

UF Faculty Senate Meeting: September 27, 2012

Minutes submitted to STL by Rose M. Pringle

Chair Cheri Brodeur's Report:

- Recent newspaper article on “diminishing funds and public university” will be posted on the Senate’s website.
- Presidential Search:
 - Still in the name gathering period
 - Sub-committees are quietly making preparations to be in action in the next phases of the process

President Machen's Report:

- Celebrating International Students during the month of November
1600 new international students were admitted this fall. Over a 3-day period he had the pleasure of meeting all of them with many indicating they came to UF to work with specific professors. President Machen noted that their tenure here will boost UF in a number of ways – one of which as alumni.
Over 6000 international students enrolled at UF. The president has requested that we specifically seek out international students and facilitate their full integration into campus life.
- Florida Tomorrow Campaign
Next Friday night (10/6) at the Phillips Center, UF will celebrate the closing of Florida Tomorrow fund raising campaign. The amount will be revealed at the ceremony and indications are the amount collected is in excess of \$1.5 billion. This he noted was a positive indicator of UF’s alumni support.
- The Governor has offered thanks to UF for achieving second place on the Smart Money College ranking.
He mentioned the plight of public research universities and the stress on their infrastructure in the face of diminishing support at the national and state levels. At this juncture, there is no immediate danger to UF but if this decrease in funding continues the university will begin to be impacted - significantly.
- Missing Student
Lamented on the tragic situation with the missing student and the impact on the community. UF is engaged in the process and is doing everything to bring the situation to a closure. He asked the faculty to think positive thoughts toward closure.

Provost Glover's Report:

Update on the SEC University Consortium - meeting of the provosts from the SEC schools. The goal is to make apparent to the world that SEC universities are more than football. The following initiatives were presented:

1. Distinguished Teaching Scholarship - to bring greater visibility to teaching in the SEC. Each year, UF's Teacher Scholar will be entered into the competition.
2. Series of Conferences in SEC with emphasis on research goals - February 2013, the conference will focus on "*The role of the Southeast in the nation's energy future.*" This will specifically include colleges engaging in research around **energy**.
3. In process is an approval for SEC travel funds to enable colleagues to travel to other SEC schools to boost collaborative activities.

Action Item from the graduate school – termination of the masters of insurance program

Information Items – provided by the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, **Bernard Mair** - these will become action items next month.

1. The ***policy for co-listing graduate or undergraduate courses***: Courses are usually joined by *formal approval* through curriculum committee or *informally* by decisions made within the college or the department to jointly offer a course during one semester.

He noted the large number (1000 undergrad and 300 grad) of courses that occurred jointly during last fall and spring. Many of the courses lacked distinctions between levels of performance. Students are not being awarded appropriate credits for their work hence the need for academic parameters.

New framework indicated in the policy includes a revised form, submission of two syllabi to each of the curriculum committee (graduate and undergraduate) and syllabi to reflect different level of performances.

2. ***Undergraduate Teaching Assistants*** – need to formalize procedures for involving bright undergraduates as teaching assistants with faculty mentors – that is, to ensure they assist with classes in ways that do not create conflict of interests and raise issues such as FERPA

Currently, there is no mechanism for involving students in ways that we can assure that there is an effective policy. The university senate committee responsible for these issues has developed a policy regarding academic qualifications, professional behaviors, etc.

Some of the policies include:

Students:

- Must be able to understand privacy guidelines about students' records.
- Must have sexual harassment training.
- Must have successfully completed the class that he or she is assisting.
- Cannot have access to final grades or assign final grades.
- Are not to serve in the same roles as graduate teaching assistants.

Report from Senate Policy Councils:

Academic Policy Council reported out on some of the issues they are focused on including response rates for online course evaluations and promotion for clinical practice faculty.

Discussion of RCM and how it is working in the various colleges - the committee in charge will continue to work on the implementation of RCM. Committee notes considerable transparency at the University level, but there might need to be better transparency at the College level.

Committee that focuses on University Infrastructure reported on key issues from 2011/2012, including: Intellectual and privacy issues in classes, review of tenure and promotion process, budget cut impact on infrastructure (e.g., closing libraries, reduction of facilities maintenance), IT security, etc.

Research and scholarships council will be discussing accountability in research, interdisciplinary research, undergraduate research, training grants, and diversity in the research workforce. Committee will accept suggestions regarding these topics.

Welfare Council— representatives from *Gator Advantage Program* expressed willingness to visit colleges to further discuss this program; Gender issues related to tenure and promotion; Technology and the impact on faculty; impact of budget cuts; and some focus on promotion and tenure, including peer evaluations and ensuring uniformity in this approach.