AY 2002/2003 SEC meeting minutes: 02 Oct 02

Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/fs_pubs

Scholar Commons Citation
http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/fs_pubs/131

This Agenda/Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
October 2, 2002

MINUTES

Present: Glen Besterfield, Elizabeth Bird, Julian Dwornik, Susan Greenbaum, William Kealy, Jana Futch Martin, Cheryl McCoy, Mary Lou Morton, Gregory Paveza, John Richmond, Nancy Jane Tyson

Provost's Office: Phil Smith

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. The Minutes of September 4, 2002, were accepted as amended.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Gregory Paveza)

President Paveza announced that he, Vice President Susan Greenbaum, and Past President Nancy Jane Tyson attended the tri-annual meeting of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) in Tallahassee. At that meeting there was a wide series of discussion, including the current interim chancellor. The new chancellor will be officially on board full time at the beginning Spring Term, 2003. Discussions were also held regarding the Graham amendment and whether the ACFS should take any position on it. It was unclear where this Senate stood on the Graham amendment; therefore, no position has been taken. There is also an internal issue of the need to revise the constitution and the by-laws of the ACFS.

President Paveza has received communiqués from chairs of the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils regarding the Student Academic Grievance Procedure. With the consent of the members of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), he will refer this matter back to the chairs of both councils with the request that they establish a conference committee comprised of members from both councils to continue to work on the grievance procedures document in concert and then report back to the SEC no later than its January meeting with recommendations. President Paveza pointed out that there is one item that must remain in the grievance procedure, which is on
page 25 of the current USF Faculty Handbook. This issue is the capability of a dean, a chair, or the Provost to change a capricious and arbitrary grade. That policy is long standing within the university, and is not a new policy that was inserted into this grievance document. However, it is in the Faculty Handbook and was also in previous versions. The Provost Office has made it clear that they will not be prepared to accept any grievance policy that would remove from the policy these terms. President Paveza will request that the Undergraduate Council appoint three members and that the Graduate Council appoint two members to the council committee.

In response to Student Government's request that the Faculty Senate revisit the plus/minus issue at the A level, President Paveza has sent an internal memorandum to chairs of the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils asking them to review and report back to the SEC by its December meeting.

David Kerr, from Eckerd College, will attend the October Faculty Senate meeting to give his thoughts about the impact of censure from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

**PROVOST'S REPORT** (Phil Smith)

Provost David Stamps was unable to attend today's meeting; therefore, he sent his report with Assistant Provost Phil Smith. Assistant Provost Smith reported that the Provost had attended a Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP) meeting the previous week and following are some of the actions of that body:

- The CAVP has decided to band together to try to influence the Legislators to give the institutions more flexibility in assessing student fees.
- The CAVP hopes to gain Legislative support to allow out-of-state United States graduate students be declared residents of Florida for tuition purposes, so that they will pay tuition as in-state students. There was discussion that the CAVP would press first for that with United States students, because there was some fear that if they pressed forth at this time for international students as well, the Legislators may reject the whole motion.
- The CAVP expressed the need to increase the cooperation among all the public universities in Florida that have international study abroad programs so students can cross enroll at different universities to take advantage of those programs.
- The CAVP proposed to establish what is referred to as a "doctoral pipeline program." Non-Ph.D.-granting public institutions would work in collaboration with those that grant a Ph.D. to pipeline their best students coming out of their programs to Ph.D. programs in those institutions in the system that are Ph.D.-granting institutions.
- A new program being worked on by the Division of Colleges and Universities called "Programs of Promise" is historically going back to the old days of the Board of Regents where the designated programs for universities with access to special funding will develop areas of distinction within the university. This will emphasize centers of excellence that are interdisciplinary in nature. There is a projected $10 million in funding available for those programs.
Assistant Provost Smith announced that the search for a new Vice President for Research has been narrowed down to two people. The pool of candidates for the Dean of the Honors College is nine with telephone interviews being conducted. The next meeting of the search committee will identify the finalists for that position.

Assistant Provost Smith distributed copies of the "USF FTIC Admission Decision Plan 2003-2006" which shows the new enrollment management guidelines for first-time-in-college students. This information comes from the Enrollment Management Office of Student Affairs. Emphasis will be on looking for some degree of balance between the math and verbal on both the SAT and ACT scores.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT LIAISON REPORT

President Paveza announced that Student Government Liaison Danielle Higginbotham has resigned and currently there was no replacement representative. He added that he and Vice President Susan Greenbaum would split the responsibility of going to the Student Government Senate meetings. He explained that each will go at least once during the month to report on anything that happens at the SEC, and the other will go to report on the Faculty Senate meeting. However, unlike the permission that the SEC has given the SG liaison to have speaking privileges from the floor, there is no equivalent from the SG Senate for the faculty liaison to have speaking privileges from the floor during debates.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

a. Faculty Senate Meeting Materials Online (Jana Futch Martin)

