AY 2008/2009 SEC meeting minutes: 08 Dec 03

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CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by President Branch. The Minutes from the meeting of October 29, 2008, were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM PROVOST RALPH WILCOX

Provost Wilcox referred everyone to his December 1, 2008 “Letter to Faculty” posted on the Provost Office website for the most recent university updates and activities. The suggestion was made to the Provost that Academic Affairs disseminate this communiqué not only to faculty, but to staff on all campuses.

Budget items reported on by the Provost:

- An e-mail, consisting of a general revenue update from Dr. Tim Jones, Chief Financial Officer, Board of Governors, dated November 21, 2008, was distributed.

- A copy of Governor Crist’s proposed new state university reforms dated November 20, 2008 was distributed. The implementation of a proposed 15 percent tuition increase for all resident undergraduate students next year must be approved by the Board of Governors (BOG). Also distributed was a list of “2008-2009 In-State Tuition and Fees, USF Compared with Selected Public Institutions.”

- The Florida Board of Governors’ Strategic Planning and Academic and System Oversight Committee will be considering a proposal for three new Ph.D. programs in Government, History, and Sociology. Full BOG approval is expected in January.

The floor was turned over to Dr. Judy Solano. Dr. Solano is Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, Faculty Senate President of the University of North Florida, and a member of the BOG. She attended today’s meeting to listen to and respond to the group’s concerns. Some of those issues were the Governor’s tuition increase proposal, community colleges offering four-year degrees (where the funding will come from and the competition it will create for the
regional campuses), and the implementation of e-textbooks. Dr. Solano extended an invitation to the SEC members to send her an e-mail on topics of discussion or just to vent. Provost Wilcox acknowledged the support that Governor Solano provided for the Ph.D. programs that received preliminary approval at the last BOG meeting.

Before the Provost left the meeting, President Branch asked him to assist in obtaining the signature of Vice President of Health Klasko on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding concerning Principles, Guidelines, and Procedures for Major Organizational Restructuring of Academic Units. The Provost responded that there are other groups that need to be allowed input, as well as the regional campuses, so there was no commitment from him at this time.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

a. Faculty Senate Nomination – Michael Barnett

Secretary Barnett presented the self-nomination of Dr. Huntington Potter from the Molecular Medicine Department of the College of Medicine for consideration of membership on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Potter’s appointment will be effective until the end of the 2008-2009 academic year at which time he will be eligible to run for a three-year term. A motion was made and seconded to accept Dr. Potter’s appointment. The motion unanimously passed.

b. Charge Revisions for Standing Committee on Research Misconduct – Ellis Blanton

Committee on Committees (COC) Chair Blanton brought before the SEC proposed changes to the charge for the Standing Committee on Research Misconduct (SCRM). He explained that the revisions bring the charge in line with the committee’s policy statement and were presented to the SEC with a motion to accept from the COC. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The proposed revisions to the SCRM charge will be forwarded to the full Faculty Senate at its January meeting with a request to review and approve.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Dissemination Process for Assessment Surveys – Paul Terry

Chair of the Committee on Faculty Issues (CFI) discussed the process by which the assessment survey of President Genshaft would be disseminated. With the assistance of Information Technology, the assessment will be set up so that faculty can assess it through their own Blackboard account. For those faculty who do not have a Blackboard account, they will be able to get a one-time user ID from the Faculty Senate Office. Chair Terry will be working with Information Technology to move the assessment surveys of the Vice President for Health and the Provost into Blackboard. It was agreed that the assessment survey of President Genshaft had been vetted and was ready to go forth.
b. **Patel Charter School Update** – Emanuel Donchin

Dr. Donchin (chair of CEPI) presented a brief interim report on CEPI's examination of matters related to the Patel Charter School (PCS). It turns out that the PCS was organized as a "Direct Support Organization (DSO).” The Dean of Education asserted, when invited to discuss the transfer of the PCS, that DSOs are out of the purview of the Faculty Senate. This lead to an examination of DSOs, which it turns out are restricted to the management of "property.” Dr. Donchin indicated that CEPI may choose to broaden the discussion of the PCS and examine if, indeed, any entity with an educational and scholarly mission can be out of the purview of the Senate. The SEC noted that as DSOs report to the Board of Trustees (BOT), and as the Senate is a body charged with advising the BOT, the DSOs are definitely within the purview of the Senate. The SEC encouraged CEPI to continue its examination of the policies governing DSOs in general and to continue its examination of the PCS as charged originally.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Publications Council Report** – Merilyn Burke

As Chair of the Publications Council, Ms. Burke attended today’s meeting to report that the budget from which the council subvents suitable scholarly and creative works for publication has been depleted and asked the SEC if the Publications Council should continue as a standing committee of the Faculty Senate. Discussion was held. Based upon documentation provided by Ms. Burke, it was determined that initial funding came from the Office of Research. Therefore, the council should continue to be funded by the Office of Research and could be viewed as start-up funds. A motion was made and seconded that a letter should be sent to Vice President Karen Holbrook from President Branch asking that the Publications Council budget be restored. The motion was passed with one abstention.

b. **Volunteer Needed** – Larry Branch

President Branch received a request for a volunteer to serve on the Non-Student University Traffic and Parking Appeals Committee. A motion was made and seconded that Secretary Barnett volunteer to serve on this committee; however, the motion failed because Secretary Barnett did not volunteer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.
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. Investigation by CEPI why the Patel Charter School was transferred back to the Hillsborough County School District (10/29/08; 12/03/08 SEC meetings).

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

1. Slate of COC nominations to be presented to the full Senate on November 19th (10/29/08 SEC meeting; nominations presented and approved at FS Mtg. of 11/19/08; forwarded to Provost for appointment).

2. Resolution on the Selection of Faculty for BOT Workgroups to go before full Senate at the November 19th meeting (10/29/08 SEC meeting; presented at FS Mtg of 11/19/08).