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## AY 2007/2008 FS meetings minutes: 08 Mar 19

Faculty Senate

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**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
MINUTES  
March 19, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. The Minutes from the February 20, 2008, meeting were approved as presented.

**REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

a. Election Results (Dale Johnson)

The following elected Senators for the 2008/2009 Academic Year were introduced: Arts and Sciences - Elizabeth Bird, Lisa Rapp-Paglicci, Sidney Pierce, James Garey, Kenneth Cissna, Rosalie Baum, Sarath Witanachchi; Business Administration - Michael Barnett (second term); Florida Mental Health Institute - Gregory Teague; Marine Science - Kendra Daly; Medicine - Orhan Arslan, Beata Casanas, Ardeshir Hakam (second term); and Lakeland - William D. Armitage (continuing). These Senators will begin their terms at the beginning of fall semester 2008. Vacancies remain for: School of Architecture (1 three-year term); College of Education (1 three-year term), Louis de la Parte FMHI (1 one-year term) College of Medicine (2 three-year terms; 1 two-year term), and St. Petersburg (2 one-year terms).

Secretary Johnson announced that officer nominations for the 2008-2009 Academic Year are due by the close of business on Friday, March 21, 2008. All officer positions are open. The President term is for two years; all other offices are one year terms. Nomination forms must be signed by the nominee and the nominator. A statement of qualifications and goals for the position must be submitted. Nominees may also provide a web site linked to their curriculum vita. The election will be held electronically with voting open beginning March 24 until April 3, 2008. Discussion was held regarding the statement of goals. It was decided that candidates could submit a 100-word statement to be posted along with a current curriculum vita or a two-page biographical sketch.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Senate Joint Resolution 2308

Documents from the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) regarding Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 2308 were provided to the Senators by Past President Susan Greenbaum. SJR 2308 is a proposed constitutional amendment to establish an elected education commissioner who would sit as a member of the Cabinet. In addition, a separate initiative was presented that will centralize control of Florida's public universities by replacing the Board of Governors with a newly appointed seven member

coordinating body and a restructured Board of Trustees, both of which will be fully and directly regulated by the Legislature. If the bill passes both the Senate and the House with the required 3/5 vote, it will go on the November 2008 general election ballot as a new constitutional amendment. If passed, the bill would be implemented on July 1, 2009. (cited from Chancellor Mark Rosenberg's e-mail message to the Board of Governors, March 1, 2008)

Discussion was held. Past President Greenbaum stated that neither the ACFS nor the United Faculty of Florida is in favor of this proposed legislation. The overall consensus of the Faculty Senate was that it is not supportive of the proposed change.

A motion was made by Senator Permut that the President of the Faculty Senate be empowered by the Senate to draft a strong statement of opposition to the resolution. In drafting the resolution response, the President may confer with any relevant faculty and administrator deemed appropriate by him in the development and delivery of the text. The motion was seconded. After a brief discussion, there was a call to question and a vote was taken with the motion being passed.

b. Faculty Appreciation Events

Assistant Vice President and Dean for Students Kevin M. Banks reported the following:

Greek Life

- Presently there are 39 organizations with 1,500 students in those organizations. In 2007, these organizations raised more than \$48,600 in funds for various philanthropies.
- The average GPA for fall 2007 was 2.79. Currently, many of the sororities are researching the possibility of raising the GPA chapter requirements for students to participate in Greek Life.
- During the past year, Greek Life participated in the National Assessment Program for university and college campuses. USF was one of eleven universities involved in the program.

Dr. Banks introduced Ms. Ashley Newman and Ms. Mandy Tosey who are members of the Delta-Delta Sorority. Ms. Newman, Chair of Faculty Appreciation for Greek Week 2008, extended an invitation to the Senators to attend the Faculty Appreciation Carnival to be held on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at Greek Village.

Ms. Torsey, Chair of Faculty and Academic Affairs, introduced herself as the liaison to work with the faculty and Greek Life.

## **ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR**

The question was asked if it would be possible for the people who are nominated for offices to give a campaign speech on their goals and achievements at today's meeting. Secretary Johnson

responded that because the deadline for nominations was Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, it would not be fair to those who have not yet been nominated. Therefore, no speeches were given.

