The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. The Minutes from the February 21, 2001, meeting were approved as presented.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Nancy Tyson)

President Tyson began by welcoming as guests at today's meeting the new Senators-elect, incoming in Fall 2001, and thanked them for their interest in faculty governance.

She announced that she and Past President Jesse Binford had attended on March 2, 2001, a special meeting of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates in Tallahassee. They met with John Winn, Executive Director of the Florida Educational Governance Reorganization Task Force (FEGRTF) for two hours and discussed issues related to the reorganization. Past President Binford provided very useful perspective for Winn and the rest of the group on the Johns Commission in the 1960's, and brought some contemporary news clippings which illustrated what can happen when academic freedom is abridged. That had an impact on everyone assembled apparently including John Winn. Not much else of substance was accomplished, other than the establishment of somewhat greater rapport, but afterwards it was very clear to the Senate leadership that from this point our attention must concentrate immediately on the Legislature.

President Tyson reported on current legislative activity with regard to the House and Senate bills being introduced to convey the Task Force recommendations into law. The newly reformed Governmental Relations Committee (GRC) of the Faculty Senate has produced a set of three amendments with which they are in the process of approaching key Representatives and Senators who are on the committees directly involved with the reorganization legislation. (Copies of the amendments were distributed to the Senate at this meeting.) The strategy of the GRC was to pick three crucial issues out of the many important ones and focus intensively on those. President Tyson summarized the three amendments and gave background on the document, explaining how its preamble was designed to counter the insistence of the Task Force on "student-centered" education and on the student-as-consumer. She stressed that the document was being submitted for informational purposes only, as there was no time for further revision. Some debate ensued nonetheless, until Senator Dorn brought attention to the ten-minute rule. President Tyson concluded this portion of her report by cautioning the Senators, and asking them to warn their constituents as well, that while it is perfectly legal and right for the Senate to lobby as a body, there have been some "not-so-subtle innuendoes" to the effect that individual
faculty may not lobby using university computer or phone accounts, stationery, or equipment to contact legislators with statements of opinion. If you do lobby individually, you may use nothing paid for by the state.

Next, President Tyson announced that Trudie Frecker, Associate VP for Human Resources, is taking a proactive approach by presenting to the new university board, on its establishment, a desired benefits package (including retirement, health, other insurance and leave), instead of waiting for the newly formed board to formulate one. To that end, Frecker is putting together a work group of representatives of various employee groups from across the university to formulate the proposal, and she is asking for two volunteers from the Faculty Senate to represent the faculty, working on the project in biweekly meetings through this summer. Senators Sara Mandell and Richard Taylor promptly volunteered for the project. Senator Fred Zerla suggested that it would be advisable also to have a faculty member from the College of Business Administration as a consultant, and President Tyson agreed to communicate that point to Associate VP Frecker.

In closing, President Tyson urged the Senators to attend the upcoming Provost Search Forums and represent the voice of the faculty by filling out the evaluation forms that will be available at every session. She stressed the importance of the process for the future of the Faculty Senate and for the future of faculty governance at USF. Senator Heide asked whether the Forum times information could be posted to the various listservs. President Tyson agreed that would be an excellent idea and promised to post it to USF-NEWS, USF-TALK, and the Faculty Listserv. She then turned the meeting over to President Genshaft, who had arrived during President Tyson's report. President Tyson asked President Genshaft to make a report on recent developments and allow the Senators to ask some questions.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Genshaft said it was good to see all of us again, and noted that this is such a great university. She would be happy to answer questions about anything, but she had three things she wanted to talk about: the various searches that are going on, the situation with New College, and the things that are happening in the Legislature. She also wanted to thank everyone who was able to participate in the Inaugural events. It really showed off USF to our guests. The community was taken aback with all that USF has to offer.

