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Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate President Laurence Branch called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He reminded everyone that this is the last meeting of the Faculty Senate for the Fall Semester. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is scheduled for January 27, 2010. At this time, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes from the October 21 meeting as presented. The motion unanimously passed.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

There were no reports to be given.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Remarks and Vote on Proposal for School of Global Sustainability – Steve Permuth, Linda Whiteford, Ralph Wilcox

Vice President Permuth prefaced the discussion by explaining that the proposal for a School of Global Sustainability (SGS) is the first formal presentation under the application of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed by Provost Wilcox and the Faculty Senate regarding the issues of major academic restructuring within the university. As chair of the subcommittee, it was his responsibility to ensure that the protocol and guidelines of the MOU were followed. This is the third presentation of the proposal to the Faculty Senate which satisfies the timeline designation. The document presented to the Faculty Senate at today’s meeting was reviewed by the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) three times and has the endorsement of the SEC for approval. A motion was made to approve the proposal for a SGS as presented for reasons of discussion. The motion was seconded. Before opening the floor for discussion, Vice President Permuth asked that questions pertaining to the formal document be addressed by Associate Vice President Linda Whiteford. Provost Wilcox would address anything dealing with the budget. Questions on the issues of MOU guidelines and timelines would be addressed by either Vice President Permuth or Sergeant-at-Arms Arthur Shapiro. He added that any and all comments received on the proposal have been greatly appreciated.

Senator Emanuel Donchin commented that there was nothing mentioned in the document about the governance structure of the school, particularly the relationship between the school and the director and the many departments that would take part in the enterprise. What exactly can a director demand or request from departments is not specified. At some point this should be addressed. Dr. Whiteford responded that the director cannot demand anything. A great deal will depend on the director and others getting buy-ins from the departments. A governance structure will be established in time, but at the moment there is not any piece where the director of the school would be able to demand anything from any other chair, director, or colleague.
The relationship between people who wish to participate in the school through teaching is something that will have to be negotiated with the director, the chair of the department and perhaps the dean because that will be a different kind of time commitment. Other kinds of relationships with the school will also be voluntary. Faculty who wish to become affiliate scholars to use the school as an opportunity to meet fellow colleagues or participate in some of the on-line or international experiences is an option for individual faculty. Teaching, which would possibly change their percent of assignment, would have to be negotiated with their chair. Therefore, two different ways in which faculty can interact with the school: as an affiliate faculty which would be totally voluntary, or by teaching in the M.A. or other developing program which would have to be negotiated with their chair.

Senator Elizabeth Bird had questions pertaining to the revenue, particularly regarding the on-line fees. However, the on-line fees for the SGS will be going to it rather than back to Educational Outreach. She asked if the school was receiving some special dispensation to get these fees. Provost Wilcox responded that most of the revenues offset except for the start-up investment for the school. The distribution of tuition back to the colleges is based upon the allocation of faculty lines. This is the only source of new revenue coming to USF absent any generosity on the part of the Legislature in the next session. Most of the new tuition revenue has been pushed out in faculty and advisor lines or in recurring new staff. What to do with the distance learning fees has not been resolved. The Provost clarified that there has been no special arrangement made with the school. In addition, it is anticipated that the bulk of instruction to be delivered by full-time faculty as part of in-load with SCH generated returning to the department or the college. None of this SCH will gravitate to the SGS.

Senator Huntington Potter asked why was the decision made to offer a M.A. as opposed to a M.S. given the nature of global sustainability. Dr. Whiteford responded that it was decided to roll it out as a M.A. with a special project and report. It may well become a M.S. if there is that kind of buy-in from faculty who would like to teach in that area. A M.A. is more easily deliverable as a pilot. More ideas may come to fruition as the program moves forward.

