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Faculty Senate

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President Laurence Branch called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Before proceeding with the meeting, there were a couple of non-agenda items to address. First, he presented Secretary Michael Barnett with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Faculty Senate for his service during the past academic year. Secretary Barnett has accepted a position at Oxford University and will be leaving USF mid-August. Second, President Judy Genshaft requested that the September 9 Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting be rescheduled from 3:00 to 1:00 p.m. so that faculty would be able to attend her State of the University Address on that day. After a brief discussion, the SEC agreed that this would not be a problem. President Branch will inform President Genshaft of the decision. Ms. Ann Pipkins will check on the room availability and send a message to everyone that the meeting time has been changed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes from the meeting of June 3, 2009. There was no discussion, and the motion was unanimously passed.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. Proposed E-Mail Approval of Committee Nominations – Ellis Blanton

Committee on Committees (COC) Chair Blanton explained that because of the time required for soliciting committee nominations, vetting by the COC, and then approval by the SEC and Faculty Senate, the COC proposed to streamline the process (see below) by approximately one month by conducting the SEC approval via e-mail. By doing so, the entire process would be completed by late October allowing time for the nominees to receive appointment letters prior to the end of the fall semester. The floor was opened for discussion.
July 17, 2009  Memo soliciting nominations for vacancies sent out from the Faculty Senate Office to all faculty.
COC Chair sends message to COC members asking them to solicit nominations within their colleges.

September 18, 2009  Deadline for receipt of nomination forms in the Faculty Senate Office.

September 23, 2009  Nomination forms and accompanying documents posted on Blackboard for COC review.

October 9, 2009  Deadline for COC to submit recommendations to the Faculty Senate Office.

October 14, 2009  E-mail SEC to review and respond to recommendations by October 19.

October 21, 2009  FS meeting at which COC presents recommendations.

October 23, 2009  Faculty Senate Office forwards recommendations to Provost.

The question was raised as to why there was so much time between the initial solicitation and the deadline for receipt of nominations. Chair Blanton explained that due to the slow response, it is necessary to start early in order to reach everyone so that they have the opportunity to apply. There was a call to question. A motion was made and seconded to accept the streamlined committee nomination process. The motion was unanimously passed.

REPORT FROM PROVOST RALPH WILCOX

Provost Wilcox’s report consisted of the following:

Budget update

- There will be an additional 42 million dollar recurring base budget reduction for USF on top of the 52 million dollar reduction in the previous eighteen months. To some extent, the reduction will be offset over the next year or so with an approximately 23 million dollar infusion of federal economic stimulus funds.

- Approximately 10 million dollars are projected in new tuition revenues for the Tampa campus. Of the 20 million dollars in recurring funds that Academic Affairs will be losing, half of it should be offset by new tuition revenues providing that enrollment remains steady. The other half will be offset by federal economic stimulus funds. All these projections are estimates until the fall enrollment figures are known. Although revenue collections are coming in as projected, they are still significantly reduced.

- Plans to move forward responsibly are continuing.

- The 2009/2010 Academic Affairs budgets were distributed to its colleges.
Other

Three top policy issues for the Provost this year include:

1. Working with the Board of Governors (BOG) to pursue separate IPEDS reporting (IPEDS = Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System). This is particularly important in regards to the regional campuses. He would like input on and support from the Faculty Senate during the upcoming year on this issue.

2. Working on the disaggregation of some of the Ph.D. programs at USF particularly in the Colleges of Business and Education.

3. Retaining the Florida Institute of Oceanography as a Type I center that has now been recast as an Academic Infrastructure Support Organization (AISO). This will be presented as an agenda item at the ACE Workgroup meeting scheduled for July 16, 2009. The Faculty Senate will be invited to review the proposal and asked to provide feedback by Friday, July 10, 2009.

Provost Wilcox asked that the SEC consider at its next meeting brief presentations by the co-chairs of the faculty task forces: Faculty Roles, Responsibilities and Rewards; Integrated, Interdisciplinary Inquiry; USF World Initiative; and Community Engagement. President Branch commented that he would return to this topic later in the meeting for feedback from the SEC.

In addition, the Office of Research and Innovation has a 15-minute presentation on the TRAIN (The Research Administration Improvement Network) Initiative that the Faculty Senate would find beneficial.

Provost Wilcox will report back to the SEC on funding for the Publications Council.

**REPORT FROM SENIOR VICE PROVOST DWAYNE SMITH**

Senior Vice Provost Smith’s report consisted of the following:

1. He distributed BOG regulation 8.003-Textbook Adoption which was created to make textbooks more affordable, an issue that has been in the discussion stage since last fall. The policy would not go into effect until fall semester 2009. (Postscript: Senior Vice Provost Smith informed the SEC the following day that the policy took effect on July 1, 2009, and universities were supposed to have policy/guidelines in place by that date.)