A remark was made that the links to the curriculum vitae for the general election were problematic. Discussion was held, and it was unanimously agreed that nominees could provide either a two-page biography or a current curriculum vitae, plus a 100-word statement of goals to be posted on the Faculty Senate web site. In addition, candidates will be able to supply a web link to their curriculum vitae.

## **REPORT FROM PRESIDENT JUDY GENSHAFT**

President Genshaft's report consisted of the following:

- The three areas of expense for the state are Medicare, prisons, and then education. This is the order of priorities that are being dealt with by the Legislature.
- The Legislature is asking for a 5 percent tuition increase next year.
- The 2008-2009 fiscal year budget cuts are expected to increase due to the fact there will not be any non-reoccurring money.
- The cut across all of the state universities this year is 5.4 percent. Next year's budget cuts could be as much as 10 percent.
- Approximately 23 percent of USF's budget is funded through the State, and it is anticipated that this amount will be reduced to 18 or 19 percent.
- The importance of consolidation of services and purchasing was emphasized.

## **REPORT FROM CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER AND ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL PEARCE**

Faculty Senate President Barber presented a brief introduction of newly appointed Chief Technology Officer Michael Pearce. Dr. Pearce was asked to attend today's meeting to share with the Senators his vision of technology for the university. He stated that the focus is upon the technologies and how they are used in order to achieve the goals, the mission and the objectives associated with the strategic plan.

## **REPORT FROM PROVOST RALPH WILCOX**

Provost Wilcox reported that the findings of the Academic Affairs Budget Priorities Advisory Task Force have been posted. One-third of the task force members are Senators making the Senate involvement very strong. Leaders (department chairs and deans) have been asked to respond to the report.

Thirty-three faculty searches were approved for continuation of a search. One hundred vacant faculty positions are frozen which equals approximately 10 million dollars. He pointed out that up until this time, tenured and tenure-eligible faculty positions have been preserved. Whether this can be continued is unknown. This year cash from vacant positions remains in place in those colleges to support operating needs in the current fiscal year.

The Provost will be meeting with the deans to determine how to reduce the budget by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Criteria to be used include quality, student demand, and broader community demand to determine the continuation of a program. It will be a systemic process seeking input from all stakeholders. Everything will be taken into consideration along with the contribution it makes to the academic programs. More information about the budget reductions will be forthcoming within three to four weeks.

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

President Dorn reported the following:

- Senators were referred to web site ([www.facultyatourusf.org](http://www.facultyatourusf.org)) for information on how the USF Chapter of United Faculty of Florida (UFF) is attempting to educate the public.
- USF has filed a lawsuit in State Court to overturn the issue of travel to certain nations. This is separate from the ACLU Federal lawsuit. It is a State lawsuit and does involve the constitutional authority activating the freedom of political rights, all within the State constitution and contractual rights.
- In terms of questions of what came up during today's meeting regarding departmental reorganizations, his concern is that if departments are merged and someone is going up for tenure next year, there will be another group of faculty that are unfamiliar. What is far worse is disbursed faculty which makes it a very difficult situation where departments are unfamiliar with faculty going up for tenure.
- Regarding the issue of layoffs, two provisions reflected in the collective bargaining agreement in the layoff unit are relevant: 1) tenured faculty are let go last; and 2) in terms of notice, the language of the contract states "a year's notice, unless it is not possible." If the USF Chapter of the UFF hears that a tenure faculty member is to be given notice and that notice is less than the normal year, it will start looking for cash in various budget positions to be used to give that that tenured faculty a year's notice.
- There were several issues on the table at the last bargaining session other than salaries, such as language that came mostly from a joint committee on domestic partner health insurance and parental leave of absence.

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

President Barber announced that more information on the Academic Affairs Budget Priorities Advisory Task Force can be found on the Provost Office website.

The Provost is forming another task force to look at faculty activities and will be nominating Senators to become involved on that task force.

Next month's meeting is the last meeting for the Senate for this academic year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.