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AY 2008/2009 SEC meeting minutes: 08 Oct 29

Faculty Senate

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CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by President Branch. The Minutes from the meeting of October 1, 2008, were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM PROVOST RALPH WILCOX

Provost Wilcox’s report consisted of the following items:

- The Board of Governors (BOG) is now conducting more of its business via conference calls. The next conference call will take place on Thursday, October 30th when the Academic Program Review Committee will present four of its six newly proposed doctoral programs.

- With the resignation of Chancellor Rosenberg effective in February 2009, the BOG has recommended that University of North Florida President John Delaney serve as President in Residence until a new chancellor has been hired. Dr. Delaney will continue to serve as President of UNF during this time.

- A special Legislative session will begin in December. At that time, the university will receive information on the anticipated budget reduction. With the slipping economy, the reduction could be as much as 6-10 percent in addition to the 4 percent already held back. The possibility exists that future funding of higher education could occur with significant tuition increases.

At this time, a discussion occurred on the existing tenure model and the need for it to be changed in order for the university to maintain and keep tenured faculty. Senator Donchin recommended that an open forum should be set up on how the university values tenure and academic freedom. No action was taken on this recommendation.
• In response to a request from Vice President Permuth at the October Faculty Senate meeting, Provost Wilcox has provided the three regional campus organization charts to both President Branch and Vice President Permuth. Any additional requests for information should be directed to the appropriate campus leadership.

• The College of Arts and Sciences has adopted a new school structure by creating the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

• Academic Affairs has declined the opportunity to spend the funds to bring Dr. Leroy Dubeck to the university as an outside evaluator to examine how USF spends its reserve funds. The decision was made based upon what the administration views as a lack of expertise in auditing. Although Academic Affairs is willing to collaborate, it will not contribute monetarily.

At this time, Vice President Permuth addressed the e-mail sent out by Associate Director of Human Resources Julieth Chambers pertaining to the inability of university employees to use administrative leave to vote. Several SEC members commented that the impact of the message on staff has been far more reaching than asking for time off to vote. Vice President Permuth asked the Provost if it would be possible to have the e-mail rescinded and let employees exercise their right to vote. Provost Wilcox responded that it was his understanding that the message was sent in response to a multitude of questions about taking time off to vote. However, he stated that his office would look into the situation and let the SEC know what it discovers.

Senior Vice Provost Dwayne Smith distributed copies of the e-mail sent to USF United Faculty of Florida President Sherman Dorn by Associate Provost Kofi Glover regarding misleading figures about administrator compensation increases reported to the USF Faculty Senate in a memorandum dated October 14, 2008. President Branch has forwarded these e-mails to the Senators along with President Dorn’s acknowledgement that he has received the response.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS
Fall Semester 2008
October 29, 2008

Commencement and Convocation Committee
Ava Chitwood (CAS)
Ippokratis Kantzios (CAS)
Committee on Faculty Issues
Jana Martin (LIB)
Muhammad Rahman (ENG)

Council on Educational Policy and Issues
Susan Silver (LIB)

Council on Technology for Instruction and Research
Orhan Arslan (COM)

Faculty Committee on Student Admissions
Kelli Burns (CAS)

General Education Council
Roger Boothroyd (BCS)
Eleni Manolaraki (CAS)
Sonia Wohlmuth (CAS)
Sharon Geiger (Honors)
Patricia Maher (Undergraduate Studies)

Graduate Council
Orhan Arslan (COM)
Marzenna Wiranowska (COM)
Barbara Redding (NUR)
Deborah Williams (NUR)

Honors and Awards Council
Carol Borchert (LIB)
Sang-Hie Lee (VPA)

Library Council
Allison Edmonds (NUR)

Publications Council
Merilyn Burke (LIB)

Research Council
Rita Ciresi (CAS)
Dale Johnson (CAS)
David Mann (MARS)
George Blanck (COM)
Laura Swisher (COM)
Kevin Kip (NURS)

There was a call to question. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The full slate of nominees will be presented to the Faculty Senate at its November meeting.
OLD BUSINESS

At the October SEC meeting, Sergeant-at-Arms Shapiro recommended that a study be conducted as to why the USF College of Education is no longer sponsoring the Patel Charter School. At today’s meeting, he presented the following written recommendation:

Recommendation to the Faculty Senate for a School Study

The College of Education of USF sponsored the Patel Charter School for the past four years; however, the school received poor state grades on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. This summer, with about two weeks before the start of the school year, the Dean's office cancelled sponsoring the school, leaving the Hillsborough School District with a short time table to assume control of the school and ready it for opening on time. This action has placed the College of Education in an unfavorable light. In contrast with this outcome is the Seton Hall College, which essentially took on a similar responsibility with considerably more favorable outcomes.

I would recommend that the Senate sponsor a school study to determine the issues and concerns that arose, and make recommendations in order to prevent a future occurrence.

Discussion of the recommendation was held. The SEC decided to defer the issue to CEPI to investigate why the Patel Charter School was transferred back to the Hillsborough County School District.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Senate Nomination (Michael Barnett)

Secretary Barnett recommended the nomination of Dr. Charurut Somboonwit to fill a College of Medicine vacancy until the next annual election. A motion was made and seconded that her nomination be accepted. The motion unanimously passed.

b. Selection of Faculty for BOT Workgroups (Larry Branch)

President Branch presented a proposed resolution based upon the premise that the USF Faculty Senate has the responsibility to advise the USF President, Provost, and Vice President for Health on matters that affect the university, the faculty liaisons on the three BOT workgroups should be appointed by the Faculty Senate. Creating such a process would provide a mechanism for feedback to the Faculty Senate on the activities of the workgroups. The proposed resolution was discussed. Member-at-Large Elizabeth Bird offered a friendly amendment of “Be it resolved that from henceforth terms of the faculty liaisons will be three years.” President Branch asked that additional suggestions for revisions be sent to him via e-mail. Secretary Barnett clarified that the resolution will be presented at the November Faculty Senate meeting with a vote to be taken at the January meeting. There was a call to question. A motion was made and seconded to forward the resolution with amendments to the Faculty Senate. The motion unanimously passed.
REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT LARRY BRANCH

The November 5th SEC meeting was scheduled as an extra meeting in the event there were items that were of an urgent nature. An e-mail message will be sent to SEC members regarding whether or not this meeting will be held.

Agenda items for the November 19th Faculty Senate meeting should be sent to him.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.
ADDENDUM
Outstanding Items
Senate Executive Committee Meeting
October 29, 2008

1. Committee on Faculty Issues, along with CEPI Chair Donchin, to re-examine Emeritus policy (09/03/08 SEC meeting).

3. Formal procedures for creating a logo (09/03/08 SEC meeting).

3. E-mail to be forwarded to SEC from President Branch regarding student evaluations of faculty available on-line (09/03/08 SEC meeting).

4. Proposed changes to Bylaws and Constitution from President Branch to be posted on Faculty Senate Blackboard discussion group for Senate-wide comments (09/03/08 SEC meeting).

5. Role of adjuncts at a research university to be pursued by CEPI (10/01/08 SEC meeting).

6. Status of graduate teaching awards from Graduate Council (10/01/08 SEC meeting).

7. Slate of COC nominations to be presented to the full Senate on November 19th (10/29/08 SEC meeting).

8. Investigation by CEPI why the Patel Charter School was transferred back to the Hillsborough County School District (10/29/08 SEC meeting).

9. Clarification from Provost on use of administrative leave to vote (10/29/08 SEC meeting).

10. Resolution on the Selection of Faculty for BOT Workgroups to go before full Senate at the November 19th meeting (10/29/08 SEC meeting).