There being no further questions or comments, President Branch called for the vote of the Faculty Senate endorsement of the School for Global Sustainability. The vote was unanimous. Vice President Permuth recognized Drs. Karen Liller, Christian Wells, and Whiteford, as well as Sergeant-at-Arms Shapiro, for all their fine work on this project.

Before President Genshaft gave her report, Faculty Senate President Branch announced that the Provost Office has increased the Faculty Senate budget. This will allow for the expansion of refreshments at the meetings, as well as allowing the Senate President to more fully participate in meetings of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates and the Inter-institutional Faculty Council.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT JUDY GENSHAFT

President Genshaft reported on the following items:
• USF recently announced the opening of the “Unstoppable Campaign.” The campaign opened on all campuses, each with its own goals, except for the Polytechnic Institute where it will open in the spring. Three hundred million dollars has been raised so far with a goal of 600 million dollars. She expressed her appreciation to faculty who helped set up the displays for each of the colleges and units.

• A Veteran’s Conference was held the previous week at which discussion centered on ways to reintegrate veterans into university life. This is the only program like it in Florida. The Secretary of Veteran Affairs attended, with a brief visit from Governor Charlie Crist. Drs. Bob Sullins and Tracy Tyree were thanked for coordinating the event.

• System work continues. A retreat with the Board of Trustees (BOT) and campus groups is scheduled for December 3. This is a work in-progress with all of the items from the Faculty Senate being taken into consideration.

• Student Success is an overarching theme for all of the University of South Florida. As the system is being created, it will be a learning process.

• The Board of Governors (BOG) wants one central voice coming from USF. The memo sent out by President Genshaft talking about the different people who would be relating to the BOG was a protocol communication, it was not meant to be restrictive. She apologized if it was misconstrued.

• An Honorary Degree for Dr. Samuel Bell, originator in the Legislature for starting the College of Public Health, will be awarded at the December Commencement. This is particularly important as it is the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary for the College. The Faculty Senate was thanked for recommending this Honorary Degree recipient.

• Of the twenty-eight community colleges in Florida, twenty have gone to four year institutions. It is anticipated that the other four will soon turn to four years as well. With the retirement of the president of Hillsborough Community College, the future relationship between USF and HCC is not known.

• She was on a panel of a conference of the National Association of State and Land Grant Colleges which focused on the fiscal nature of universities and how they will change as public universities. Universities throughout the country are going to have to be very inventive in ways to bring in revenue.

• Monthly “lunch and learn” meetings have taken place with ten in each group of faculty, staff, undergraduates, and graduates in an attempt to learn about concerns in each area. During the staff “lunch and learn,” the theme was they understand that with the recession how difficult it is for everyone, but one thing they would appreciate is just simply saying that their work is appreciated. There are different ways in which to say thank you. The staff asked President Genshaft to relay this message to the faculty. In terms of the faculty, the areas of concern are the larger teaching loads, technology upgrades, and the
cleanliness of the campus classrooms. The cleanliness issue has already started to be addressed. The “lunch and learn” sessions will continue.

Comments from President Branch in response to President Genshaft’s report:

1. The SEC is having its first lunch and learn on Monday, November 23, 2009. If anyone would like to add discussion items, please send them to Ms. Ann Pipkins for coordination of comments.

2. A committee among the SEC has spent considerable time looking at the system introduction and narrative. Comments will be sent to President Genshaft within the next few days.

3. To date, he has not heard where any of the funding sources for system roles, responsibilities, and functions will come from. He would like to see a financial plan. President Genshaft responded that the Pappas Consulting Company is in the process of faring out costs.

4. Encouraged everyone to attend the December graduation. The Provost’s Office will provide a light sustenance.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST RALPH WILCOX

Provost Wilcox expressed his appreciation to the Faculty Senate and particularly President Branch, Vice President Permuth, and Sergeant-at-Arms Shapiro for the support provided in helping the administration navigate for the first time through what it takes to collegially develop plans for a new school or college. There is still a lot of work to do, but it will be done incrementally to the extent that faculty and student demands call for it. He pointed out that this was a faculty-driven initiative in large part in response to student demand.

