AY 2008/2009 FS meetings minutes: 09 Feb 18

Faculty Senate
Faculty Senate Present Laurence Branch called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Minutes from the January 21, 2009, meeting were approved as corrected.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

a. Election Nominations – Michael Barnett

Secretary Barnett presented the following nominations to fill Senate vacancies for the 2009-2010 academic year:

Faculty Senate
Election Nominations
Spring Semester 2009

College of Arts and Sciences

James E. Andrews
Julie Langford
Gregory McCollm
David Merkler
George S. Nolas

Behavioral & Community Sciences

Randy Otto

College of Business Administration

Manish Agrawal

College of Education

Steve Permut
Arthur Shapiro
Paul Terry

College of Engineering

Chris Ferekides

Libraries

Claudia Dold
Matt Torrence
College of Medicine

Kathleen Armstrong
Heather Curtiss
Nagwa Dajani
Huntington Potter
David Shapiro
Jamie Shutter

College of Nursing

Cheryl Zambroski

A motion was made and seconded to accept this slate of candidates. The motion was unanimously passed.

The College of Medicine and the Libraries received more nominations than there are vacancies, so elections will be held in those units. College of Medicine has 4 three-year terms and 1 one-year term to fill; Libraries has 1 three-year term. There are no vacant seats in 2009/2010 for: Colleges of Marine Science and Public Health and Polytechnic Campus.

Vacancies still exist in: College of Arts and Sciences (2 three-year terms; 1 two-year term; 1 one-year term); College of Business Administration (1 three-year term), College of Education (1 two-year term), College of Engineering (1 two-year term), College of The Arts (1 three-year term), and Sarasota Campus (1 three-year term).

b. Honorary Degree Recommendations – Bob Batchelor

On behalf of the Honors and Awards Council (HAC), Chair Batchelor presented two honorary degree recommendations for consideration by the Senate: Ms. Michelle Bachelet and Mr. Robert Butterworth. These nominations came to the Senate with recommendations to approve from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC). A motion was made and seconded to accept these candidates. The floor was opened for discussion. The vetting process for honorary degrees was briefly discussed. There was a call to question. The motion to accept Mr. Butterworth’s nomination as the recipient of a Doctor of Humane Letters was passed with one abstention. The motion to accept Ms. Bachelet’s nomination as recipient of a Doctor of Humanities was unanimously passed. The nominations will be forwarded to President Judy Genshaft for review and consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss at today’s meeting.
NEW BUSINESS


Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Graham Tobin announced that USF is moving forward with a newly developed benefits package for postdoctoral fellows and their dependents. This is the result of recommendations from a task force co-chaired by Dr. Michael Barber, Past President of the Faculty Senate, and Dr. Dwayne Smith, Senior Vice Provost. The new program will be effective July 1, 2009. Current postdoctoral fellows on faculty or staff lines will be grandfathered. All new hires and/or current postdoctoral fellows appointed as OPS will qualify for the new program. Further information may be obtained by contacting Dr. Tobin (gtobin@acad.usf.edu) or Ms. Sandy Lovins of Human Resources (slovins@acad.usf.edu).

b. Discussion Topics for Senate – Laurence Branch

President Branch commented that the Faculty Senate is the place for discussions of issues that affect USF’s academic community; for example, the mandatory leave during the last week in December. The United Faculty of Florida (UFF) considers this an issue that needs to be discussed in the context of the collective bargaining agreement. In addition, President Branch would like for the Senate to begin a discussion about furloughs, another element of collective bargaining. With the possibility of an additional 2 percent cut before the end of this fiscal year, he feels the Senate needs to be proactive by trying to maximize the integrity of USF.

c. Creation of Ad Hoc Committee – Laurence Branch

President Branch has been asked by a former faculty member to review the circumstances surrounding the individual’s dismissal. President Branch will appoint an ad hoc committee to examine the evidence to determine if due process was followed.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT JUDY GENSHAFT

President Genshaft reported the following items:

• The National Science Foundation will be displaying in its atrium an 8 foot by 5 foot Anthropology poster featuring Dr. Kathryn Borman and her newly awarded $1.5 million grant. Congratulations were extended to Dr. Borman and the Department of Anthropology.

