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## AY 2007/2008 FS meetings minutes: 08 Feb 20

Faculty Senate

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**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 20, 2008**

Faculty Senate President Michael Barber called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. The Minutes from the January 23, 2008, meeting were approved as corrected.

**REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

a. Honorary Degree Recommendations (Steve Cooke)

On behalf of the Honors and Awards Council (HAC) Chair Steve Cook presented the following candidates for the Honorary Degree:

- Ms. Trisha Brown, Doctor of Visual and Performing Arts
- Dr. Lewis A. Barness, Doctor of Public Health

Both recommendations were approved by the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and presented to the Faculty Senate with a motion to approve. President Barber opened the floor for discussion. Hearing no comments or questions, the motion from the SEC was seconded and unanimously passed to approve these two honorary degree recommendations and forward them to President Genshaft.

b. Proposed Revisions to Committee/Council Charges (Philip Shenefelt)

Committee on Committees (COC) Chair Shenefelt reported that the COC had received three requests for revisions to charges: minor revisions from the Undergraduate Council and the Council on Education Policy and Issues (CEPI), and a substantial revision to the charge of the Commencement and Convocation Committee (CCC). All the proposed revisions were forwarded to the Faculty Senate from the SEC with a recommendation to approve. The requests were separately reviewed.

Undergraduate Council Charge: Proposed revisions were made to the Responsibilities, the Operating Procedures, and the Membership sections of the charge. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed revisions. This motion unanimously passed.

Council on Educational Policy and Issues: Proposed revisions were made to the sections on Responsibilities and Membership. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed revisions. The motion unanimously passed.

Commencement and Convocation Committee: COC Chair Shenefelt explained that the charge for this committee was outdated and needed to be completely revised. Justification for the revised charge was provided by the CCC Chair. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed revised charge. This motion unanimously passed.

c. Committee on Committee Recommendations (Philip Shenefelt)

COC Chair Shenefelt presented following Faculty Senate Standing Committee and Council recommendations approved by the COC:

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS  
Spring Semester 2008**

Committee on Faculty Issues  
Kathleen Armstrong (COM)

Council on Educational Policy and Issues  
Lynn Wecker (COM)  
Donald Wheeler (COM)

Council on Technology for Instruction and Research  
Don Hilbelink (COM)  
Smita Mathur (Lakeland)

General Education Council  
Philip Levy (CAS)  
Victor Peppard (CAS)

Governmental Relations Committee  
Beata Casanas (COM)

Graduate Council  
Patricia Kruk (COM)

Honors and Awards Council  
Pat Daniels (EDU)

Library Council  
Eleni Manolaraki (CAS)

Research Council  
Dana Zeidler (EDU)

Undergraduate Council  
Jay Coble (VPA)

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Committee on Committees recommendations as presented. President Barber called for discussion. Hearing none, this motion was unanimously passed. These nominations will be forwarded to the appropriate appointing body.

d. Election Nomination Results (Dale Johnson)

Secretary Johnson's report consisted of the following:

- The College of Arts Sciences is the only college to hold an election with voting scheduled to begin at midnight, February 20, 2008, and end at midnight, March 3, 2008. There are nine nominations to fill seven vacancies.
- Voting is electronic; however, paper ballots obtained from the Faculty Senate Office will also be accepted.
- Eighteen nominations were received for twenty-four Senate vacancies.
- Nominations are still needed from the School of Architecture, College of Education, Louis de la Parte FMHI, and the College of Medicine.
- Election results will be announced at the March meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR**

There were no issues from the floor.

**REPORT FROM PROVOST RALPH WILCOX**

Provost Wilcox's report consisted of the following:

Spring Commencements will be held on May 2-3, 2008. Senate members should have received invitations. The campus catering service will provide light refreshments on Friday night and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Senators were asked to encourage colleagues to join in the festivities. A discussion was held on the importance of honorary degrees providing prominent thinkers an opportunity to interact with students.

Update - Fundraising and Developments

Recent gifts to USF include:

- A \$2 million donation, along with a matching gift of \$2 million from the State, will create the Helios Education Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund. These funds will be used primarily for students coming from diverse backgrounds with economic needs.

- A \$5 million anonymous check arrived from Wells Fargo made payable to the University of South Florida Foundation. These funds will be paid out annually to support need-based scholarships. This donation increases the endowment to approximately \$13 million dollars.

