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Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate President Laurence Branch called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. Editorial comments to the March 25, 2009, Minutes were submitted by President Branch and UFF President Sherman Dorn which will be incorporated. With those changes, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

SENATOR RECOGNITION

At this time, President Branch presented certificates of appreciation to the following out-going Senators:

College of Arts and Sciences
Susan Greenbaum – Past President
Dale Johnson
Pritish Mukherjee
Carlos Lopez
Sondra Fogel

Behavioral and Community Sciences
Oliver (Tom) Massey

College of Business
Michael Bowen

Engineering
Ashok Kumar

Libraries
James Michael

College of Medicine
Tatyana Zhukov
Nagwa Dajani
Charles Edwards
Gene Ness

College of Nursing
Joan Gregory

Sarasota-Manatee
Weimin Mo

President Branch thanked them for their service in the Faculty Senate. Everyone received a round of applause from the Senators.
REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

a. New Senator Orientation – Laurence Branch

President Branch announced that Vice President Steve Permuth and Dr. Paul Terry, Chair of Committee on Faculty Issues, will be working on an orientation to the Faculty Senate for new Senators.

b. Call for Membership on Committee on Committees – Ellis Blanton

Committee on Committees (COC) Chair Blanton announced that it is time to identify members to serve on the COC next year. Term limit is one year. The COC is responsible for soliciting, reviewing, and making recommendations to the Provost and university president to fill vacancies on the Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate, as well as on the University-Wide Committees and Councils. COC work is done either on Blackboard or by electronic mail. One representative is needed for each college or unit. For those colleges with one Senator, that person is automatically on the COC. Other units need to identify someone from their groups. Interested persons should contact either him or Ms. Ann Pipkins in the Faculty Senate Office.

c. Results of Member-at-Large Election – Michael Barnett

There were two candidates for the position of Member-at-Large to the Senate Executive Committee: Senator Rosalie Baum and Senator David Shapiro. An election was held with Senator Baum emerging as the winner. Her term as Member-at-Large to the Senate Executive Committee will be effective beginning with the Fall Semester 2009 until the beginning of Fall Semester 2010. Congratulations were extended to Senator Baum.

OLD BUSINESS


Associate Vice President Tobin presented analysis where USF stands with Carnegie classification and clarified what it will take for USF to maintain its current standing. The Carnegie classification system pertains to faculty as well as support staff. Dr. Tobin pointed out that the aggregates put USF well within the needed values, and so he is optimistic that USF will retain its standing though there are specific areas in which USF needs to improve.

b. Update from Task Force on Faculty Roles, Rules, and Responsibilities – Gregory Teague

As Chair of the TFFRRR, Senator Teague distributed copies of the “Preliminary Summary of Recommendations for Review and Comment by the University Community, April 22, 2009” requesting feedback at this step before the task force meets with Provost Wilcox. Senator Teage pointed out that the orientation of the document is Tampa Academic Affairs stating that the regional campuses chose to observe and not to
participate. The document, along with appendices, will be available on the Provost’s website from which people will be allowed to post their comments. Feedback is requested no later than May 5.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Proposed USF Policy #0-502 – Appropriate Use of Information Technology Resources – Grandon Gill

As Chair of the Council on Technology for Instruction and Research (CTIR), Dr. Gill presented this proposed policy. There were two bulleted points which he brought to everyone’s attention as being of particular interest to faculty: (1) Users must be aware that internal or external audit or other needs may require examination of uses of University resources or services and should not expect such uses to be free from inspection. (2) The IT resource must be fully available for official University business or academic use, the use of the asset shall not impede the asset’s University business. The incidental personal use of a resource must not limit in any manner the availability of that resource. CTIR and the SEC have reviewed the proposed policy and feel that it is a sensible document; thereby, presenting it to the Faculty Senate with a motion to approve. The motion was seconded and the floor was opened for discussion.

The Council on Educational Policy and Issues (CEPI) also reviewed the document and its chair, Senator Donchin, presented the following recommendations:

• Wording for the phrase “in any manner” is insufficiently precise. CEPI recommended revision of this language to perhaps state the use “of must not unreasonably impact the availability of the resource.”

• The text referring to the use of copyrighted material should mention explicitly the “Fair Use” exceptions when using copyrighted materials.

• The policy needs to address the duty and obligations of the Information Technology (IT) staff to protect the confidentiality of materials stored on any IT resource.

Recommendations from the floor included dropping the second sentence entirely of the second bullet and the deletion of “fully,” “incidental,” and “the asset’s” in the first sentence.

The consensus was that the policy was good and that more specificity would not be in the best interest as faculty; i.e., the more flexible and less limiting the better.

The motion that the Faculty Senate endorse this policy, with amendments, was passed with one abstention.
b. **Textbook Workgroup** – Michael Barnett

Secretary Barnett announced that he and Associate Provost Tapas Das have created an Open Source Textbook and Class Support Material Committee with the purpose of looking at lower cost options for students. The committee will be meeting during the week of April 27.