• President Barack Obama has nominated a USF graduate to be the next drug czar. Mr. R. Gil Kerlikowske, currently Seattle’s police chief, graduated with a Bachelor’s and a Master’s from USF. If Mr. Kerlikowske is approved by the US Senate, he will be in charge of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.
• The State Legislature is putting together a budget and the predictions are that USF is looking at another 10 (32 million dollars) to 15 (53 million dollars) percent reduction next year in E&G funds. Construction (PICO) and lottery funds are down. It is not known whether or not there will be another reduction before July.

• Although some Florida universities are talking about furloughs, they are not being seriously considered right now at USF. If USF does decide to initiate furloughs, discussions will take place with all stakeholders. She clarified that furloughs are not reoccurring funds, but one time monies.

• A formula for prepaid students has been created. As things develop in this area, the information will be shared with the university community.

• President Genshaft has been appointed to a one-year term as Chair of the American Council of Education (ACE). ACE is an organization that attempts to bring together goals and future planning of universities around the country.

• USF has submitted its list of infrastructure projects. Twenty million dollars for all the SUS in Florida has been allocated for construction. A chart showing the projects will be available on a web site constructed by the Board of Governors.

REPORT FROM PROVOST RALPH WILCOX

Before giving his report, Provost Wilcox touched on the issue of furloughs stating that such conversations were very premature. Furloughs are only a portion of the array of possibilities to reduce the budget. As pointed out by President Genshaft, there will be ample opportunity for feedback from all stakeholders of the budget scenario.

The Provost’s report consisted of the following:

• Although higher education did not receive the billions of dollars earmarked for infrastructure improvements, there was an increase of $15 billion in funds provided to increase Pell grant awards by $500.00. In addition, there was a huge infusion of federal dollars into research and development.

• The Provost asked for help with a request to report on post-doctorates and non-faculty, Ph.D. research support staff. That is, each Ph.D. needs to be classified appropriately as faculty, post-doctorate, or research. This information will be used by the Carnegie Institute to reclassify universities based upon a balance across the board in terms of institutional investment and performance. Dr. Graham Tobin, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, is working with the Carnegie Institute on this report.

• With the assistance of Secretary Michael Barnett, work continues on finding a way to have textbooks digitally available for students. Secretary Barnett has met with representatives from the publishing group Cengage. If the process is successful, textbook costs could be reduced by 50 percent.
• The new name for the College of Visual and Performing Arts is College of The Arts.

• The Third Annual Global Venture Challenge will be held March 25-28, 2009 in Oak Ridge, TN. Teams consist of graduate students, faculty, and staff. USF has two teams in the semi-finals.

• The College of Business hosted the 2009 Intercollegiate Case Competition. Teams from the University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida Atlantic University, and USF competed, with the team from USF emerging victorious. Thanks to Senator Mike Bowen for organizing this event, and congratulations to the College of Business.

At this time, President Branch commented that he has been asked for a Faculty Senate logo so it can be displayed along with the logos of the other governing USF groups in the new Marshall Center. However, the Faculty Senate does not have a logo and he asked the Senators to come up with some ideas for discussion later in the meeting.

REPORT FROM UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA PRESIDENT SHERMAN DORN

United Faculty of Florida (UFF) President Dorn’s report consisted of the following issues:

• President Obama’s administration seems to value people who work at all levels, which UFF is pleased to see.

• Faculty should have had reflected in their January pay stubs a 2 percent raise and, if eligible, a merit raise.

• Provost Wilcox and President Branch were congratulated on the signing of the MOU Concerning Principles, Guidelines, and Procedures for Major Organizational Restructuring of Academic Units at the University of South Florida.

• Before furloughs take place, collective bargaining has to be done that affects in-unit employees; they cannot be imposed unilaterally. Furloughs should not be necessary if there will be any cuts.