2. Announced that a revised draft of the USF System Governance Document had been on the docket for the May meeting of the BOT’s ACE Workgroup. However, upon finding out that there was no faculty input into the document, Senior Vice Provost Smith had the item pulled from the agenda. President Branch thanked Senior Vice Provost Smith for his action. He then pointed out that this document is the policy statement (absent organizational charts) which the USF Intercampus Faculty Council had been requesting a
briefing on by President Genshaft or an appropriate person from her staff without success. Senior Vice Provost Smith will forward the draft to President Branch for Faculty Senate review and comments. President Branch added that the SEC will discuss the document at its September meeting in preparation for the Faculty Senate meeting later that month.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion of Proposed Revisions to Bylaws and Constitution – Michael Barnett

Due to time limitations, this discussion was postponed until the September meeting.

b. Faculty Handbook – Michael Barnett

Secretary Barnett asked the status of the Faculty Handbook to which Senior Vice Provost Smith responded it is still a work in progress.

c. Graduate Teaching Awards – Michael Barnett

Secretary Barnett asked the status of the establishment of a graduate teaching award. Senior Vice Provost Smith responded that it has not yet been established.

d. Career Ladder for Instructors – Michael Barnett

In response to Secretary Barnett’s question regarding the career ladder for instructors, Associate Provost Glover responded that a draft would soon be circulated for comment.

NEW BUSINESS

a. ELI (English Language Institute) and INTO University Partnership Discussion

Sherman Dorn

Sherman Dorn (President, UFF-USF) described the relatively recent consideration by the Provost’s Office of outsourcing some, or all, of the functions of the English Learning Institute (ELI) (housed in World Languages). He stated that the faculty union’s interest focused on the jobs of the ELI professional employees he represented, but in his conversations and reading, he saw several questions that he thought were appropriate to bring to the SEC’s attention.

Provost Wilcox responded that it is important to set this in the context of USF’s strategic plan. In the last Legislative Session, the State Legislature made the decision not to fund non-resident, international students. Funding will now be provided on the basis of residency of students. Therefore, if USF wants to bring international students from another state, their costs for education will have to be covered either by the student or by USF. In USF’s strategic plan the importance of growing the number of international students is recognized with a goal of increasing from 1.7 percent of undergraduate
students to 2.5 percent. For USF to get to this level, it would have to bring in over the next two years a minimum additional 420 international students, assuming no enrollment growth across the system. Increasing international student enrollment puts USF into the position of being recognized globally. Another opportunity in participating in this type of initiative is the ability to develop partnerships with universities around the world. Revenue-generation is also a way to swell the revenue that needs to be re-invested in the university to enhance the quality of education for all students. The university has a contract with Hobson. Other prospective partners have also contacted USF. The Provost pointed out that USF has absolutely no interest in partnering with anyone who cannot provide demonstrable success in prior partnerships, and who cannot assure continuity in the key issue of ethical practices. USF must, at all times, retain full authority over academic decision making. In addition, USF is not interested in partnering with anyone who might threaten the on-going accreditation of ELI.

Under President Genshaft’s leadership, a team will be going to visit with partnership institutions in the United Kingdom to better understand how that process works. President Branch asked if this issue was consistent with the MOU on academic reorganization decisions, and whether or not there were any active discussions at the moment of any change in ELI. If the answer is “no, there are no discussions taking place,” would the Provost concur that if such discussions were to become viable they would fall under that MOU? Provost Wilcox replied that there are no conversations taking place at this time, no decisions have been made, and fundamentally, ELI does not fall under the MOU.

b. Status of Faculty Senate Award Plaque Display Case – Larry Branch

President Branch announced that the Faculty Senate display case previously housed in the Campus View East Room of the old Marshall Center was designated surplus property last year when there was no feedback from the Faculty Senate as to whether or not it still wanted to keep it. The display case held the plaques bearing the names of the recipients of the Theodore & Venette Askounes-Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Jerome Krivanek Distinguished Teacher Award, all of which are under the auspices of the Faculty Senate. In addition, there are plaques with the names of past Faculty Senate Speakers and Presidents. Subsequently, the display case is now owned by the Department of Anthropology, and the faculty award plaques are hanging on the walls of the private dining rooms in the Top of the Palms of the new Marshall Center.

