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Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate President Gregory Paveza called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He then entertained a motion to accept the Agenda for today’s meeting as published. The motion was seconded and approved. The Minutes of the September 26, 2001 meeting were approved as published.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Gregory Paveza)

At this time, President Paveza offered personal remarks related to the affairs of the past three weeks. These remarks are appended and are included as part of the Minutes.

VICE PRESIDENT CARL CARLUCCI

Vice President of Budgets, Human Resources and Information Technology Carl Carlucci attended today’s meeting to share with the Senators what the administration knows about the current economy, the Legislature’s agenda, and what has been discussed with the Student Government and the Trustees. He conducted a presentation for the Student Government on October 2nd to try to get them to understand, not only the process, but what is involved in putting the budget together for the coming year. In addition, his presentation to the students explained that the Legislature and the Governor are part of a process, and right now the university is engaged in getting ready to look at the Governor's budget and the Legislature is going to have a special session. Vice President Carlucci explained to the students and the Trustees that the State University System (SUS) has a number of sources of revenue, the largest being the general revenue that comes from the State. Large, public research universities have more diverse revenues, which makes these universities the stronger institutions.

Where does the University of South Florida (USF) stand? USF looks more like those large, public universities with a smaller percentage of State revenue than SUS
as a whole, but a little larger than a lot of other states. Florida is heading toward the national trend where, over the past ten years, there has been a decline in state support and an increase in other revenue sources. General revenue makes up forty-seven percent of Florida's budget with seventy percent of that being made up of sales tax receipts. General revenue is down and the university is directly impacted.

USF's budget is 936 million dollars of which about 273 million dollars is Education and General (E&G). E&G is the State-generated dollar from the general revenue fund and is what the State focuses upon. The students were aware of this and understood that there was a substitution between tuition and state dollars. However, the most important thing that the university had to preserve was the instructional faculty, with the majority of instruction being in Academic Affairs. This information was shared with students and faculty to try to set the stage.

In September, the State projected that there was expected to be a deficit this year (2001/2002) and a deficit next year (2002/2003). Now, the estimates have been updated and this year (2001/2002) the projected shortfall would be approximately 1.3 billion dollars on the general revenue portion of the budget. With the projected deficit for 2002/2003, the chair of the fiscal committee sent out a letter to universities saying that they want a 5 percent reduction plan prepared for the coming year. For 2002/2003, the projection is approximately a 1.6 billion dollar short fall. Regarding 2001/2002, the State has a working capital fund which is about 400 million dollars so the 1.3 billion dollars could be reduced to 900 million dollars. In addition, there is a stabilization fund with 900 million dollars in it which could be used to make the other 900 million dollars go away. However, the problem with this is that the State law requires that the stabilization fund be paid back the next year. It is not known how much of a problem there will be this year. Vice President Carlucci stated that there is a deficit and that there are some things that can be done to reduce the size of that deficit.

All this information can be found on the Budgets web site. It includes the memorandum sent out to the Provost and Vice Presidents regarding the five percent reduction plan for reoccurring items. In this memorandum, Vice President Carlucci indicates that the reduction plan needs to be done now to get ready for next year and to try to generate savings for this year. He reiterated that it remains to be seen what the Legislature will do during its up-coming special session.

PROVOST DAVID STAMPS

The Provost was out on medical leave and there was no report given on his behalf.

UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA (ROY WEATHERFORD)

United Faculty of Florida (UFF) President Weatherford reported on the meeting of the Chairs of the Board of Trustees in Tallahassee. He stated that authority over tuition is on their radar screen right now rather than authority over faculty, except when the Governor talked about discovering that some students had no Friday classes. The Governor is quoted as saying that faculty could work five or six days
like everybody else. UFF President Weatherford warned that faculty need to be prepared for the fact that the people who are advising our governance structure do not think faculty work hard enough, and they are intending to make sure faculty work harder.

The most salient fact is that there is more concern in the faculty community about academic freedom than any other in UFF President Weatherford's involvement in the last twenty years. Based upon the number of e-mail messages he received both before and after appearing on The O'Reilly Factor, it is clear that there are a number of USF faculty who believe that the principle of academic freedom has been violated at USF, and that Professor Al-Arian has not had his rights defended as strong as should be. At the other end, there is the opinion that not only has academic freedom not been violated, and Professor Al-Arian has not been sufficiently punished, that academic freedom is not an issue at all and that USF should do the right thing and fire Professor Al-Arian. The majority of the responses from USF faculty supported the principle of academic freedom and were concerned to see that it was maintained and upheld. Most of them believe that the President did act responsibly and placing Professor Al-Arian on paid leave was the only prudent, legal, and morally responsible thing the university could do given the position that the mess the terrorists had put the university in. Overall, both groups felt it was important to maintain the principle of academic freedom, and that we collectively do what we can to support that idea.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