• A bargaining survey is being conducted.

• No bargaining session is scheduled.

• At the State Legislature level, the differential tuition bill is being supported, and it is anticipated that it will pass. Anything else on prepaid tuition will be difficult to get.

• Senators were reminded that when they contact UFF people, they should do so using an off-campus e-mail and their own cell telephones. University resources should not be used for this purpose.
• Travel Department has hired OPS staff to process reimbursements. Anyone having problems getting their reimbursement should contact either their department chair or dean.

Before the next report, President Branch returned to the issue of a logo. Several were offered: balance, justice, shared governance. Senators were asked to send their suggestions to President Branch.

REPORT FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE JERRY TROTTER

Mr. Trotter reported the following:

• Student Government is using its mission statement for logo ideas.

• Greek Recognition Day will be held on April 7, 2009, to show faculty appreciation. The event will be held in the Martin Luther King Plaza starting at 11:00 a.m.

At this time, Mr. Trotter introduced Mr. Frank Malatesta, Student Government’s Director of Community and Governmental Affairs, to talk about USF day at the capitol on March 4. Mr. Malatesta explained that the “Rally in Tally” is an event to give students a forum to discuss issues relevant to them with legislators from districts across the state. He felt that the most important topic is the budget cuts. Any support from the Faculty Senate to the Legislature on behalf of the students would be appreciated.

ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

1. Senator Cheryl Zambroski from the College of Nursing asked if there is a policy of what constitutes a dean search committee. After a brief discussion, Provost Wilcox stated that his office will look into it and let her know.

2. Secretary Michael Barnett announced that the Bylaws Committee will have Constitutional revisions to be presented to the Senate Executive Committee in the near future and eventually to the full Senate. The Committee would like to have revisions approved before summer. Any suggestions on procedures that should be included in either the Bylaws or the Constitution should be sent to Secretary Barnett.

3. Senator Kathleen Armstrong from the College of Medicine asked what stance the Faculty Senate was going to take regarding the incident involving Vice President of USF Health Abdul Rao. Discussion was held, and because there was no pressure to remove Dr. Rao, which would have required an investigation involving the Faculty Senate, then it does not need to be involved.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT LAURENCE BRANCH

Dr. Branch reported the following items:
• His six-month report on Faculty Senate activities from August, 2008 through January 2009 will be placed on the Faculty Senate web site.

• Faculty have been asked to cast their votes on two Constitutional amendments. Voting concludes on February 20, 2009.

• Following up on the discussion at today’s meeting regarding the Carnegie Institute criteria for research intensive, Associate Vice President Tobin will be asked to address the Faculty Senate at a future meeting.

• The CEOs of the USF Polytechnic and the Sarasota-Manatee campuses will be invited to attend a meeting of either the Senate Executive Committee or Faculty Senate to discuss organizational structures and issues that influence their campuses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on March 25, 2009.
ADDENDUM
Follow-Up Items

1. Provost Wilcox asked to provide FTE for the 2001 and 2008 benchmarks, as well as dollar support for people listed on the Institutional Growth, AY 2000/01 through AY 2008/9-Selected Measures handout (FS Mtg. 10-15-08).

2. President Branch to appoint an ad hoc committee to examine whether or not due process was followed in the dismissal of a faculty member (FS Mtg. 02-18-09).

3. Suggestions for Faculty Senate logo to be forwarded to President Branch (FS Mtg. 02-18-09).

4. Provost’s Office to look into whether a policy exists on what constitutes a dean search committee (FS Mt. 02-18-09).

5. Results of the vote taken on the two Constitutional amendments (FS Mtg. 02-18-09).

6. Associate Vice President Graham Tobin asked to address the Faculty Senate regarding the Carnegie Institute criteria for research intensive (FS Mtg. 02-18-09).

7. The CEOs of the USF Polytechnic and the Sarasota-Manatee campuses will be invited to attend a meeting of either the Senate Executive Committee or Faculty Senate to discuss organizational structures and issues that influence their campuses (FS Mtg. 02-18-09).