Other projects underway:

- The parking garage located at the corner of USF Alumni and Richard A. Beard Drives is nearing completion.
- A one thousand bed residence hall in the Magnolia area is under construction.
- Ground breaking on the new music building is ready to take place. This will be fully funded by the State Legislature.
- The Interdisciplinary Science, Teaching, and Research facility is awaiting \$10 million dollars in final funding approval in the upcoming Legislative session.
- The Patel Center is ready to move forward, thanks to a generous gift from Dr. Patel, matched by the State.
- Congratulations to Professor Phil Motta who was featured on national television during a segment of The Today Show. He was swimming with whale sharks off the coast of Mexico. This exposure brings national attention to USF's biology department's collaboration with colleagues from the Mote Marine Lab working with various species of sharks.

Update – Budget Cutbacks

Short-term solutions are underway for this fiscal year's shortfalls, along with long-term planning for next year's fiscal budget. The Provost will be meeting with the Budget Priorities Advisory Task Force, as well as department chairs, to review a set of recommendations on moving forward by realigning, reducing investments, consolidating, and perhaps eliminating programs. Other budget reduction initiatives under consideration include:

- Preparation of an Enrollment Reduction Plan for USF. This plan will be an incremental reduction for next year.
- Not to admit lower-level transfer students Fall Semester, eliminating approximately 600 full-time equivalent (FTE) students.
- A contract with Florida community colleges that those students are guaranteed a place at a Florida university.
- Support of incremental growth on this campus at the graduate level.
- Redistribution of enrollment to the other regional campuses in such a way so as not to lose economic base on the Tampa campus.

Update – Plans for Hiring Vacant Faculty Lines

Twenty-four requests to fill vacant faculty lines have been approved. The remaining faculty lines are being retained pending budget decisions from the Legislature in early March.

## Future Preparation

An Academic Affairs Budget Planning Workgroup has been formed to assist in future guidance of budget planning. This group will be comprised of three deans, three chairs, and three faculty members from the Tampa campus only. The charge is threefold: (1) resetting base budgets in Academic Affairs consistent with an easily understood and strategically appropriate set of ratios, (2) establishing appropriate budget rules, and (3) developing a transparent and sustainable budget planning process for Academic Affairs for the present and future.

## Responses from Provost Wilcox to questions from Senators

(1) The Budget Priorities Advisory Task Force recommendations submitted by the deans will be shared after the committee members have had an opportunity to review them. (2) Human Resources may be overwhelmed by the number of employees laid off during the budget reduction. Preplanning in this regards would be appropriate; possibly an evaluation of the system should be done. (3) There needs to be some way of attracting high powered commencement speakers.

## **REPORT FROM VICE PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION KAREN HOLBROOK**

Dr. Holbrook gave an informative and helpful presentation outlining important goals pertaining to research budget planning.

## **REPORT FROM USF UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA PRESIDENT SHERMAN DORN**

UFF President Dorn encouraged Senators to contact Legislative leaders to let them know what the consequences of the budget cuts will be for students.

Union-sponsored workshops will be held during Spring Break to assist with the process for those who are going up for tenure next year.

Several USF card centers are still asking for social security numbers. Employees are not required to provide social security numbers, but to give employee identification numbers instead.

The operational audit results have been completed and there were thirteen findings. One of major concern was the issue of not giving proper leave compensation to exiting employees. This particular finding was of the lowest priority and not scheduled to be addressed until next year. Faculty and others who leave the university should not be at the bottom of a legal issue.

## **REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT MICHAEL BARBER**

President Barber provided the following items of information:

- Conveyed a vote of thanks from Vice President Jeffery Robinson on the thoughtful and challenging issues that the Senate brought forward during his presentation at last month's meeting. A recognition of donors called the "1956 Society" has been established for donors who give considerable sums of money to USF.
- Recognition and thanks were extended to those who serve on the Budget Priorities Advisory Task Force for their outstanding efforts. The activities of that task force are coming to conclusion.
- The SEC informed the Undergraduate Council that it did not support the A+ grading system.
- A request was received from the Student Government that the state-mandated course evaluations be made available to students on-line. The SEC recommended to the Provost that results be put on-line for student access through the Provost Office rather than being housed on the Student Government web site.
- The SEC has received preliminary suggestions about how to include community engagement in the tenure promotions guidelines.
- Apportionment and representation at the regional campuses is still under review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.