With regard to searches, the Provost is the Number 2 person in the university, so that is very important. When the President is not on campus, the Provost acts in the President's stead. Another search going on is in response to Judge Hatchett's report, comparing our policies and procedures with those of the other nine universities in the SUS. What we've done is combine our Office of Diversity (formerly in the Provost's office) and our Office of Equal Opportunity Affairs (formerly in the Human Resources area) into Diversity and Equal Opportunity Affairs. The new Associate VP will report directly to the Provost and be part of the President's staff. There is a search committee for this position being put together, including members of the Senate. The committee members will be made public as soon as it is finalized. This will be a place for all students to come and air concerns, a locus for advocacy. A third search is for a new Athletic Director. The President and Director Paul Griffin had been having a conversation for 8 months that got more and more intense. Paul had given a great deal to the university for 15 years, but the integrity of the university was also at stake and there were some very difficult decisions to be made. So within the next week or so, there will be a search for that position initiated. This was not an easy decision to make, but it had to be made for the sake of the integrity of the university.

With regard to New College and the regional campuses in general: Ever since last July [2000], she's said that the regional campuses are very important to our mission, especially in
serving the community. The students deserve an accredited degree from a major university, the taxpayers don't need duplication in every regional campus starting all over again in everything they do, and the Tampa Bay region, including Lakeland, is very powerful, and it's very important that we have that kind of base. It's very important that as those campuses grow they have their own autonomy. She believes it's in the best interest of New College to stay with USF, and she told the faculty and their National Board Foundation so last Fall, when they agreed and wrote a resolution to stay with USF. They had joined USF in 1976 when they were in dire fiscal distress. Now any money they make is their own through the Foundation. Around Christmas they started to change their attitudes. Recently there have been some letters going on, all behind the scenes. The Executive Director of New College Foundation wrote a letter to all of the local board members saying that he thought New College should separate from USF, and then the Executive Board began talking about separating. And of course Senator McKay is very much in favor of doing so. Then the students started to take it up. She told them that it would be difficult for them to be independent as a private institution in a public system, with 650 students, over fifty percent of whom are from out of state. If they go independent, USF will be a good neighbor, but if they stay, USF will build them up. The Board at New College wanted to go, but the faculty wanted to stay. The communities in Sarasota-Manatee, Lakeland and St. Petersburg are one hundred percent behind staying with USF, but New College is the only one where the community was shaky, so that is why she took the position that she did, because the Legislature is halfway through, and you don't know what's going to happen. She doesn't want to look back there and suddenly find that she has no one supporting her.

The President confirmed that the legislative process is moving very fast. We are fighting to have the cuts to the campuses restored. We have a very positive sign on our building and construction list. Our thirteen million dollar Environmental Sciences Building is in both the House and Senate. We have planning money for Nursing and Health Sciences, regional campuses, and remodeling our chemistry building. We've just had an evaluator come in for a new interdisciplinary Cancer/Biology Ph.D. program. The May Board of Regents meeting will be here in Tampa. It will be important because we have a lot of new degrees that we want to get through.

President Genshaft stated that she had time for a few questions and then she would have to leave for another meeting. Parliamentarian Sara Mandell alluded to the reorganization involving the new Vice President for Diversity, observing that Dr. Edouard Piou has done a marvelous job and inquiring how he would be affected by having a new Vice President put in a position over him. President Genshaft answered that, in the first place, he would be more than welcome to apply for this position, and if he chose to do so he would certainly be a candidate. If he chose not to, this is an office that requires a lot of good work to be done, and his talents are very important. She is hoping that we can turn this around to be a very positive venue.

President Genshaft's response to the question if the Legislature does approve cutting New College, what will be the effect on the university programs we currently have was that they will grow stronger. There may be some planning money coming in, but it still will be a shared facility. Nobody is going to be evicted right away.

Senator Sherman Dorn recalled that when President Genshaft visited the campus as a candidate more than a year ago she gave a very firm affirmation of academic freedom. Would she be willing to commit today, he asked, that the first act she would encourage the new university board to make later this year would be to create an academic freedom policy for this university regardless of what the state Legislature does? President Genshaft responded: "Academic freedom is a value that is the core of what we're all about, and I would be glad to work with this body on that. I have absolute conviction to work with you
on academic freedom. Absolutely."