1. Committee on Committees Nominations (Cheryl McCoy)

The following slate of nominees was approved by the Committee on Committees and the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and was hereby presented by Chair McCoy for approval by the Faculty Senate:

COMMITEE ON COMMITTEES
NOMINATIONS FOR FACULTY SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS
FALL SEMESTER 2001

Academic Computing

Steven Cooke (ARCH)
Gil Rodman (CAS)

Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee

Elizabeth Ethridge (SAR)
Cecile Lengacher (CON)
Barbara Orban (COPH)

Graduate Council

Nancy Cole (CVPA)
Kendra Daly (MARS)
Sara Mandell (CAS)
Roy Soto (COM)

Honors and Awards

Michael Mills (EDU)
Jeanne Travers (CVPA)

Instructional Technology

Carole Holsonback (CON)
Thomas Terrell (CAS)
A.J. Waltz (COB)

Library Council

Linda Evans (LKLD)
S. Joan Gregory (CON)
Lihua Li (COM)

Publications Council

Lois Gonzalez (CON)

Research Council

Ellis Blanton (COB)
David Crane (ARCH)
William Miller (ENGR)
Mary Lou Morton (EDU)

University Honors Program

Jacqueline Nelson (COB)

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of nominees as presented by Chair McCoy. The motion was unanimously passed.

2. Revisions to Faculty Award Nomination Guidelines (Merilyn Burke)

Honors and Awards Council Chair Merilyn Burke attended today’s meeting to present the following revisions to three faculty award nomination guidelines:

Honorary Degree

In addition, the nomination should also indicate the formal honorary degree/title sought (e.g., Doctor of Humane Letters). This title may be subject to change. Honorary degree titles previously awarded at USF are include: Doctor of Business Administration, Doctor of
Chair Burke explained that the proposed revisions reflect the degrees which are awarded by USF. Discussion was held regarding the Doctor of Law in that the recommendation was made by the Honors and Awards Council to delete this title because USF does not have a School of Law. It was decided that although this is the case, the title could still be listed as a viable title for the Honorary Degree. A motion was made and seconded to amend the revisions to re-insert Doctor of Law. The amendment as proposed was passed. The motion to approve the proposed revisions to the Honorary Degree as amended was passed.

**Distinguished Service Award**

Any member of the University of South Florida community may submit documented nominations of persons holding an appointment in "professorial rank" at USF for the Distinguished Service Award. "Professorial rank" refers to faculty in a tenure-earning track in the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor.

Chair Burke explained that the Honors and Awards Council asked that the above phrase be removed because a large number of faculty at the Medical School are not tenure-earning which excludes them from this process. There being no discussion, the motion to approve the proposed revisions to the Distinguished Service Award was unanimously passed.

**Jerome Krivanek Distinguished Teacher Award**

Any member of the University of South Florida community may submit documented nominations of persons holding an appointment in "professorial rank" at USF for the Distinguished Teacher Award. "Professorial rank" refers to faculty in a tenure-earning track in the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor.

Chair Burke explained that the Honors and Awards Council would like to remove the phrase for the same reason of doing so for the Distinguished Service Award. The motion to approve the proposed revisions was unanimously passed.

3. **Senate Executive Committee Resolution on the Current University Crises**
President Paveza presented for discussion the following resolution to the Faculty Senate from the Senate Executive Committee:

**Senate Executive Committee Resolution on the Current University Crises**

*Be it resolved that:*

We condemn the death threats against Dr. Al-Arian, President Genshaft, and other members of the University of South Florida community.

We support placing Dr. Al-Arian on leave for his safety and for the safety of the campuses.

We are fully in support of President Genshaft’s concern for safety and the convening of the Task Force on Campus Safety and Security.

However, in all of this, we must be sure that academic freedom is not impinged upon.

Senator Vanden pointed out that if, indeed, the Senate is to support President Genshaft as it has done, then she should be reminded that the university should get back to a state of normalcy as soon as possible. Also, as soon as it is at all feasible from a point of view of safety, Professor Al-Arian should be returned to the classroom and to his graduate students. A motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by adding the phrase "that the Senate urges that the activities of the university community return to normal as soon as possible." The motion to amend the resolution passed.

