

## Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

September 25, 2009

Administration Building USF

Tampa, FL

### MINUTES

#### Meeting called to order by Chair Judy Solano at 8:50 AM

**Attendance:** FGCU – Halcyon St. Hill, Chuck Lindsey; FSU – Eric Walker; NCF – Pat McDonald; UCF – Ida Cook, Manoj Chopra; UF – Jack Mecholsky, Mary Ann Ferguson, Rick Yost; UNF – Judy Solano, Kathy Robinson; USF – Larry Branch; USF St. Petersburg – Brianne Reck, Richard; UWF – Nick Power; UFF – Tom Auxter and ; BoG staff – Rick Maxey, Tim Jones, Richard Stevens; missing – FAMU, FAU, FIU

**Action Items:** Highlighted below.

#### ACFS Business

The agenda was handed out. Judy Solano welcomed everyone, and apologized for the confusion of the meeting location and timing.

**Approval of Minutes of May 2009 Meeting** – Approved; Rick will send a copy to Sundra Kinsey to post on our ACFS webpage on the BOG site. We agreed that minutes should only be posted after they have been approved.

Judy discussed the officer positions in ACFS and their succession.

Rick Maxey, Tim Jones, and Richard Stevens of the BOG staff joined us.

#### BoG Staff Reports

1. **Rick Maxey** updated us on legislative issues. He reported that the relation between the legislature and BOG are significantly improved, which will position the universities well for the 2010 legislative session. The outlook for 2010 is good, although the financial outlook is not great. The main focus for 2010 will be how the universities can help advance the state of Florida, as it moves from an economy based on agriculture, tourism, and population growth, to one potentially knowledge-based economy in which the universities will play a central role. Our new Chancellor,

was a base budget similar to this year's, including continuation of stimulus funds, with special requests for major gift and Courtellis matching funds (\$250M). Additional funding requests

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**FAU Report – Tim Lenz**

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES  
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY REPORT

performance building. An expansion of the student union building is underway; planning for new Health Science building is underway, with actual construction to await restoration of PECO funds.

Major university initiatives for the current year:

- The university will be conducting a review and update of the five year strategic plan; new plan to cover 2010-2015. Information on the planning process and timeline is available at <http://www.fgc.edu/Provost/SP2010/index.html> .
- The campus master plan is being updated this year as well. We are currently in the

were promoted during the past year), so it looks like there will be no raises or bonuses for the current year unless something changes. Salary compression/inversion is still a major issue for faculty, and a joint task force is currently studying the matter.

Submitted by C. Lindsey, President, FGCU Faculty Senate

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Applications to the second class of the FIU College of Medicine passed 2,000 last week and are running ahead of last year at this time.

The Senate Steering Committee has taken up the issue of membership of associate and assistant deans in its committees and in the Senate itself after a challenge from our law school faculty arguing that, since it's not explicitly forbidden, it's permitted. Past practice has not allowed this.

University enrollments this fall are down at the lower division level and up at all other levels. Total enrollment is estimated to be over 38,000. This year for the first time Miami-Dade County High School students have been brought to campus where they will take lower division courses and required high school courses as part of a formally structured program. One hundred students are in the pilot program and it is expected that the program will expand to at least 200 students. FIU continues to operate an extensive, formally structured outreach program to the public schools.

The FIU physical plant is straining to accommodate the student body. It seems that state-level plant utilization formulae do not account for courses offered after 5pm or on weekends. If true, commuter schools offering substantial numbers of courses in the evenings and weekends are being penalized and the matter should be reviewed at the System level.

Respectfully submitted.  
Tom Breslin  
Chair, Faculty Senate, FIU  
September 22, 2009

Faculty Convocation Address, 2009

Dear Colleagues, today I would like to repeat so

in the nation. This is a dimension of our university too little known and appreciated in our community.

This bounty is shared with students across this public university, in courses that would not otherwise be offered, through syllabi that would otherwise not be so rich and challenging, in laboratories that would otherwise not be open or, if open, not so well equipped. Indeed many are the students, undergraduate and graduate, who would not otherwise be here. Last year, faculty and staff supported students with over \$9 million in contract and grant money. That is still more to be proud of.

Thus, despite thinning ranks and a growing student body, FIU faculty members, librarians, and staff colleagues have been exceptionally successful in hunting and gathering the wherewithal that underwrites our education, research, and community service programs. We will have to do even better in the future and I am confident that we will.

As we plan for the next decade, we need to ask ourselves if our academic program and course offerings are university level or not, that is, whether they have a creative dimension or not. If they do not and we cannot add such a dimension, we should jettison them. Cutting programs and courses based on mere numbers is a Jack Welch type of damaging error. We also need to ask ourselves whether or not we are cultivating and recruiting students who exhibit the potential to survive and thrive in an atmosphere where the answers are not already known and students are expected to be creative and not merely good test takers. To do this we will have to develop a new partnership with the local schools, perhaps teaching our first year courses in the magnet schools. We should consider that type of seamlessness.

