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AY 2008/2009 SEC meeting minutes: 08 Oct 01

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**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

October 1, 2008

Present: Michael Barber, Michael Barnett, Elizabeth Bird, Ellis Blanton, Laurence Branch, Kenneth Cissna, Emanuel Donchin, Grandon Gill, Michael LeVan, Steve Permuth, Arthur Shapiro, James Strange, Paul Terry

Provost Office: Tapas Das, Dwayne Smith, Graham Tobin, Linda Whiteford, Ralph Wilcox

Guest: Dave Armitage, Mozella Mitchell

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Branch called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The Minutes from the meeting of September 3, 2008, were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM PROVOST RALPH WILCOX

A pocket-size copy of “Facts 2008-2009 Big Dreams, Bold Future” was distributed. The brochure includes such things as Enrollment Data for Fall 2008, Financial Profile, Faculty and Staff, Academic, and New Student Profiles. It also contains a “Did You Know?” section of USF accomplishments. Comments and/or suggestions on the brochure may be forwarded to Provost Wilcox.

Before Provost Wilcox began his report, President Branch interjected that the Provost has expressed concern about comments recently made that the Faculty Senate was not consulted adequately during the realignment process. To the end of wanting to have opportunities for appropriate consultation with the primary advisors on academic matters, the Provost proposes that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) use its meetings for such consultation. He proposes to attend the whole meeting with his staff, and discuss the topics that they are wrestling with at the moment. Topics tend to crop up quickly and the Provost wants to have a ready forum to consult with the leadership of the Faculty Senate.

Provost Wilcox welcomed the opportunity to engage faculty in a timely manner on critical issues by providing a mechanism whereby Academic Affairs could consult with faculty. Some future topics for conversations include, but are not limited to, requiring standardized test scores of incoming undergraduate students, the new GI bill, increasing tuition, capping student enrollment, and textbook affordability. If the SEC is in agreement that there is value in focusing on more critical issues, the Provost offered to work with President Branch to take one issue at a time and dedicate a substantial portion of the meetings to that issue.

Vice President Steve Permuth suggested that as the leadership body of the Faculty Senate, the SEC needs to consider whether or not to meet two times a month: once with the Provost and once for normal business. Member-at-Large Elizabeth Bird clarified that the Bylaws state that the SEC should meet on a regular basis with the Provost. This was done in the past, but has not occurred recently. Discussions should be held on concrete issues with action being taken on those issues.

President Branch thanked Provost Wilcox for the opportunity for the Faculty Senate to work closely on critical issues by creating a mechanism to do so.

Other Items from the Provost included:

A copy of the “USF Participates in National College Portrait Accountability Project” was distributed. He pointed out that it was not a complete portrait of USF at this time, but asked that SEC members compare USF with other Florida universities and send him any comments.

Board of Governors Chancellor Mark Rosenberg has announced his resignation. He will be returning to teaching at Florida International University.

The whole brunt of the budget reduction will not be felt until after the election in November. A significant cut is anticipated, but USF is ready.

The Dr. Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions is scheduled to open its new building in Fall 2010. The leadership for the center will stay the same.

Secretary Michael Barnett asked the Provost for assistance on how to find out if the SACS accreditation team reviewed the governance documents submitted by USF. The Provost responded that he will ensure that Secretary Barnett gets access to the necessary information.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

a. Out-of-Cycle Committee Nominations (Ellis Blanton)

Committee on Committees (COC) Chair Blanton received two requests for out-of-cycle reviews of the following Vice Presidential Committees:

Standing Committee on Research Misconduct

Dennis Killinger (Arts and Sciences)

Student Health Advisory Committee

Frances Rankin (Nursing)

The COC reviewed and unanimously approved the two nominations. The nominations came to the SEC with a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. There was a call to question, and the motion unanimously passed. The nominations will go forward to the full Faculty Senate at its October meeting.

b. Honorary Degree Nomination (Mozella Mitchell and Ellis Blanton)

COC Chair Blanton explained that because the Honors and Awards Council (HAC) did not have a chair, Dr. Mitchell, as a member of the HAC, volunteered to attend today's meeting to present the honorary degree nomination for Dr. Enid Gilbert-Barness. However, of the 9 HAC members, only 4 entered votes. A majority vote is needed. COC Chair Blanton recommended that the SEC could approve the nomination outright or approve it under the condition that more HAC members need to approve it before it goes to the full Senate. Discussion was held. It was decided that Sergeant-at-Arms Arthur Shapiro, in conjunction with COC Chair Blanton, will contact the HAC members to work on selecting a chair and getting the remaining members to vote.