Senator Kathleen Heide questioned the President with regard to House Bill 1533 (Education Reorganization): "Have you and the other State University Presidents taken a position on this bill with regard to the Faculty Senate's Amendment #1 creating a separate coordinating board for the state universities?" President Genshaft noted that she had not previously seen this document (which was nonexistent prior to 3/11/2001), but said she would "go back to my statement that I've made over and over again that we're a university that can survive and do well in either structure." Ohio State and SUNY-Albany both had governing boards, and it worked, and "we are fortunate enough to have the size, the depth, the power base, the dynamism, that we will be fine in either of those structures, because we are the power base that we are. And I don't feel quite the same way that I believe the other Presidents of the small universities are worried with this new structure." At this point, President Tyson objected that "We (faculty) are worried not only about our university. We are worried about the whole university system and about the future of the whole profession, so that isn't too reassuring, that USF will be fine." President Genshaft replied that there are plenty of universities that have their own boards and where academic freedom is not in jeopardy, in Ohio: Case Western, Bowling Green, Dayton, Cincinnati, Kent State, and "all privates." "But that's not to say that I'm advocating for it," President Genshaft said. "My role is to look out mainly for USF, and we are going to be fine in either setting."

Senator Sang-Hie Lee asked where is the School of Music going to be on the PICO list. The reply: It's on the five-year plan; it was never on the three-year plan. It will come up next year.

Parliamentarian Mandell recalled that since the time that President Castor first appointed a Faculty Assistant, the Faculty Assistant traditionally changes every year and is chosen by a faculty committee, and that this has not happened. It did happen last summer President Genshaft said. There was a faculty committee that advised her on the various individuals who applied. It is an excellent opportunity for a faculty member who wants to have some experience with administration, and it will happen again this year.

President Genshaft on leaving for her next meeting reiterated that "we do have a great university."

INTERIM PROVOST'S REPORT (David Stamps)

The Provost announced that just this morning another bill had been introduced which will slow down the reorganization process. This bill states that the Board of Education will be named as of July 1st; however, faculty and staff members will remain State employees for one year rather than become public employees. The Provost pointed out that the difference is that as long as one is a State employee, you remain within the State system. Once you become a public employee the institution becomes the employer and, therefore, sets up its own system of benefits. Provost Stamps hopes that the bill does pass which would give USF more time to deliberate on benefits plans.

During the 2000/2001 Academic Year there were ninety-one tenure and promotion applications. The Provost's Office is currently undergoing deliberations. Letters to the candidates will be going out during the first week of April notifying them of the disposition of their applications. President Genshaft will submit the final recommendations to the BOR at its May meeting.

There were five nominees for the Distinguished University Professor Award. The colleges represented are the Fine Arts, New College, Nursing, Business Administration and Arts and Sciences. It is anticipated that the Provost will be able to make an announcement of an
appointment of one, but not more than two, Distinguished University Professors.

In regard to the current searches, Provost Stamps announced that the College of Marine Science Dean search has advanced to telephone interviews with three candidates. A letter of offer has been completed for Dr. Louis Martin Vega for the position as Dean of the College of Engineering. A committee has been selected for the Associate Vice President for Diversity and Equal Opportunity search which will be chaired by Dr. Barbara Morrison-Rodriguez. The final composition of the committee will announced shortly. The search for a Libraries Dean is moving along well.

Progress is being made for setting up plans to provide additional incentives for faculty in obtaining external grants. The plan includes allowing faculty to write into their grants release time for research. A stipend will be provided back to the faculty for a portion of that release time. The Provost recognized Professor Melvyn Tockman, Chair of the Research Council and a member of the Faculty Council, both of whom have been very active in this process.

The BOR requested 6,629 additional FTE's for the State University System which would cost approximately 72 million dollars. USF's share would have been approximately 7.5 million dollars. The House funded 628 FTE's but at a lower rate, budgeting approximately 58 million dollars. USF's share would have been 7.6 million dollars under this funding. The Senate enrollment is much less, but it has added a proviso which allows universities to keep tuition money raised due to over-enrollment. Provost Stamps indicated that this will not be a good budget year because government officials are working as hard as possible to try and restore many of the cuts done by both the Senate and the House.