It is a time to keep up the great work, plan for greater achievements over the next decade, pursue the necessary support, and realize higher goals.

Thomas A. Breslin  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
Faculty Convocation  
Florida International University

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**FSU Report – Eric Walker**

Florida State University  
ACFS Update  
September 2009

1. On June 17, the FSU Board of Trustees passed a three-year budget for FY 09-10 through FY 11-12. This budget addressed \$82 million in E&G cuts from the legislature since 2007. For the faculty, the most dire news was the termination of 21 tenured faculty, 14 tenure-track faculty, and 25 non-tenure-track faculty. (There were over 100 staff layoffs as well.) All 60 faculty have been moved to stimulus funds for 09-10 and we are told that they will be funded for 10-11 with those same dollars for a second year, if necessary—at which point the stimulus dollars and the jobs disappear. In budget crisis planning during the year, faculty representatives consistently recommended furloughs as an alternative to faculty terminations, but the administration told the BOT that they needed to hold furloughs as a fall-back option in case the state economy does not recover and there are further cuts. Many of the affected faculty are pursuing grievances via the UFF. Layoffs occurred primarily in the Sciences and in Education, with a few more in Theatre and Art. In the Science area in Arts and Sciences, Anthropology, Geology and Oceanography took big hits (as those two latter departments and Meteorology are being reorganized into a new “Earth Sciences” department). Science education, math education, and physical education were also shut down; the Provost is reorganizing math and science education as a joint endeavor

between A&S and Education. (Notice the “reorganization” theme here: see grievances, above). The branch campus at Panama City was put on notice that it has to become self-supporting in three years. Ringling Museum and Asolo Theatre programs are similarly under the gun. Hospitality and golf management programs in the College of Business are also under a mandate to become self-supporting.

2. At that same June BOT meeting, President Wetherell announced his wish to retire sometime during the next year, if possible by December 09 but certainly by the end of AY 09-10. In July the BOT hired a search firm; at its September meeting a week ago, it approved a Presidential Search Advisory Committee of 18 members, plus a chair (who is also chair of the Board). There are four faculty representatives on the PSAC, plus one dean (of Arts and Sciences) who is also a faculty member. No vice-presidents. The other members are students, alumni, boosters, and community members. The consultant is now actively assembling candidates for review later in the fall. In addition to the huge handicap of Florida sunshine law, a major problem in the search is the fact that there will be a significant turnover in membership on the Board of Trustees in January. That fact alone will probably push the search into next year; once the legislature starts meeting in the spring, President Wetherell will certainly stay on board to wrestle with them.

3. As if the above were not enough, we still manage to get into the paper very regularly in an ongoing fracas with the NCAA. The appeal of the sanction of vacated wins has now gotten tangled up in suits and countersuits about open records law. This thing just limps along from one embarrassment to the next.

4. On the plus side, we had our third Rhodes Scholar in four years.

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**NCF Report – Pat McDonald**

New College Campus Report  
September 24, 2009

1. Campus Budget

The Faculty constituted an Ad Hoc Budget Committee which reviewed the college budget and suggested cuts to address the projected budget shortfall. These cuts included across the board reduction in operating expenses as well as targeted reduction in staff (nine total, no faculty positions, though two unassigned faculty lines were cut). The faculty voted to ask administration to include the Chair of Faculty in all high level budget discussions. Administration adopted the proposal and over the course of the summer a three year balanced budget was created. The general outline of this budget follows many of the faculty budget proposals. Roughly described, faculty proposed cuts, projected tuition increases, stimulusd tct5497cut(c)-2.5(edserve006a. stimm(r)-2.3(RTcAshed



drop plan and will retire at the end of next year. We expect to be searching for a provost next year and a president in short order.

With growth experienced over the last five years, talks are under way to reshape the academic infrastructure. Specifically, the college is debating the relative merits of dropping our current divisional structure for a department based model. The college is also considering the merits of a “Dean of the Faculty” position. Finally, faculty are actively engaged in determining the fate of flexible scheduling, grant relief, shared positions and part-time faculty positions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick McDonald  
Chair of the New College Faculty

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**UCF Report – Ida Cook**

Report of Activities at UCF and the Faculty Senate  
September 2009

The University of Central Florida Faculty Senate has been actively engaged in the process having to do with the budget cutbacks emanating from the State economic issues.

