

Senate Steering Committee
Minutes
October 6, 2005
3:00 -5:00 P.M.
202 Tigert

Agenda:

Approval minutes
Reports
Open Floor Discussion
Information Items
Council Reports
Action Items

Attendees:

Kim Tanzer
Janie Fouke
Bernie Machen
Robert Cousins
Danaya Wright
Scott Nygren
Rick Ragan
Jack Mecholsky
Sandra Chance
Saeed Khan
Barbara Wingo
Frank Bova

Absent:

Pierre Ramond
Mike Katovich
Pradeep Kumar

Guests:

Steve Pritz
Ken Gerhardt
Jill Varnes
Chris Machen
Andy McCollough

Kim Tanzer called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Chair's Report:

Professor Tanzer updated the committee on the newsletter. She reviewed the College in Focus schedule and requested input from the committee for topics in the Interdisciplinarity and Buzz sections of Academics.

A Humanities working group is being formed. Pramod Kragoneckar and John Leavey are co-chairing the committee. There will be approximately 11 members on the committee and they will work on benchmarking.

The Alligator Cartoon resolution written by Scott Nygren was sent to the Trustees. There is still some interest from some senators for a boycott and Professor Tanzer will forward appropriate information to the senators. Any senators wishing to participate may do so.

Joe Goldberg requested that the textbook adoption issue be added to the agenda this year. Dr. Fouke said that Deans have a deadline to give the Provost's office a list of book adoptions. Dr. Fouke said that the goal is for everyone to have equal access to the book list each semester.

There are actions to curb inappropriate student drinking. The assumption is that the curriculum is not rigorous enough and there are less classes and tests on Fridays. Steve Pritz is collecting relevant data to determine if calendar and curriculum changes need to be made to help curb student drinking.

President's Report:

The University is working to determine what it will do if any of the students displaced by Hurricane Katrina want to remain at the University of Florida. Currently the students are registered as non degree seeking students. Some Universities in the state have adopted a policy that states that if the student's credentials would have allowed them to be accepted under normal circumstances then they may remain at the university if they choose to do so. UF may adopt a similar policy.

There has been progress with the PeopleSoft project since the three Senior Vice Presidents began working on the issues. If there has not been enough progress made by the end of the semester the administration will use other measures to solve the problems surrounding the program.

President's Open Floor Discussion:

Steering committee members discussed various issues of interest.

Information Items:

- **Healthy Gators 2010 Initiative** **Jill Varnes**, Dean College of HHP
and **Chris Machen**, Chair of Healthy Gators 2010 Steering Committee

Dean Varnes and Mrs. Machen reported on the Healthy Gators 2010 campaign. The program is a campus wide coalition dedicated to promoting a campus environment supportive of the development and maintenance of a healthy body, mind and spirit for all members of the University of Florida community. There is a coalition of multiple colleges that are participating in the campaign. The kickoff event is an organizational health fair at the Reitz Union Colonnade on October 26, 2005 from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. At noon Chris Machen will make a presentation.

- **UF Regulations** **Barbara Wingo**, Deputy General Counsel

Dr. Wingo reported on new regulations and procedures. New regulations must be noticed 30 days before the B.O.T. votes on the regulation. During this time there will be a window where anyone may comment on the issue. Issues that will remain externally approved are: tuition, articulation and admissions. The Constitution Committee will report to the Senate on new regulations two Senate meetings before the B.O.T. meetings.

- **Master Plan**

Kim Tanzer on behalf of Linda Dixon

Professor Tanzer reported on the Master Plan. It is updated every 10 years. There has been a lot of faculty, staff and student involvement in the development of the Master Plan this year. Linda Dixon will present an overview of the main points of the Master Plan at the October 20, 2005 Senate meeting. She is also writing about the Master Plan in the October issue of Academics.

- **Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics**

Kim Tanzer, Chair

Dean Varnes will be asked to research the COIA and report to the Steering Committee on how the Senate can become involved in the program.

- **Curriculum Committee**

Ken Gerhardt, Interim Dean Graduate Programs

Dean Gerhardt reported on the following proposals. Both proposals have been approved by the Graduate Council.

**Move International Business concentration to a major under the
Master of Arts degree** *College of Business*

PhD Degree with a major in Genetics
Multi-college department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology

Council Reports:

- **Budgeting Council**

Frank Bova, Chair

Paul Robell briefed the council on the Faculty Challenge. The council proposed that Mr. Robell speak to the senate about the Faculty Challenge at the November Senate meeting. The council is working on the merit pay issue. The council is doing research to determine if each department has a merit pay plan available to all faculty members. The idea is that faculty should know the expectations to get merit pay so that when pay raises come faculty members know what to expect.

- **Faculty Welfare Council**

Mike Katovich, Chair

There was no council report

- **Research Council**

Saeed Khan, Chair

The Research council is developing long term goals for 2005-2006. The council is trying to determine how faculty can be involved in the research budget process. The council is also trying to determine how initiatives originate. They will research the current procedures for developing institutes and interdisciplinary programs to begin to try and make the process parallel throughout the university. The council will also look at sabbatical policies throughout departments to create a uniform policy.

- **Academic Policy Curriculum and Structure Council**

Jack Mecholsky, Chair

There was no Council Report

- **Academic Infrastructure Council**

Scott Nygren, Chair

Linda Dixon presented the Master Plan to the Council. One member of the council stated that this year the process of creating the Master Plan was better than in previous years because faculty were more involved this year. Dr. Nygren spoke to Dean Jett from the International center about expanding international programs. Linda Dixon or Scott Fox will report to the council about parking issues.

The contributing committees will bring any issues of interest to the council via written reports. The council is trying to determine how to get more laboratory support.

Action Items

- **Approval of Agenda for Senate Meeting**

Kim Tanzer, Chair

The October 20, 2005 Senate Agenda was approved.

- **Moving the February Senate Meeting**

Kim Tanzer, Chair

The February 13th, 2006 Senate meeting will be moved one week later so that it will not conflict with the Board of Trustees annual retreat.