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Faculty Senate

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USF FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
October 21, 2015  
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Chamber Room 4200 Marshall Student Center

1. Call to Order, Review of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2015 Meeting
3. Reports by Officers and Council Chairs (15 minutes)  
   a. Standing Council Recommendations – Ellis Blanton (action item)  
   b. Honorary Degree Recommendations – Melanie Griffin (action item)
4. Old Business  
   a. CAS Department of Psychology Change of Schools (10 minutes) (action item)
5. New Business  
   a. Firearms on Campus – Phil Levy (25 minutes)
6. Report from USF System President Judy Genshaft (20 minutes)
7. Report from Provost and Executive Vice President Ralph Wilcox (20 minutes)
8. Report from USF System Faculty Council President Greg Teague (5 minutes)
9. Report from USF United Faculty of Florida President Arthur Shapiro (5 minutes)
10. Other Business from the Floor (5 minutes)
11. Adjourn - Next scheduled meeting – November 18, 2015
Faculty Senate President Phil Levy called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 24, 2015 as written. The motion unanimously passed.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT PHIL LEVY

Dr. Paul Sanberg, Vice President of Research & Innovation, will attend the November Senate meeting to discuss the results of the Huron report. A small subcommittee of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) will meet with him beforehand to provide guidance to shape his presentation. President Judy Genshaft will be asked for clarification on the status of the report at today’s meeting.

President Levy announced that after the November meeting he will be stepping down to serve as a Fellow at Mt. Vernon. Vice President Michael Teng will be serving as interim president for the remainder of the academic year.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS

a. Standing Council Recommendations – Ellis Blanton

As chair of the Committee on Committees (COC), Senator Blanton presented a list of nominees to fill vacancies on Faculty Senate Standing Councils effective with the fall semester. The list, which was approved by the SEC at its October meeting, came to the Senate with a motion to approve. There was no discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

b. Honorary Degree Recommendations – Melanie Griffin

As chair of the Honors and Awards Council (HAC), Ms. Griffin presented two candidates for an honorary degree: (1) Mr. Tod Leiweke for an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business, and (2) Dr. Eric Jacobsen for an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science. Both candidates were approved by the SEC and came to the Senate with a motion to approve. The floor was opened for discussion. The question was raised as to whether or not an honorary degree was the most appropriate way to recognize Mr. Leiweke. Ms. Griffin responded that the HAC did discuss his qualifications at length, and its decision was in recognition of Mr. Leiweke’s meritorious service rather than academic. There being no further discussion, separate votes were taken. The motion to recommend Mr. Tod Leiweke for an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business passed with 1 nay and 1 abstention. The motion to recommend Dr. Eric Jacobsen for an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science unanimously passed.
OLD BUSINESS

a. CAS Department of Psychology Change of Schools

President Levy reported that he had received a request from the Department of Psychology at USF Tampa that it would like to move from the School of Social Sciences (SSS) to the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (SNSM) within the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). The main impetus for the request is that the Psychology faculty members feel a closer affinity to the faculty in SNSM in terms of an empirical research approach. The issue of whether a move from one school to another falls under the 10-055 reorganization policy was discussed by the SEC. It was decided that it does constitute a restructuring, but it was also concluded that the policy does not apply to name changes. The SEC also agreed that there was no need to consider consultation since all parties involved agreed to the move. The floor was opened for discussion.

As former chair of the CAS faculty advisory council, Senator Richard Manning raised the issue as to whether or not the procedures have been followed by asking if there are bylaws in existence for the two schools involved which specify the procedures for a department’s moving from one school to another. A strategy of not permitting this change could be adopted to make sure there are documents in place to ensure shared governance. Senator Manning clarified that the schools are to formulate their own bylaws, but they have not. Provost Ralph Wilcox commented that consultation at all levels has occurred and the request can be endorsed; the process has been followed. The governance issue is for CAS to consider.

Dr. Toru Shimizu, Chair of the Department of Psychology, confirmed that all concerned parties were in agreement with this change. President Levy stated that the question at this point was the issue within CAS about whether the documents the faculty advisory council requested were present. This is an issue that could be brought up but should not affect faculty will in letting the move to SNSM happen just because this procedure did not adhere to an as yet unofficial policy. This calls attention to the fact that there are policy recommendations not being followed within CAS, and the Senate has an interest in seeing those procedures put in place. The Senate can act as a stopgap as far as 10-055 goes, but that is not the same as governing as to how those procedures go. The Senate relies on there being procedures and people following them.

The discussion created the need for two separate motions – one on the request from the Department of Psychology, and one on the status of CAS governance documents. At this time, President Levy made the motion that the Faculty Senate acknowledged that the proposal from the Department of Psychology, in its current form, fulfills the requirements of the 10-055 restructuring policy (Policy and Procedures for Proposed Changes in Academic Units of the University of South Florida System). The motion was seconded and passed with 1 nay and 1 abstention.

