

1-1-2008

AY 2007/2008 SEC meeting minutes: 08 Jul 11

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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
July 11, 2008

Present: Michael Barber, Elizabeth Bird, Ellis Blanton, Larry Branch, Gail Donaldson, Emanuel Donchin, Susan Greenbaum, Sang-Hie Lee, Gene Ness, Christine Probes, Arthur Shapiro, Larry Thompson

Guests: Tapas Das, Kofi Glover, Dwayne Smith, Linda Whiteford, Ralph Wilcox

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. President Barber explained that this meeting was called as an outgrowth of the June 18th Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting so that Provost Wilcox could report on the implication and progress of the proposed realignment, recent budget information, and other issues that have been developed as to how the campus will operate.

REALIGNMENT DISCUSSION

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) had the opportunity at today's meeting for a frank exchange of opinions with Provost Wilcox regarding the "realignment" plans announced in mid-June 2008. The SEC shared with the Provost the concerns expressed in its meeting of June 18, 2008 which, in general, focused on the case made for the realignment, in its specific details, as well as with the degree of consultation with many of the affected stake holders. In particular, the SEC noted that the Senate, even though it is officially charged as the primary faculty advisory body to the administration, has been neither informed nor consulted on the realignment. A very detailed discussion followed.

The SEC was encouraged by the Provost's indication that he is completely flexible on the details of the realignment and that he is entirely open to consider, at least for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), a set of proposals that is being developed at this time by a majority of the chairs in the CAS. The Provost stated that all chairs, including those of the departments now associated with the "School of Science and Mathematics" will be included in the discussions. Furthermore, it was acknowledged that the emergent governance document will not hinder those chairs who wish to be associated with the School of Science and Mathematics from doing so.

The SEC commends the Provost on the flexibility and openness he articulated and encourages the active continuation of the efforts of the CAS chairs.

In view of the events of the last few weeks the SEC recognized a need for a clearer articulation of the policies and procedures that should guide the campus and its administrators in proposing and implementing any realignments that go beyond the internal governance actions of departments and colleges. Hence the SEC charged the Council on Educational Policy Issues with drafting such a policy to be considered by SEC at its next meeting, scheduled for July 23, 2008.

Other issues from Provost Wilcox

He announced that there will be an additional base budget reduction mid-year. This amounts to a total reduction of 18 million dollars with a 7 million dollar reduction in Academic Affairs on the Tampa campus. It is anticipated that it will be July, 2010 before any appreciable turnaround will be seen.

The Provost indicated that he would like to work with President-elect Branch on ways that might enhance the partnership between the SEC and the Provost Office during SEC meetings by adding meaningful agenda items that would add substance to the discussions at these meetings.

University-wide task force steering committees are in the process of being created for the fall semester in the areas of global engagement, faculty roles, rewards, and responsibilities, and integrated interdisciplinary inquiry.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Final Draft – Revised Faculty Handbook (Larry Branch)

Vice President Branch announced that he has received recommended corrections on the revised handbook. However, due to the other critical issue at hand, it was agreed that the SEC members need more time to review and respond to the handbook. It will be revisited at the July 23rd SEC meeting. In the meantime, corrections should be sent to Vice President Branch.

OTHER

- a. The Minutes from the June 18, 2008, meeting were approved as corrected.
- b. President Barber recommended that the Senate membership composition stay as it is until further notice. In addition, committee appointments should be made for one year to be renewed in the future depending on the outcome of the proposed realignment.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion of Proposed Relocation of Faculty Senate Office

Due to time limitations, discussion of this item was postponed. However, it was clarified that no action would occur without the proposal being discussed by the SEC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.