1. UCF's new Medical College held its 'white coat ceremony' for its inaugural class of 41 medical college students. Each student received a first-of-its-kind full scholarship — funded entirely from community donations — that covers all costs for four years of medical school. The charter class boasts the highest average MCAT score (32.2) and GPA (3.8) of any incoming class of medical students in the state. For more information, link follows:  
<http://news.ucf.edu/UCFnews/index?page=article&id=00240041037381429012136c33d79002dda>
2. Program Eliminations related to budget cuts:
  - a. Early in June, faculty senators attended a special called meeting to learn the details of program eliminations in response to the budget issues. At that meeting, 5 programs were identified for elimination, affecting 45 faculty members, six staff members, and the 1092 students. The cuts would save \$6.1 million. Program closures will be scheduled over the next two years, providing a two-year teach-out path for students in those programs. Undergraduates within 36 credit hours of completing their majors should be able to so in the time allotted. Masters students should also be able to complete their degrees. All faculty and staff will have two semester termination notice, and some will remain employed for the full two years.
    - i. Cardiopulmonary Sciences (College of Health and Public Affairs)
    - ii. Engineering Technology (College of Engineering and Computer Science)
    - iii. Management Information Systems (College of Business Administration)
    - iv. Radiologic Sciences (College of Health and Public Affairs)
    - v. Statistics and Actuarial Sciences (College of Sciences)
  - b. Following the senate meeting, recommendations were reviewed by college and university committees and administrators at various levels. The UCF BOT held extra meetings for public input, and ultimately, the statistics program was retained, but actuarial sciences masters was suspended.
  - c. The programs that were approved for elimination have all been solicited as new bachelors programs at local area state colleges, Daytona State College, Seminole State College, and Valencia Community College. Engineering Technology was the only program that did not resist elimination and is actively working with the state college representatives to assure their programs continue at a state college.

3. Responding to widespread discussion and questions regarding the importance of faculty input to the program elimination/budget cutbacks, the provost directed the deans of all colleges to establish faculty committees to work with the administrators in determining how future cuts will be addressed. The Provost advised each college of the totals of next anticipated cuts. College representatives now report regularly at each Faculty Senate meeting of the progress and activities in their college committees.
4. On-line administration of all Student Perception of Instruction responses is scheduled to begin at the end of fall term 2009.
5. Review and revision of the Student Perception of Instruction documents has been an on-going (3-year) activity of an *ad hoc* committee of the UCF Faculty Senate. This month, their final report and recommendations was presented. The full senate will review and approve the final versions during this academic year so that it may be used beginning in fall 2010. Aspects of the questionnaires include questions relating to perception of instruction by the students, as well as faculty perceptions, and context of the classes, e.g., face-to-face classes, web-based courses and media-enhanced courses.
6. Faculty Senate is currently reviewing an online version of the Potential Conflict of Interest and Commitment form which is completed by faculty at least once a year.
7. A major revision of the Faculty Constitution is being prepared and will also be finalized by the end of Spring 2010.
8. Active planning to address the H1N1 virus pandemic is continuing with plans for informing students, faculty and staff. Our Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning is assisting faculty in preparing online or video lectures if they get the virus and cannot meet their classes. A policy has been established to encourage faculty to allow students to make-up missed work and NOT to require doctor's excuses to cut down on spreading the disease further.

There is a UF regulation being discussed which establishes the definition of a unit for

Respectfully submitted:

Katherine M. Robinson, PhD  
President, UNF Faculty Association

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**USF Report – Laurence Branch**

University of South Florida Report  
to the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates  
September 24, 2009

The University of South Florida (USF) welcomed its largest class ever in August – more than 47,000 students. USF was also recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education a few months ago as the university with the greatest increase in federal research funding in the 2000-2007 interval of any university in the country. In addition, there are no plans for downsizing anything at the university due to budgetary reasons at this point in time. All these factors are causes for smiles.

University of South Florida St. Petersburg  
Report to the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates  
September 24, 2009

**Administrative Changes:**

USFSP begins the 2009-2010 academic year with Interim Regional Chancellor at the helm. The College of Business welcomed new Dean Maling Ebrahimpour, the Nelson Poynter Library welcomed new Dean Cathy Hixson and Dr. Helen Levine has been named Regional Vice Chancellor for External Affairs. Reorganization and departures over the summer has reduced the number of campus administrative positions.

**Budget:**

USFSP has thus far avoided elimination of programs and positions due to the current budget challenges. Stimulus funds are currently being utilized to maintain approximately 55 positions.

**Capital improvements:**

Since its legislatively mandated autonomy in 2003, the campus has seen approximately \$55 million in capital construction. The most recent addition, a new science and technology, and Harborwalk, a central lawn project, are scheduled to be completed this fall.

**Accreditation:**

USFSP has been separately accredited by SACS since 2006. Last Spring SACS removed the probationary status from USFSP, and we are completing the institutional report in preparation for our September 2011 reaffirmation visit. The College of Business and the Program of Accountancy were both accredited by the AACSB, and the College of Education just completed its NCATE site visit and anticipates a positive report when the accrediting body meets in April.

**Governance:**

The Faculty Senate is working to strengthen communications with the college and system governance bodies. We are currently preparing a survey to measure perceptions of adherence to principles of shared governance, and faculty roles and responsibilities. The President and Vice President are now members of the Chancellor's Leadership Team. Establishing voice and participation at the system level remains a challenge as the system evolves.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brianna L. Reck

e.g. MSW; (iii) new scholarship programs (e.g. free tuition for any student graduating from any FL HS in the top five of his class).

A General Studies re-structuring is lumbering towards a task-force somewhere, and SACS warned us about our explosion of online offerings. The Senate is trying (mostly in vain) to stem this tide.

We remain at impasse over salaries and the