

Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

January 29, 2010
1605 Turlington Building
Tallahassee, FL

MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Chair Judy Solano at 8:40 AM

Attendance: FAMU – Maurice Holden, Gwendolyn Singleton, Dreamal Worthen; FAU – Tim Lenz, Eric Shaw; FGCU – Chuck Lindsey; FIU – Tom Breslin; FSU – Eric Walker; NCF – Pat McDonald; UCF – Ida Cook, Manoj Chopra; UF – Mary Ann Ferguson, Rick Yost; UNF – Judy Solano; USF St. Petersburg – Brianne Reck; UWF – Richie Platt; UFF – Tom Auxter; BoG staff – Tim Jones, Sundra Kinsey, Chris Kinsley, Rick Maxey, Dottie Minear; excused – USF – Larry Branch

Action Items: Highlighted below.

ACFS Business

The agenda was handed out. Judy Solano welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes of September 2009 Meeting – Approved, with the addition of FSU's report; Rick will send a copy to Sundra Kinsey to post on our ACFS webpage on the BOG site.

Judy discussed the officer positions in ACFS and t

requirements into a single annual report. It is critical that the university's work plans help identify more clearly the roles and mission of the individual universities, and how those differences can more clearly move towards system-wide excellence. He also addressed the issue of the rapid formation of the Florida State College system (all the community colleges now fall in that model); he is optimistic that the legislature will slow that process, partially due to lack of funding.

The Chancellor encourages the faculty to examine the New Florida plan and offer input on how to make it work (for instance that some of the

FAMU continues to struggle under the **severe reduction in budget** that has occurred over the last two years. Under those circumstances the university has had to come up with **innovative ways to manage its operations while maintaining commitment to its mission**. Notwithstanding, this struggle has been tough for us and has put tremendous pressures on all employees at the university. **Faculty has had to increase their load (which is already the highest within the SUS)**, import techniques of a different quality to meet the demands of teaching with reduced resources and an increasing student population in some units; and others. **The impact of the budget situation has been tempered by “stimulus dollars”**, but only in critical areas, and as dictated by the constraints and regulations attendant with that source of support. Since **this source is temporary** it indicates that the problems it addressed will soon reoccur after completion of the two years for which it has been granted.

Although the **administration of the university has been able to keep most of its people employed, and has not yet cut programs** and thereby faculty, to offset budgetary constraints, these **drastic options remain as possible courses of action**. Another aspect of maintaining commitment to mission (as mentioned above) as it relates to faculty is **the problem of recruitment of new ones** to fill the places of those who opt to retire or go somewhere else. **Replacement and upgrading of faculty is dismal at best**. For FAMU the pool is already limited and therefore the challenge is greater than for other sister institutions. Moreover, to meet any new statewide initiatives that involves and relies on faculty input, FAMU needs to have an equal and fair chance to allow the entire system to achieve goal. The fact is, inclusive as what can happen to faculty quality and quantity, **the reality of another budget cut as is indicated by revenue estimates could be disastrously limiting to a course of excellence and recovery set by the new FAMU administration**.

FAMU pushes-on in spite of the limitations it faces. A number of positive outcomes have occurred over recent months including:

- Attainment of complete, unsanctioned and compliant accreditation for the maximum time allowed by SACS for the university and for pharmacy. Journalism, education and other units by their respective accrediting bodies
- Completion of a new strategic plan for the university with a view to 2020 and beyond
- Opening of new facilities that were started in recent years. Renovations to buildings that were slated for attention for several years.
- Increasing graduation rates coupled to new and better recruitment and retention of students
- Upgraded and faculty included budgetary oversight and planning process
- Error free, irregularities free and unsanctioned audits for the last two cycles
- Increased student population coupled to improvements in financial aid applications and disbursements
- Better business practices to satisfy customers as well as suppliers
- Start of awards programs for faculty to support a) travel to national and international meetings to present research findings and to promote faculty development b) research. These were spearheaded by the Faculty Senate
- Graduate and joint degree programs within units have been increasing
- Bargaining is ongoing and a new contract is expected shortly
- Regular meetings with the general faculty has allowed for more interaction with leaders of the administration
- Accepting and moving forward with a plan for a school of dentistry

On the other hand several challenges remain and are constantly being discussed in and out of the Senate. They include:

- Salaries
- Employment contracts and conditions (as are currently being bargained by the FAMU-UFF)
- Satisfying a 40 hr workweek

Visioning. University planning for budget reductions, resource allocation, and mission development has not been very active.

develop a research park on a 241 acre parcel that the university owns near the main campus.



FIU Report – Tom Breslin

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FIU moves into the spring semester holding its breath about the state budget. Our president feels the outlook for the universities is not bright. The university is still within the multi-year budget it set for itself two years ago but Academic Affairs has put the Senate and its Budget Committee on notice that it should be prepared to be involved in budget planning after the spring semester ends.

FIU is on course to spend the federal stimulus money by the end of this fiscal year. The University expects to hire about 60 new faculty members next year. Emphasis has been given to “cluster hires” to boost the research and graduate programming. Also, the hiring of academic advisers continues unabated to bring FIU closer to the national average ratio of students to advisers and to improve the graduation rate.

Private giving is expected to hit \$50 million (not counting state match) this fiscal year. Plans are being laid to develop a \$750 million capital campaign.

President Rosenberg has appointed the Dean of Nu

Environmental Sciences department, Florentin Maurrasse, a Haitian-American and FIU founding faculty member, will represent the Senate on this task force. Further, at the request of the Faculty Senate the Latin American and Caribbean Center will coordinate and publicize faculty efforts and expertise relevant to the relief and reconstruction effort.

Applications to the new College of Medicine numbered well over 3,000 again this year. Links with the local medical community are very strong and growing as the full curriculum is developed.

The University continues to feel the impact of cuts to its budget as programs terminate or faculty and staff leave. Responding to a UFF poll in the fall semester, 57% of faculty members indicated a willingness to move elsewhere—three years ago in all public 4-year public universities the

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- The College of Fine Arts is leading an effort to create a Creative Campus Committee to infuse creativity across the campus at UF.
- Student government is in the process of considering major renovations to the Student Union. Increase in fees has been a contentious issue with graduate students.
- The University is asking the legislature to fund health insurance for graduate students.
- A new three year contract was signed with UFF-UF.
- The College of Design, Construction and Planning has presented a proposal to merge two departments into a new school. Several departments in the College of Education were renamed. The Department of Communicative Disorders has changed its name to the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, College of PHHP.
- Several old programs which have been on the records but are no longer active have been terminated: M.S. in Poultry Science, M.S. in Dairy Science. The Department of Dental Biomaterials in the College of Dentistry was closed. The BSBA majors in Real Estate and Insurance are proposed for termination.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Mecholsky, Senate Chair
1/29/10



UNF Report – Kathy Robinson

January 29, 2010
University of North Florida

Overall, we continue to teach, do research, and provide service to the University and the community.

Respectfully submitted:
Katherine M. Robinson, PhD

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence G. Branch
President, University of South Florida Faculty Senate