

**Senate Steering Committee  
Minutes  
November 3, 2005  
3:00 -5:00 P.M.  
President's Conference Room**

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**Agenda:**

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

**Attendees:**

Kim Tanzer  
Robert Cousins  
Danaya Wright  
Scott Nygren  
Rick Ragan  
Sandra Chance  
Brian Weber  
Barbara Wingo  
Richard Yost

**Absent:**

Frank Bova  
Janie Fouke  
Bernie Machen  
Jack Mecholsky  
Pierre Ramond  
Mike Katovich  
Pradeep Kumar

**Guests:**

Steve Pritz  
Barry Ache  
Chris Snodgrass  
Paul Robell

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

The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

**Chair's Report:**

Kim Tanzer requested input from the steering committee on methods for communicating Provost news with the faculty. Dr. Fouke and Professor Tanzer discussed several possibilities for sharing information. The steering committee agreed that using several different methods to communicate with faculty would be effective. Suggestions included having a portion of the newsletter dedicated to Provost updates, sending an e-mail to the faculty when there is news to report and posting notices on the Provost Web site with a link to the Senate Web site.

Professor Tanzer distributed a draft list of UF Faculty Productivity Data for review. The data was compiled to show that the growth of faculty at the University has not been equal to

the growth of the University as a whole. Professor Tanzer collected the data sheets and will redistribute when the data is formally reviewed.

The steering committee discussed issues regarding the quality of courses, raising undergraduate expectations and grade inflation. Richard Yost and Sandra Chance will help Professor Tanzer to collect information regarding grade inflation. They will also work with Andy McCollough to evaluate the rigor of undergraduate education.

### **President's Open Floor Discussion:**

The steering committee did not have any issues to discuss.

### **Information Items:**

- **Faculty Challenge**                      **Paul Robell**, VP for Development and Alumni Affairs

Paul Robell spoke to the steering committee about the faculty challenge. He distributed information packets about the initiative. The campaign's goal is to reach \$30 million a year for 5 years for new endowments related to graduate students and faculty. The development officers in each college are working towards this goal with the foundation. The faculty can help by notifying college development officers if they are aware of potential donors.

- **Honorary Degrees**                      **Barry Ache**, Chair Honorary Degrees Committee

Barry Ache presented a candidate for an honorary degree. The Honorary Degrees committee is favorable of the nominee. The Steering Committee approved moving the Honorary Degree information item to an action item to move the process along more rapidly due to the nominee's current health.

- **Constitution Committee Follow up**  
**Chris Snodgrass**, Chair Constitution Committee

Chris Snodgrass reported that the constitution committee is finalizing language regarding a constitutional change to the Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards Committee. They are also finalizing language for institutionalizing the Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee. Other items that the committee is reviewing is, Article 5 of the constitution regarding policy council descriptions, the change in mission of the library council and the compensation committee. The constitution committee tabled the compensation committee issue due to possible conflicts with the collective bargaining agreement. Dr. Snodgrass will report progress on the above mentioned issues to the senate at the November Senate meeting.

- **Senate Chair Elections**

The steering committee would like to add language to the by laws to state that the top two votes for the senate chair will be taken. This will eliminate multiple rounds of voting for the senate chair.

- **Library Starbucks**

The Infrastructure council will gather information about the library Starbucks and report to the Steering committee.

- **Alligator Follow up**

**Scott Nygren**, Council Chair

Scott Nygren reported that some student groups organized a boycott of the Alligator. This boycott does not change the resolution that the Senate voted on and there is no information to bring to the Senate regarding the boycott. Professor Tanzer will report in the November chair's report that there is currently a boycott against the Alligator.

### **Council Reports:**

There were no council reports given.

### **Action Items**

- **Approval of Agenda for Senate Meeting**

**Kim Tanzer**, Chair

The November 17, 2005 Senate Agenda was approved with the stipulation that the Honorary Degrees would be moved to an action item.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:12 P.M.**