c. Report on Graduate Council Activities (James Strange)

Graduate Council Chair Strange gave a summary report of the Graduate Council activities for the period of August 6, 2007 to July 1, 2008. The full report can be viewed on the Faculty Senate web site at <http://web.usf.edu/FacultySenate/>.

d. Report from Council on Educational Policy and Issues (CEPI) (Emanuel Donchin)

Senator Donchin, who chairs the Council on Educational Policy Issues (CEPI), reported that CEPI considered, at the Provost's Office request, a request from the College of Nursing that the title "Emerita" be conferred on a retiring colleague, of much evident merit, who was not a tenured, or tenure track, faculty member at the time she retired. While CEPI was impressed with the record of the retiring colleague it, nevertheless, recommended that the title "Emeritus" be applied solely to individuals who, at the time they retire, were tenured members of the faculty. The CEPI took this view because the current USF policy with regards to the Emeritus title is that it represents a "career stage," rather than a special reward. It is, therefore, to follow a career as a tenured faculty member. There may be some room for further review in cases of "non-tenure earning" faculty members.

CEPI is also planning to take up the question of what is the role of adjuncts in a research university. That is, how much should a university rely upon temporary, non-faculty hires? In the interest of time, President Branch asked that discussion of this topic be tabled.

e. Report from Administrative Structure Task Force (Steve Permuth)

Vice President Permuth announced that the task force has met and has been going through informal discussions. One item for which the task force would like to do with the concurrence of the SEC is to invite Dr. Leroy Dubeck from Temple University to a Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the budget of USF from a neutral standpoint but with specific commentary. Dr. Dubeck is an expert in trend analysis and budgets. Vice President Permuth explained that Dr. Dubeck would analyze the budget certified last year

by Dr. Carl Carlucci. He has done this for the University of Florida, Broward Community College, and he is familiar with USF's budget circumstances.

The proposal is to have the cost of his visit co-sponsored by President Genshaft, United Faculty of Florida, Student Government, and the Faculty Senate. The visit is at the planning stage with a possible engagement at the January Faculty Senate meeting, as well as having a response panel. Committee on Faculty Issues (CFI) Chair Paul Terry recommended that since the budgets of the regional campuses will also be included, that the task force should ask the CFOs at those campuses to help sponsor the visit. Another concern was that by having an open discussion as proposed, it could have an impact on collective bargaining. President Branch commented that this was an excellent point and will take this concern to the union. He added that nothing concrete was decided at this time, it was an information item only.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws Committee (Michael Barnett)

Secretary Barnett announced that the Bylaws Committee has revised the resolution amendment. He will be presenting it to the Faculty Senate on October 15, 2008. The Bylaws Committee will meet on Friday, October 3, and he would appreciate any questions or comments on the revised amendment by that date.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Secretary Barnett asked that the status of graduate teaching awards be added to the addendum as a follow-up item from this meeting.
2. CFI Chair Terry brought up the issue that as Chair of the Lakeland Faculty Governance Council, Senator Dave Armitage represented the campus when attending the SEC meetings. Chair Terry recommended that the same invitation be extended Dr. Elizabeth Larkin who is chair of the Sarasota-Manatee Faculty Governance Association. President Branch will send her an invitation to join future SEC meetings.
3. Sergeant-at-Arms Shapiro would like to establish a task force to examine the collapse of the Patel Charter School. He was asked to bring a proposal for doing so to the October Faculty Senate meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

ADDENDUM
Follow-Up Items
Senate Executive Committee Meeting
October 1, 2008

1. Committee on Faculty Issues, along with CEPI Chair Donchin, to re-examine Emeritus policy.
3. Formal procedures for creating a logo.
3. E-mail to be forwarded to SEC from President Branch regarding student evaluations of faculty available on-line.
4. Proposed changes to Bylaws and Constitution from President Branch to be posted on Faculty Senate Blackboard discussion group for Senate-wide comments.
5. Disposition of SACS report.
6. Role of adjuncts at a research university to be pursued by CEPI.
7. Proposed co-sponsored consultant visit from Administrative Structure Task Force.
8. Status of graduate teaching awards.
9. Proposal from Sergeant-at-Arms Shapiro to establish a task force to examine the collapse of the Patel Charter School.