Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Lakeland campus. Senator Philip Shenefelt from the College of Medicine will assume the duties as chair of the Committee on Committees for the remainder of the academic year.

**REPORT FROM PROVOST RENU KHATOR**

Copies of the State of Florida Department of Revenue, Revenue Collection Report were distributed. The state's revenue projections are directly linked to what the state budget will be and ultimately the budget for the university. The information showed a 15 to 37 percent drop in tax revenue indicating that next year's budget crisis will deepen.

Governor Crist has signed a bill that a mandatory 5 percent tuition increase is to be charged to all undergraduate resident students starting January 1, 2008. In addition, the bill also provides for a 5 percent technology fee to be imposed beginning in the 2009-2010 academic year. Beginning with the fall 2008 semester USF, UF and FSU can start charging differential tuition. The Enrollment Management Action Team (EMAT) is looking into what the implications are, how much should be charged, and what kind of tuition should be increased.

Copies of the "Forward by Design" document from the Board of Governors (BOG) were distributed. This is a non-budget directive initiated by the Chancellor. The document addresses the importance of advancing Florida's higher education system. Recommendations included how to improve the quality of graduate degrees, increase baccalaureate degree production, and provide appropriate and predictable funding. Provost Khator recommended that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) may want to have a committee in charge of keeping abreast of these developments.

In two weeks, the hearings will begin on the constitutional challenge from the BOG about their authority and role.

Based upon data compiled from 2005, the University of South Florida (USF) is ranked 35<sup>th</sup> among the public research universities at \$142 million worth of federal contracts and grants.

## **REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS**

a. Report on the Class Scheduling Issue (Emanuel Donchin)

The proposed class schedule was discussed by the Council on Educational Policy and Issues (CEPI) and Chair Donchin reported that the CEPI is recommending to the SEC that it approve the proposed schedule and move it forward to the Faculty Senate. CEPI would like to add to the proposal that there should be an evaluative process within a certain number of years, i.e. three. Second, metrics by which the system will be evaluated will be developed in collaboration with CEPI. Third, the process by which this proposal was arrived at should have been presented to CEPI before it was distributed at large. CEPI will examine this process and determine how, in the future, a better way for the development of a solution would involve more detail and discussion at the level of colleges and departments and actual involvement in implementing policy. An avenue for negotiations should be created. Chair Donchin commented that although CEPI has not arrived at any conclusions, he wanted it in the record that CEPI is not particularly happy with the process. President Barber summarized CEPI's major additions as: (1) an evaluative timeframe period of three years, and (2) a method for evaluation. Past President Susan Greenbaum recommended that another component be added asking faculty how this new schedule is working for them.

At this time, Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies Glen Besterfield distributed the current version of the proposed class schedule (dated October 31, 2007). He pointed out that guidelines and a variance form will accompany this schedule when it is sent to the chairs and schedulers to aid in fitting courses within this grid. All variances must adhere to the standard start times to ensure that students will be able to take the courses they need. Dean Besterfield reiterated that this new schedule is slated to go into affect Fall 2008. It is for undergraduate courses on the Tampa campus, and is suggested for graduate courses. Regional campuses can implement it if they choose.

A motion was made and seconded that the SEC accept the proposed class schedule with CEPI's recommendations and the SEC's modifiers and send it to the Faculty Senate for approval. The motion was discussed. The timeframe was questioned as to when, and if, the schedule was to be taken to the Faculty Senate a second time for a vote. The motion was amended that the SEC approve the class schedule revisions as recommended by CEPI with the caveat that it be distributed electronically to all Senators to vote on the following day. The amended motion was discussed. There was a call to question. A vote was taken and unanimously passed to move the current class schedule forward to the Faculty Senate by electronic vote with a recommendation from CEPI and the SEC that it be approved. Vice Provost Wilcox asked for a point of clarification that he would provide a copy of the most current class schedule and the guidelines document with the addition that this process would be in effect for three years at which point an evaluative process will be in place.

b. Career Ladder for Instructors (Paul Terry)

CFI Chair Terry brought to the table a draft document called Career Ladders for Instructors which was worked on last year by CFI under the tutelage of then chair Laurence Branch. Chair Terry explained that a motion was made by CFI that this document be sent to the SEC with a request that it be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for approval. The CFI did recommend that the words “full time” be inserted in the first line of the document so that it reads “The career ladder for Instructors should be applied to full time, non-tenure-earning faculty... .” At this time, Vice Provost Dwayne Smith informed the SEC that this document is currently being bargained by USF’s United Faculty of Florida (UFF); therefore, it is no longer a CFI or Faculty Senate initiative.

CFI Chair Terry requested of Vice Provost Smith that when this issue is being discussed, the administration include the appropriate academic committee of the Faculty Senate in the discussions. He added that CFI was not apprised that it was being bargained by the UFF. The question was asked as to when does an academic issue become a bargaining issue. Ways to resolve this need to be sought. For now, the issue was tabled. CFI Chair Terry pointed out that CFI will monitor the process of this document.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Voluntary System of Accountability (Michael Bowen)

As a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Voluntary System of Accountability, Senator Bowen was invited to today’s meeting to discuss the committee’s charge and to obtain feedback from the SEC before the committee makes a recommendation to the administration by the end of the week whether or not the university should go forward with the assessment.

The recommendation received from NASULGC is for a much broader system of accountability for public and private universities. The components of the system are: (1) a college portrait, (2) student engagement, and (3) standardized approaches to learning outcomes. Vice Provost Wilcox explained that the invitation came to the university on (1) whether USF should participate, and (2) if yes, in what way should USF choose to participate. If USF chooses to participate, step one, the college portrait, has to be posted within 6 months. The engagement data has to be posted within 2 years; the learning outcome data would have to be posted in 4 years. Discussion was held. It was agreed that Phases 1 and 2 were acceptable, but the SEC advocated that Phase 3 (learning outcomes) was not acceptable and should be studied. Vice President Branch recommended that the Faculty Senate should voice its concern to President Genshaft that until it has seen the reliability and validity of the instrumentation proposed, it would have to withhold its support. President Barber summarized that the SEC finds Phases 1 and 2

less controversial, but due to the lack of evidence did not accept Phase 3 and recommended that it be studied. In addition, it should be determined whether or not to continue participation within the next 4 year period. Senator Bowen will take this recommendation back to the ad hoc committee.

b. Institutional Evaluations

This topic was discussed in Executive Session.

c. Future Agenda Item

CFI Chair Terry relayed from CFI the suggestion that because the Vice President for USF Health is essentially their academic provost, the Senate documents should be edited to state Provost “and Vice President for USF Health.”

## **OTHER**

Due to a question raised about parking permits for Emeritus Professors, the operational process was discussed on how to handle such issues. President Barber asked the SEC to decide if they want to talk about each issue as a body or assign them to a committee to handle. It was agreed to assign issues to the appropriate committee or council after consultation of the SEC. At this time the following issues were assigned:

- use of Emeritus/Emeriti title – Committee on Faculty Issues
- appointment terminology - whether or not employees of the Foundation can be given the title of assistant dean – Committee on Faculty Issues
- use of courtesy appointments – no current policy exists that states at what level or rank one can be appointed as a courtesy appointment - Council on Educational Policy and Issues
- parking permits for Emeritus Professors – Council on Educational Policy and Issues

After these issues have been addressed by the indicated committee/council, recommendations should be presented to the SEC for review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.