At this time, Parliamentarian Sara Mandell made a motion that the Faculty Senate endorse the proposed amendments to HB 1533 Florida Education Governance Reorganization as written by the Faculty Senate Governmental Relations Committee and presented by President Tyson. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

**UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA**

There was no report given at today's meeting.

**REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS**

a. Senate Election Report (James Vastine)

Secretary Vastine presented the 2001/2002 Faculty Senate Election Final Report which listed those Senators who were automatically seated, as well as the outcome of the elections which were held.

Next, nominations were taken from the floor for President, Vice President, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, Senator-at-Large to the Executive Committee, and the Bylaws Committee (3 positions). The final slate of 2001/2002 Faculty Senate officers is: Senator Gregory Paveza for President, Senator Marion Becker for Vice President, Senator Jana Futch for Secretary, Senator Jacob Caflisch for Sergeant-at-Arms, and Senator Sara Mandell for Senator-at-Large. The composition of the Bylaws Committee is Senators John Ward, Roger Crane, and Jeffrey Ryan.

The Committee on Committees caucus to decide who will represent each voting unit will be held at the April Faculty Senate meeting. The chair for the Committee on Committees will then be selected from that group.
b. **Committee on Committees** (Jenifer Schneider)

Chair Schneider presented a slate of nominations for Faculty Senate Standing Committees and Councils along with a slate of nominations for the President's Committees and Councils. A motion was made to accept the nominations to these various committees and councils. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

In addition, the Committee on Committees was assigned the task of reviewing all the charges for the Standing Committees and Councils of the Faculty Senate in an effort to consolidate or disband those committees and councils that are inactive or whose purposes have changed over time. Based upon this review, Chair Schneider presented the following recommendations from the Committee on Committees:

**Academic Computing Committee and Instructional Technology Council**

The chairs of these two groups should meet to determine whether or not there is a need for two separate committees that deal with very similar issues. In addition, there is some overlap on their membership rosters.

**Bachelor of Independent Studies Committee**

The consensus was to disband this committee. There was no annual report from the committee, but it appears, based on the membership of this committee, that it is primarily a committee of the College of Arts and Sciences. However, we recommend that the BIS chair should be asked to defend its existence as a Faculty Senate Standing Committee before a final decision is made.

**Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee**

It was recommended that this committee be disbanded because some of the functions as set forth in the charge are no longer valid. For example, this committee is charged to review TIP and PEP procedures. In addition, any requirements for tenure and promotion are negotiated through our contracts. Therefore, this committee can not affect change on the tenure and promotion process. However, with new restructuring taking place, and the abolishment of the BOR, there may be a future need for this committee. If there is a need for a Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee, a new charge should be written to reflect the needs of the faculty at that time.

**University Honors Program Committee**

It is recommended that this committee be disbanded. Currently, committee members from across the university serve in an advisory role to the director of the Honors Program. We now recommend that the faculty who actually teach in the Honors Program begin serving in an advisory function to the director.

Due to a lack of time and a quorum, these issues were tabled for discussion until the April meeting. President Tyson asked that in the meantime Senators consider these issues and be prepared to decide on them at next month's meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

USF Web Portal Project (Tony Llewellyn)
Director Tony Llewellyn of USF Academic Computing introduced the nature, function and services of Academic Computing, and then made a presentation on the implementation of the developing USF Web Portal Project. This is an integrated extremely user-friendly graphic interface that faculty across the university can use to put courses and course materials online in an easily recognizable format. There are about 700 classes online right now, each one laboriously administered by the individual faculty member. This will automate and standardize the process of administration. Tony and Alicia Balsera are co-engineering the project. The portal is a single point of entry into USF’s intranet. Every user has a single network personality so they will be recognized by the system. The many features available in the program can be turned on or off by the instructor so that only the ones needed appear on the program interface. Academic computing wants to get everyone involved in this project as soon as possible, so they have two applications, Web-CT and BlackBoard to allow people to put material online easily. The rest of the program demonstrated how the program looks and functions. Interested faculty were cordially invited to come to Academic Computing to learn more about the project and get assistance with putting their courses online. In addition Tony and his staff are available to make presentations to campus groups and will be promoting the project actively in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.