Secretary Martin presented a progress report on the on-line meeting materials issue. She has talked with the webmaster for the Faculty Senate website who informed her that if the documents can be sent to her in pdf format, it would not be a problem to have the materials put up on the site. It was agreed that a copy of Adobe Acrobat software would be purchased by the Faculty Senate Office and installed on its computer to accomplish this task.

b. On-Line Voting (Jana Futch Martin)

Secretary Martin announced that the set up for on-line voting would take a little longer to solve. Over the past month, she and Ann Pipkins have been talking to and meeting with people on campus and have found the right person in Carole Dann, Assistant Director of University Computer Systems. Ms. Dann has the software that was used to get the Student Government elections on-line and has obtained the copyright. Faculty Senate elections are a little more complicated because not all the faculty vote every year, and there is a slight problem with authentication of who can and cannot vote. Secretary Martin will keep the SEC apprised of the progress of this issue. President Paveza added that on-line voting was one of the discussions from the ACFS meeting, so when this is operational USF may have something to offer other universities.
c. **Instructional Technology and Distance Learning Council (William Kealy)**

Chair Kealy reported that there the IT-DLC met in September at which there were a couple of items that the IT-DLC felt would be important to look at this year. One is the General Education plan and the technological perspective of it in regards to the kind of profile for graduates to exhibit. Chair Kealy expects the issue of WebCT versus BlackBoard will probably come up at the next IT-DLC meeting, particularly with the anguish that is occurring over the demise of WebCT for people that have been using it for some time. He indicated that there may be a very happy resolution if, for example, WebCT in a newer version is able to be assimilated onto the database system at the university a little bit better. It is not a problem with the site license, but the set-up cost is what is prohibitive. President Paveza commented that he had a brief discussion with the Provost after talking with various members of the IT-DLC. There is a concern that often Academic Computing comes to the IT-DLC meeting and basically tells the IT-DLC what is going to happen without any discussion and without any chance for the IT-DLC to make a recommendation and forward that recommendation to the SEC and to the Senate. President Paveza has the Provost's assurance that this will change in that before changes are made to academic programs and the academic functioning of the university there will be a clear opportunity for the Senate to voice its opinion and to make a recommendation.

d. **Research Council Report (Mary Lou Morton)**

Vice Chair Morton announced that there is new wording of the different awards on the website, and asked the SEC members for feedback. The level of awards has gone back to being creative and visual. President Paveza added that the amount of the awards has also gone up. The Research Council has divided the awards into categories so they are more equitable across levels of need from a new investigator-type award to special awards for those in the creative arts.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER**

a. Parliamentarian John Richmond would like for the candidates for the Dean of the Honors College to talk about the ways in which the Honors Program accommodates General Education. In addition, he would like for the candidates to talk about the way in which, particularly the International Baccalaureate (IB) kids, who come into the Honors College may find the current course work redundant to the experience of what they had in the IB programs. He pointed out that what USF
does not want to have is the Honors College working at cross purposes by making it unattractive because it is a collective theory of knowledge instead of an acquisition of knowledge. President Paveza thought it was a legitimate issue to raise with the candidates and to have them address. There will be a meeting in which the Faculty Senators will be invited to participate at which time these issues can be addressed.

b. Parliamentarian Richmond announced that he has been attending a number of meetings on the SACS Accreditation process. He said that it is a "new day" on SACS Accreditation and the benign nature of that review is less so now. Institutions that have been subject to recent accreditations have not gone through cleanly. The other thing that is different now is that a single department can veto the accreditation of the institution. He shared this with the SEC members to let them know that it will really require the faculty buying into a more robust level when it comes to the accreditation process and the participation in the accreditation's self-study activities. Parliamentarian Richmond stated that anything the Faculty Senate can do to express its collective concern about the success of that accreditation should be done. He added that everyone has to join hands together as an institution and help because everyone has a lot to win or lose in this matter.

Assistant Provost Smith commented that this was a very good point. One of the things that has been dramatically changed is the mechanism of procedures used for going through the accreditation process. He explained that part of the problem has been the critical nature of the selection of SACS visitors, because there are those that have a history with SACS and are used to doing it the old way, i.e., a self-study was submitted and a site team came and essentially poured through that self-study. However, it is not done like that anymore. Instead, the reviewers come in with certain targeted areas to pursue that SACS has already remotely attended to and those issues have been generally resolved. Assistant Provost Smith pointed out that in the process of building the database and having it online for the SACS team to access all kinds of information, it is critical that there be participation by all faculty across the university.

IT-DLC Chair Kealy asked if there are any plans to look at this process strategically. For example, at those institutions where there has been a SACS problem in the targeted areas that have been looked at, have there been certain areas that have been kicked up consistently so that when USF pulls together, as a faculty, it is done so in the same direction. Assistant Provost Smith replied that there is a person in the Provost's Office that is working full time on these issues, and those experiences are being tracked as they emerge.

President Paveza reminded the SEC members that the one of the planned initiatives that the Provost intends to have reviewed during the SACS Accreditation is the General Education requirements. This will be one of the planned initiatives to be addressed as part of USF's quality improvement issues for SACS.
ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Carl Carlucci was not able to attend today's meeting and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.