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Faculty Senate

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SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
March 7, 2007

Present: Larry Branch, Roger Brindley, Jennifer Cainas, Gail Donaldson, Susan Greenbaum, Dale Johnson, Kim Lersch, Pritish Mukherjee, Carol Mullen, Dewey Rundus, Graham Tobin, John Ward, David Williams

Provost Office: Renu Khator, Dwayne Smith, Ralph Wilcox

Guests: Michael Bowen, Bruce Cochrane, Teresa Flateby, Joy Morton, Robert Potter, JR Reed, Kimberly Reed, Nick Trivunovich

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. The Minutes from the February 7, 2007, meeting were approved as corrected.

REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT JOHN WARD

Vice President Ward conducted today’s meeting in President Barber’s absence. He shared his experience gained by attending a Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, in particular the collective bargaining process used to propose raises for faculty. Vice President Ward encouraged everyone to attend a BOT meeting to become aware of the processes that take place and the kinds of information that is exchanged at these meetings.

PROVOST RENU KHATOR

Provost Khator did not have a formal report, but had requested extended time in order to discuss the next step or process to develop the strategic plan. Suggestions from the SEC included:

- the creation of a Faculty Senate ad hoc committee or work group to produce a white paper on how USF could achieve AAU status with a matrix of benchmarks or performance indicators to be used by units and colleges working on compacts;
- long-term plans with benchmarks for departments and move toward those goals within the next 5 years;
- an integrative process in order to determine a global vision;
- that the plan be an evolving document with the ability for alteration along the way; and
- a plan that is more disciplined and focused.

In summary, the SEC agreed that once there is a matrix for the USF-Tampa campus (including Health), the information should be provided to units and colleges so they can begin work on their compacts. They should also be given the opportunity to provide feedback. The finished matrix will be presented to the SEC.
REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

a. Request for Change in General Education Council Membership (Kim Lersch/Robert Potter)

At the February SEC meeting the request for General Education Council membership changes was approved, in principle. A revised charge showing the membership changes was requested from Chair Potter which he presented at today’s meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the new charge. The motion was unanimously passed. The charge will now be presented to the full Faculty Senate at its March meeting.

b. Report from Council on Technologies for Instruction and Research (CTIR) (David Williams)

CTIR Chair Williams reported that USF has created a new position of Chief Technology Officer (CTO). CTIR concerns include the overall relationship between the new CTO and IT, changes in technology procurement procedures, and splitting responsibilities for Blackboard and servers between the new CTO and IT. The SEC discussed these concerns and it was agreed that the Faculty Senate needs to discuss the issue of computer services on campus. As nothing of this new position has been shared with the faculty, the SEC asked that CTIR Williams provide the Faculty Senate with the “Information Technology Roles and Responsibilities” information for its March meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to have a person from the Provost Office, who is championing this CTO invited to attend the next Faculty Senate meeting to address these issues related to how this was developed -- the reasoning, rationale, and what are the goals. The motion was unanimously passed.

CTIR Chair Williams added that Academic Computing was asked to propose how Blackboard can be made better. He should be able to bring that proposal to the next SEC meeting.

c. Senate Elections (Dale Johnson)

Secretary Johnson reported that although there have been a few problems with the on-line voting process, faculty are voting and there are more voters this year. Eight paper ballots have been mailed. Some problems with voting were trouble with logging into the USF Portal and logging in from off-campus. Vice President Ward asked Secretary Johnson to have Assistant Director Carole Dann report on the kinds of voting issues that did come up and a statement about how it compares with last year.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Travel Reimbursement Discussion (Nick Trivunovich)

Mr. Nick Trivunovich, University Controller, attended today’s meeting to tell the SEC about the implementation of a new Travel Module which should increase the timeliness of reimbursements. This module is through the FAST system. Training sessions will
begin in April with the system to be implemented in May. Vice President Ward suggested that a demonstration of the module be done at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

b. **Statement of Philosophy** (Michael Bowen)

Senator Bowen returned to today’s meeting with a revised Statement of Philosophy based upon comments received from the SEC at the February meeting. Additional comments were again recommended which will be incorporated into a second version of the Statement. A motion was made and seconded to present the newest revised version at the next Faculty Senate meeting. The motion unanimously passed.

c. **Financial Code of Conduct**

SEC members requested that Provost Khator be asked to give a progress report on the status of this document at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Eligibility for Senate Membership**

The issue of allowing Instructors to serve on the Faculty Senate was discussed. It was agreed that this issue should be entertained by the full Senate. In addition, Vice President Ward added that the issue be investigated by the Bylaws Committee.

b. **Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Discussion was held about the recent issues related to the collective bargaining agreement. Subsequently, Senator-at-Large Pritish Mukherjee made the following motion:

“In the general interest of the University of South Florida, the Faculty Senate strongly urges University Administration and the United Faculty of Florida to complete bargaining together in good faith so that faculty members across the University can receive the merit raises that they deserve without any further delay.”

The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Vice President Ward will have the motion circulated to SEC members for any further comments before it is read at the March Faculty Senate meeting.

**FACULTY SENATE AGENDA FOR MARCH 21, 2007 MEETING**

1. Report from Council on Technologies for Instruction and Research
2. Statement of Philosophy
3. Demonstration of Travel Module

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.