Senator Heidi made a motion that the fourth sentence be replaced with "We re-affirm that academic freedom is a vitally important right of faculty and must continue to be respected and protected." The motion was seconded. A friendly amendment to the amended sentence was to add academic freedom and "responsibility." Therefore, the amended motion read "We reaffirm that academic freedom and responsibilities are vitally important rights of faculty and must continue to be respected and protected." The amended amendment was discussed. It was agreed that faculty are aware that they have responsibility, therefore, Past President Nancy Jane Tyson made the motion to strike "and responsibility" from the amended amendment. Senator Larkin recommended that the responsibility issue be put into a separate phrase rather than with the sentence pertaining to academic freedom. At this point, there was an agreement to remove the term "and responsibility" from the first phrase and to entertain a second phrase relative to responsibility. Therefore, the motion as it now stood went back to the original stated by Senator Heidi. The amended motion to the fourth sentence of the resolution was "We reaffirm that the responsible exercise of academic freedom is a vitally important right of faculty and must continue to be respected and protected." The motion was unanimously
At this time, Senator Mandell made the following motion regarding the second sentence of the resolution: "We support placing Dr. Al-Arian on leave." The motion was seconded. She pointed out that by removing the last part of the sentence it shows that the Faculty Senate is not passing judgment, positively or negatively, on Professor Al-Arian's actions. The motion was discussed. Undergraduate Council Chair Reynolds made a friendly amendment to Senator Mandell's motion by proposing the second sentence be removed and insert in the third phrase ", including the placing of Dr. Al-Arian on leave, and the convening of the Task Force on Campus Safety and Security." The friendly amendment was seconded and discussed. The motion failed. The second and third sentences of the resolution will remain as originally presented.

There was a motion for a call to question. The motion was seconded and passed to call to question the discussion of the resolution.

President Paveza read the motion to approve the resolution as amended:

Be it resolved that:

We condemn the death threats against Dr. Al-Arian, President Genshaft, and other members of the University of South Florida community.

We support placing Dr. Al-Arian on leave for his safety and for the safety of the campuses.

We are fully in support of President Genshaft's concern for safety and the convening of the Task Force on Campus Safety and Security.

We recommend that the activities of the university community return to normal as soon as possible.

We reaffirm that the responsible exercise of academic freedom is a vitally important right of faculty and must continue to be respected and protected.

The motion was passed by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee on Committees Recommendations (Cheryl McCoy)

Chair McCoy presented the following recommendations from the Committee on Committees (COC) regarding a review it did during the 1999/2000 AY of the Faculty Senate Standing Committee and Council charges. President Paveza asked that each recommendation be discussed separately.
Committee on Committees Meeting
February 21, 2001

At the last COC meeting, it was recommended that the COC review the charges of the Faculty Senate standing committees in an effort to consolidate or disband those committees and councils that are inactive or whose purposes have changed over time. Based upon a review of the committee/council charges, current rosters, and annual reports from 1999/2000, the Committee on Committees recommends the following:

**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.
Respectfully Submitted,
Jenifer Schneider, Chair
Committee on Committees

A motion was made and seconded to sever from this proposal the recommendation regarding the University Honors Program Committee and that it be referred back to the committee. The motion was unanimously passed.

A motion was made and seconded to sever the Faculty Evaluation and Standards Committee from this proposal and that the recommendation be referred back to that committee to reconsider its charge. The motion was unanimously passed.

Past President Tyson stated that as a point of information and to avoid difficulties, the chairs of the Academic Computing Committee and the Instructional Technology and Distance Learning Council did meet and they did confer with their two committees and they were both very much opposed to severing those two committees. The committees felt that they had very different issues and that it was important to keep the two committees separate.

At this time, a motion was made and seconded to reject the remaining recommendations of the Committee on Committees and refer the issues back to the current chairs and to make any additional recommendations as deemed necessary. The motion was unanimously passed.

**ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR**

Senator Dorn quoted Senator Mandell's earlier comments that "the outside world does not understand who we are and what we are." He feels that Senator Mandell is absolutely correct, and also the resolution that was approved at today's meeting is not really addressed to the outside world. It basically gives affirmation to the decisions of the university President, but it does not set forth to our neighbors in the community or others in the State of Florida or the country what academic freedom is. Due to this, if anyone would like to work with Senator Dorn during the next month on a longer resolution to explain what academic freedom is and why it should be protected even in times of war, please contact him.

Past President Tyson announced that she had completed petitions to put the referendum on the ballot for a constitutionally protected Board of Regents. For anyone who would like to have the petitions for distribution or to obtain signatures, she can send them via a Word document. Her e-mail address is tyson@chuma.usf.edu. Past President Tyson also indicated that she had copies with her if anyone would like to sign them after today's meeting, or at any time in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.