**REPORT FROM VICE PRESIDENT OF USF HEALTH STEPHEN KLASKO**

Vice President Klasko’s report consisted of debunking ten myths about USF Health. Topics ranged from budget discrepancies to doctors’ offices becoming paper-free. He pointed out that although USF Health is complex, it is not a separate entity from USF and is looking forward to working with USF-Tampa and the Faculty Senate.

**REPORT FROM PRESIDENT JUDY GENSHAFT**

Due to time limitations, President Genshaft postponed her report on the system’s reporting lines and responsibilities and, instead, reported on the following budget items:

- Currently, the House and Senate have not come to an agreement on next year’s budget. A special meeting for all eleven university presidents is scheduled in Tallahassee the following day to talk about the dire straights that higher education is in now and the consequences of an anticipated twenty-four percent additional reduction to the general revenue.

- The Senate has stopped any program that needs financing. This affects the newly approved Pharm D program. The one million dollars received from the donor will be used to start the program. For accreditation purposes, the Board of Governors allows USF to offer this doctoral degree, but it is the Legislature that allows licensing. USF will be going to the Legislature in 2011 to seek a license for the program, but it needs to get started now and not be delayed.

- PECO funding for USF has been cut from 44 million dollars in September, 2008 to 13 million dollars in March, 2009. These funds will be used for infrastructure. Matching funds are not being looked at.

**REPORT FROM PROVOST RALPH WILCOX**

In response to the question of “What next?” Provost Wilcox replied that USF has been planning judiciously to set funds aside in anticipation of budget cuts. Looking at a thirty-eight to seventy-eight million dollar recurring base budget reduction, the university needs to be creative in its approach on ways to accomplish this. This round of cuts will be hardest felt during the 2011-2012 academic year. The Provost stated that as soon as the Legislature approves a budget, his office will start immediate consultations to plan for a long-term recurring budget reduction.
REPORT FROM STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE JERRY TROTTER

Before Mr. Trotter took the floor, President Branch announced that Mr. Trotter would be receiving the Golden Bull Award for his service to USF during his tenure as Student Senate President Pro Tempore. Congratulations were extended to him.

Mr. Trotter reported that during this past academic year, Student Government was successful in accomplishing the following:

- Continuation of the College Leadership Program,
- Finals week initiative of having the Marshall Center open later,
- Voting drive to encourage students to get out and vote,
- The creation of an academic course on leadership/mentoring with the Legislative Branch, and
- Improved student involvement in shared governance, particularly with the Faculty Senate.

REPORT FROM UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA PRESIDENT SHERMAN DORN

President Dorn reiterated that when faculty contact their elected officials that they should use their personal computers and telephones, not university resources. In response to a question regarding proposed decreases in compensation, he commented that any such action must go through collective bargaining.

On Thursday, April 23, there will be a consultation between the United Faculty of Florida and USF. In addition, an arbitration hearing is scheduled on the grievance involving the mandatory annual leave issue from last year.

ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

CFI Chair Paul Terry made a motion that President Branch call a special session of the Faculty Senate specifically to ask the President of the university to discuss the budget and system. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT LAURENCE BRANCH

President Branch expressed his appreciation for the appropriate collaboration between United Faculty of Florida, the Faculty Senate, the administrations of Academic Affairs and USF Health, and Student Government during the 2008-2009 academic year. He thanked everyone for the spirit of cooperation this past year and looks forward to the same next year.
The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) met with co-chairs Michael Barber and Karen Holbrook of the Search Committee for the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at USF to express dismay at the timeline that was offered in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* announcing the position. The hard copy came out approximately mid-April, the electronic version came out a few days before, stating that the search committee will begin screening candidates on the 30th of April. The SEC felt that this denoted the message to serious candidates that perhaps they need not apply. It harkens back to his previous statement about all the participating entities respecting each other’s spheres, responsibilities, and input. The SEC wants to keep the momentum of the university moving forward and making progress and would like everyone to understand that USF is a serious university that makes serious decisions about its senior leaders and the SEC felt that this was a misstep. This was communicated to and accepted by the co-chairs.

President Branch reminded everyone that Commencement ceremonies will be occurring starting on Friday, May 1st with the last ceremony taking place on Saturday evening, May 2nd. He urged everyone to attend graduation. Considerable energy and effort has been made on behalf of the administration to making all faculty welcome at these ceremonies. President Branch reminded the Senators that it is extremely important for the students and their families to see faculty at these graduation ceremonies, and it enhances faculty reputations.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.
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. Provost’s Office to look into whether a policy exists on what constitutes a dean search committee (FS Mt. 02-18-09).

4. 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).
Completed Items

1. Associate Vice President Graham Tobin asked to address the Faculty Senate regarding the Carnegie Institute criteria for research intensive (FS Mtg. 02-18-09; completed FS 04-22-09).