Senator Gregory McColm made a second motion that the Senate requests clarification regarding CAS schools’ compliance with CAS policy (article and section) that schools
have rules for moving a unit from one school to another. The motion was seconded and
the floor opened for discussion. President Levy clarified that by passing the request for
moving psychology into another school, this has brought to the Senate’s attention that
there is some discrepancy between the rules of the college and the governance documents
of the schools. The Senate is asking that the schools adhere to the CAS college
document. Senator Manning cautioned that the content of the request should be right. It
is not rules under which departments can be moved, but rules under which departments
may petition the Dean to join or leave them. A suggestion was made to ask CAS to share
the bylaws with the Senate. If they do not exist, then they know they have a problem.
The comment was made that this is a problem for CAS, not for the Senate to address.
The Dean can be informed of the Senate’s concerns, and it would like to have assurance
that they are addressed. Provost Wilcox suggested a friendly amendment that uses
similar language in the governance documents that academically aligns with university
policy on the organization of academic units. President Levy came to the conclusion that
the Senate does not need to put forth a motion for something that can be answered with
an explanation. Therefore, Senator McColm’s motion was tabled with the understanding
that further discussion will be held at next month’s meeting. This will give President
Levy an opportunity to discuss the issue with CAS Dean Eric Eisenberg.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Firearms on Campus – Phil Levy

With two gun bills confronting the Legislature (the right to carry concealed weapons on
college campuses and the right to openly carry anywhere concealed carry is allowed) and
the recent incident on campus, President Levy reopened the discussion of firearms on
campus. Senior Vice Provost Dwayne Smith gave a broader perspective with facts and
figures from universities around the country that allow firearms on their campuses. Past
President and President of the USF System Faculty Council (SFC) Greg Teague reported
that the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates reaffirmed its vote against the bills. He
commented that the Faculty Senate could also reaffirm its vote from last year to
recommend non-passing of the bill to add to the other votes. At this time a motion was
made and seconded that the USF Faculty Senate opposes the law to allow weapons on
campus. The motion passed with 1 abstention. Dr. Teague will take this message to the
SFC.

Senior Vice Provost Smith suggested that at some point the university needs to
communicate to those students who have genuine concerns about their safety: “We need
to articulate to students, particularly those who live off campus that it does not matter if
they have a weapon. We do not want to create the impression that we do not care what
happens to them. We need to communicate to them that gun carrying is not necessarily
the solution, but we need to be ready to offer solutions.”
REPORT FROM USF SYSTEM PRESIDENT JUDY GENSHAFT

President Genshaft’s report consisted of the following items:

• She has given authority to have the full Huron report posted. Information on where it is posted will be provided to President Levy.

• The BOT has approved the construction of a 28,000 square foot building on campus to house a Publix. It will be the first grocery store on any campus in the country with students being predominantly hired. The next step is the approval by the BOG at its November meeting.

• The BOG will be asked to approve a public/private partnership to renovate older residence halls to create a village. It will be open to all USF students.

• Two BOT Trustees have fulfilled their terms and cannot be reappointed. Five members will be reappointed (two by the BOG, three by the governor).

• She was duly reminded by President Levy that the Constitution needs her approval.

REPORT FROM PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT RALPH WILCOX

Provost Wilcox reported the following items:

• The BOG’s budget committee has explored possible refinement to the performance based funding methodology with no new metrics to be added. There is the strong possibility the maximum rubric score will be changed from 50 to 100 in order to further differentiate each institution’s performance. More information will be available after next week’s BOG meeting.

• The planning and implementation of the new RCM budget model is ongoing. He suggested that the Faculty Senate invite, in advance of the conclusion of this semester, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President Nick Trivunovich to attend a meeting to provide the Faculty Senate with an update and to ask questions as to what RCM will mean for research faculty and departments moving forward.

At this time, the Provost provided background on the process as to how it was decided to add reading days in April, 2016. As the academic calendar has evolved, USF has lost its scheduled reading days. The BOG sets parameters within which universities operate. Student leadership approached President Genshaft and the academic leadership about ending classes on a Friday and beginning final exams on a Saturday. With the increased focus on student success, the students wanted to know if anything could be done about the schedule. The administration made a commitment to go back to see if something could be done for the spring 2016 semester. Academic calendars over the next two to three years that have already been approved will be pulled back to see if this adjustment can be made. It was not pushed out as broadly as is
normally the case, but as the out years are reviewed, a greater sense of consultation will be brought back across the USF System.

Before moving on with the agenda, President Levy announced that one of the eXplorance Blue subcommittees is looking at what has been learned from the process and what to do now. A report is in committee and should be ready to share at the November meeting.

REPORT FROM USF SYSTEM FACULTY COUNCIL (SFC) PRESIDENT GREG TEAGUE

SFC President Teague’s report consisted of the following:

ACFS (Advisory Council of Faculty Senates)

At a recent meeting, one of the items discussed was the SUS Task Force on Strategic Planning for On-Line Education. A draft report was circulated among ACFS members with a request for input which generated observations/critiques of the future of on-line education.

SFC Items for October Meeting

• There is a restructuring proposal on the wholesale reorganization of departments at USFSM under policy 10-055.

• Proposed revisions to the Library Council charge brought up the recognition by the SEC that some of what the council does is actually System wide. He will take the question to the other institutions about how to involve faculty in the engagement process of library issues.

• The RCM will be discussed; particularly, about how to make it a smooth transition. In order to make the model work, it has to first work within the colleges which means the college governance process needs to make sure that faculty are engaged. The Senate should think about how to work with the college faculty governance councils.

REPORT FROM USF UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA SECRETARY GREG MCCOLM

Although there has been a collective bargaining agreement in place for 3 years, a mini negotiation on salary, plus 2 other items, is on the table.

Last spring, the Senate of the state-wide UFF passed a resolution opposing gun legislation; at last month’s meeting it passed another resolution against the legislation. Florida Education Association has voted in favor of the resolution opposing the legislation. Updates will be provided.

Everyone was reminded that a telephone call is the best mechanism to voice opinions on legislative issues.
At recent UFF and Florida Education Association meetings, both resolutions opposing gun carry legislation passed but not unanimously.

**ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR**

Senator Marilyn Bertch from the CoTA announced that the School of Theater and Dance would be having a costume sale on Thursday and Friday. All proceeds from the sale will go directly to the theater department to aid in budgeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 4:58 p.m.