At a meeting of the Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLGU), he received a copy of a report which is a product of the provosts of those universities entitled “Coping Strategies of Public Universities during the Economic Recession of 2009.” It reported that the majority of academic officers were pessimistic about the short-term future of their campuses. At the end of the last Legislature Session, Florida saw a budget gap of 6 billion dollars. To that gap in the coming year, could be added an additional 2.5 billion dollars. The following year (2011-12) projections are that the gap could grow to be as much as an additional 5 billion dollars. Revenue collections are coming close or taken in a little above projection, but those projections are more realistic and not political projections.

In response to the community colleges becoming four year institutions, the Provost stated that each faculty member should start to think about the difference between a degree from a university which is a member of the State University System and a state college, and what it should mean for individual colleges, departments, and programs. A meaningful difference needs to be demonstrated between, for example, a baccalaureate degree in cell biology from USF and a baccalaureate degree from a state college. The Provost suggested to President Branch that
perhaps sometime in the future the Faculty Senate could initiate a conversation among the Senators.

Housekeeping Items:

1. The last Town Hall meeting to actively engage in conversations on the composite recommendations forth coming from the Faculty Senate driven, multiple task forces will be held on November 19, 2009. Everyone was urged to attend and engage in discussion.

2. USF is fourth in the recruitment of international students. Conversations with third party organizations to discuss a private-public partnership are being held to learn how to recruit more international students. It is hoped that in the near future that breakthrough strategies will be settled upon that will allow USF to attract more international students.

3. A promulgation of a policy on textbook affordability is moving through the university and will be presented to the ACE Workgroup of the BOT on November 19. The Faculty Senate was asked to “stand ready” for the policy.

REPORT ON STUDENT SUCCESS AT USF – DR. PAUL DOSAL

Provost Wilcox prefaced the presentation by stating that the major initiative this year is a renewed focus on student success at USF from an accountability standpoint from the State, Federal and the BOT. Dr. Dosal is Executive Director of ENLACE Florida, a state-wide initiative funded by the Legislature and the Kellogg Foundation to provide enhanced preparedness, access to, and success in college for underrepresented populations.

Dr. Dosal gave a snapshot launch of the plans for a campus-wide emergent in the interest of student success. Topics covered included: Vision for Student Success at USF, Charge of the Student Success Task Force, What Do We Want to Accomplish?, Assumptions, Scope for Student Success, Strategic Planning Model “ABCD” for Student Success, and Timeline for Student Success.

Dr. Dosal was agreeable to returning to a future Faculty Senate meeting to provide an update on the Student Success Task Force. To learn more about the Student Success Task Force, go to http://www.acad.usf.edu/Task-Force/Student-Success.

REPORT ON STATUS OF SACS ACCREDITATION – DR. RICHARD RICHARDE

President Branch set the context for the next report by stating that as USF moves forward with the development of a system, it abuts against certain requirements of SACS. SACS accredited USF five years ago when it was not a system, and as USF evolves into a system it is important to keep within this continuing compliance. To this end, Dr. RiCharde was asked to give a SACS Fifth-Year Interim Report consisting of the following five parts: Signature Attesting to Integrity, Abbreviated “Institutional Summary,” The Abbreviated Compliance Certification, Additional Report (applicable to select institutions), and Impact Report of the Quality Enhancement Plan. In addition, a 5th Year Interim Report Timeline and information on “Where We Stand,” along
with a list of SACS Teams was presented. SACS resources are available on the IE&A website at www.usf.edu/assessment.