Dr. Elizabeth Bird, Chair of the Department of Anthropology, is willing to return the display case to the Faculty Senate, but the Faculty Senate will have to pay for moving it. However, President Branch pointed out that a decision needs to be made as to whether or not the Faculty Senate wants the display case. If so, a location must be found in which to keep it before it is returned. SEC members were asked to submit any ideas to either President Branch or Ms. Pipkins.
c. **Library Council Proposal** – Christine Probes

The proposal from the Library Council was postponed until the September 9 SEC meeting. The SEC was asked to review it and be prepared for discussion.

**REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT LAURENCE BRANCH**

President Branch reported on the following items:

- Architect Santiago Calatrava has been selected for designing the new academic building for USF Polytechnic.
- The Provost search is on-going and making progress.
- At the last SEC meeting, Provost Wilcox reported that he summarily rejected all of the proposed faculty nominees submitted by President Branch for the BOT workgroups. At the last BOT meeting, President Branch asked Chair Rea Law if it would be possible for Trustees who attend BOT workgroup meetings who are not members of that workgroup to be seated at the table and be given handouts. Chair Law replied that it would seem reasonable. President Branch received confirmation today via e-mail from Chair Law of this change in process.
- A point of information for the SEC was that there is approximately a 10-20 percent denial rate of applicants who come up for tenure. Summary information will be sent to SEC members.
- President Genshaft will be receiving a performance bonus as per her contract.
- The faculty assessments of the USF President, Provost and Senior Vice President, and Vice President for USF Health have been completed. There was only a 20 percent response rate. A hard copy of the assessments has been given to each of these people. The only other individuals who have seen the assessments are those involved with the process – Steve Permuth and Paul Terry. President Branch reiterated that these assessments are to be treated as confidential and requested that all Senators respect this confidentiality.
- Faculty have contacted President Branch about President Genshaft hiring senior-level people without conducting searches. However, he pointed out that these are not new positions but new titles.

At this time, President Branch returned to the issue of presentations from the faculty task force co-chairs. Discussion was held and it was agreed that the presentations be given to the full Senate. In addition, due to the overlap of the task forces it was recommended that the presentations be given at one time.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be September 9, 2009, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in SVC 5012.
ADDENDUM
Outstanding Items
Senate Executive Committee Meeting
July 1, 2009

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

2. Formal procedures for creating a logo – Michael Barber (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) – Ann Pipkins

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

5. Status of graduate teaching awards from Graduate Council – James Strange (10/01/08 SEC meeting).

6. Future discussion of the structure and ownership of the committees that report to the Faculty Senate – Michael Barnett (01/07/09 SEC meeting). Issue on hold while new Constitution is being developed.

7. Report from Provost Wilcox on regional campus accountability (02/04/09 SEC meeting).

8. Selection of members for Resolution Implementation Committee – Steve Permuth (04/08/09 SEC meeting).

9. Discussion of recent revisions to Bylaws and Constitution – Michael Barnett (06/03/09 SEC meeting.)

10. Request of Provost Office for credentials of faculty teaching summer school – Steve Permuth (06/03/09 SEC meeting).

11. Request of Provost Office for quantification of summer school class sizes – Steve Permuth (06/03/09 SEC meeting).

12. Feedback from Graduate and Undergraduate Councils on mechanism for dialogue between faculty, students and administration on changing the type of course offerings available – James Strange and Michael Le Van (06/03/09 SEC meeting).

13. Feedback on approval for existing courses that are changed into on-line courses – James Strange and Michael Le Van (06/03/09 SEC meeting).

14. Change in policy review process – invite either a member of Office of the General Counsel or Vice President Kathleen Moore to a meeting (06/03/09 SEC meeting).
15. Status of funding for Publications Council – Ralph Wilcox (07-01-09 SEC Meeting)

16. Discussion of USF System Governance Document (07-01-09 SEC Meeting)

17. Discussion of recent revisions to Bylaws and Constitution – Michael Barnett (06/03/09; 07-01-09 SEC meeting)

18. Draft of career ladder for instructors to be circulated – Kofi Glover (07-01-09 SEC Meeting)

19. Decision regarding display case (07-01-09 SEC Meeting)

20. Discussion of proposal from Library Council – Christine Probes (07-01-09 SEC Meeting)

21. Presentations from faculty task force co-chairs to be done at Faculty Senate meeting (07-01-09 SEC Meeting)
Completed Items

1. Time of September 9 SEC meeting has been announced; meeting room has been secured; message has been sent (SEC Meeting 07-01-09; completed 07-08-09)

2. Proposal to retain Florida Institute of Oceanography as a Type I center distributed to Senators (SEC Meeting 07-01-09; completed 07-06-09)

3. USF System Governance Document distributed to Senators (SEC Meeting 07-01-09; completed 07-02-09)

4. Summary of rate of tenure denials distributed to SEC members (SEC Meeting 07-01-09; completed 07-02-09)