President Branch addressed Dr. RiCharde with the question that it is his understanding after reading the SACS requirements that when USF was first accredited without a system all of the educational components were to move through an academic consultation system such as the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate passed a proposal last year to amend the Constitution that included recognition of the evolution of USF. However, at present USF Health does not go through the Faculty Senate for its origination of its academic programs. President Genshaft was asked to approve the amendment to the Constitution that the Faculty Senate shall be the primary advisor on academic matters to the Provost and President reflecting an era when all academic programs came through the Provost’s Office. The request for amendment was denied. It is his understanding that at this juncture, either USF Health has to be separately accredited as an entity, or it has to come through the established academic review process of the SACS entity.

Dr. RiCharde responded that the USF Health issue is one that is still not finalized. SACS is amending its appeal process so that any new financial information can be injected into the system at anytime. The QEP has been cited by the Department of Education on problems with the core requirements. There is a two-prong test, but there are other institutions that do not meet that test and yet there is not separate accreditation for medical schools. Dr. RiCharde is willing to return to the Faculty Senate after December 7th when he will have more information on this issue.

**REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT LAURENCE BRANCH**

President Branch asked for the Faculty Senate’s indulgence on a personal matter. He will be filing a grievance with the university. President Branch had asked the elected leadership of the Faculty Senate to consider whether it would be in the better interest of the Senate for him to resign as he files this grievance to which they responded no. However, he decided to bring the issue to the full Faculty Senate because he feels it is an issue to him fundamentally of integrity. At this time, President Branch excused himself and asked Vice President Steve Permuth to lead the discussion.

President Genshaft asked the procedural question that because there is a grievance, should the resignation be accepted. That is, is there a conflict of interest? Vice President Permuth suggested not unless the grievance itself is a conflict with the role of the president of the Senate that he or she cannot conduct business appropriately. He clarified that the substance of the grievance was not the subject, but whether the Faculty Senate felt it appropriate that President Branch continue in his role, or does it somehow conflict with his role. Senior Vice Provost Dwayne Smith commented that the primary implementation would be in President Branch’s role as Trustee because there clearly would be a conflict of interest at that point and there would be some implications although he did now know what those would be.

Senator David Armitage made the motion that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate in that the filing of a grievance, per se, does not imply a conflict of interest and therefore does not imply a need to resign or step down. The motion was seconded. The motion was discussed. Senator
Gregory Teague made the friendly amendment that President Branch should be thanked for his forthrightness and asked that he should continue in that mode and keep the Faculty Senate informed if he should be aware of any future conflicts that arise. Senator Armitage accepted the friendly amendment. Provost Wilcox stated that neither he nor President Genshaft have had absolutely no conversation with President Branch regarding the propriety of whether or not he should remain in his role as President of the Faculty Senate. There was a call to question. The motion to confirm the statement that President Branch remain in his role during the grievance process unanimously passed.

REPORT FROM USF UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA PRESIDENT SHERMAN DORN

President Dorn reported on the following issues:

• The university and the chapter have an agreement for the instructor promotion track to go into place. It should go through faculty governance to create a university-wide instructor promotion track.

• On the issue of domestic partnerships, there are two things that need to happen: (1) making sure that there is an appropriate non-state funding source that all actors at the university level are comfortable will satisfy any legal or political questions, and (2) there needs to be a structure agreed upon.

• The next collective bargaining session is Friday, November 20th and everyone is invited.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be January 27, 2010.
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). Graduate Council Chair Strange accepted the responsibility of looking into this matter.

3. Provost’s Office to look into whether a policy exists on what constitutes a dean search committee (FS Mtg. 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).

5. SEC comments on the system introduction and narrative to be forwarded to President Genshaft (FS Mtg. 11-18-09).

6. Suggestion from Provost Wilcox of a conversation among the Senators on the meaningful difference between a baccalaureate degree from a community college turned four-year institution and one from USF (FS Mtg. 11-18-09).
Completed Items

1. Volunteer to serve on Textbook Affordability Committee (FS Mtg. 10-21-09).

2. Vote for proposed SGS in accordance with MOU (FS Mtg. 09-23-09; FS Mtg. 11-18-09).