

Senate Steering Committee
Minutes
December 2nd, 2010
3-5 PM
226 Tigert

Attendees:

Mary Ann Ferguson
Scotty Nygren
Nancy Poehlman
Bernie Machen
Henrietta Logan
David Bloomquist
Ken Gerhardt

Mark Law
Bernard Mair
Joe Glover
Jack Mecholsky
Kathy Light
Margaret Temple Smith
James Klausner

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Reports:

Chair's Report

Mary Ann Ferguson, Chair

Mary Ann Ferguson reported that committee nominations have been called for and she strongly urged steering committee members to submit nominations. She also reported that progress is being made so that retired faculty's Gator1 ID cards are honored on the RTS system. Chair Ferguson also announced that a new faculty senate secretary, Susan Alvers, has been hired and will be joining the university in mid January.

President's Report

Bernie Machen, President

Bernie Machen reported that he is part of Governor Scott's transition team on economic development. He has submitted a number of proposals involving stem technology for the future of Florida and hopes they will be selected to be advanced to the governor's agenda. He also said that he will continue to endeavor to implement all the recommendations from the Margolis Healy & Associates report regarding the Corry Village incident.

Provost's Report

Joe Glover, Provost

Joe Glover reported that the Committee on Doctoral Education has received its charge following its inaugural meeting and is conducting its business autonomously. Ben Dunn is the chair of the committee and the two liaisons are Ken Gerhardt and Marie Zeglen. The Committee will be querying departments to gather information about various doctoral programs; the college deans are already aware of this and the chairs will soon be aware. Joe Glover also discussed the two proposals that are before the Board of Trustees. The first is for block tuition, which is one flat fee for undergraduate course of 12 credits and up. The next proposal is a request to approve market rate tuition, allowing the university to set market rates for its distance education programs. All revenue over expenses stays within the department and various models of operation for running the distance education program are being looked at.

Information Items:

New Degree Proposal, Masters in Sustainable Development Practice, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Ken Gerhardt, Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Dr Gerhardt introduced the Masters of Sustainable Development Practice which will launch in the next three years and is funded by the MacArthur Foundation. It is a non-thesis, multi-disciplinary degree and will be monitored by the Center for African studies. The International Center and Provost Office are funding the initial start up.

University Curriculum Committee - Bernard Mair, UCC Chair

Formation of the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment, College of Engineering,

Mark Law, Associate Dean, College of Engineering

The College of Engineering is proposing to form the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment. This will combine the departments of Civil and Coastal Engineering and of Environmental and Engineering Sciences into one school. The budget, staffing and research will be managed by the school, but academic programs will still be departmentally determined. The purpose is to streamline the staffing for the infrastructure, engage in cross collaboration of academic programs and research programs, and have a larger faculty base that will have a greater prominence on a national level. The faculty of the departments are in favor of the school being created. A question was raised whether the constitution provides for who will be responsible for the department chair's role in T&P under the proposed infrastructure.

Request to Sunset the School of Health Professions, College of Public Health and Health Professions University Curriculum Committee

Bernard Mair, UCC Chair

Bernard Mair submitted a request to sunset the school of Health Professions as it has not served the purpose it was created for in 2007.

Article VI of the Constitution, ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS OF THE UNIVERSITY (Constitution Changes Regarding Departments)

Margaret Temple Smith, Constitution Committee

Margaret Temple Smith discussed the changes that need to be made to the constitution. These changes will ensure that departments can span more than one college.

Academic Policy Council

Nancy Poehlman, Chair

Nancy Poehlman raised concern about a lack of attendance at AP council meetings and there was discussion about ways to remedy this. Attendance is crucial as the council is dealing with the National Merit Scholarship and Gen Ed issues.

Budget Council

Regina Bussing/James Klausner, Co-Chairs

No report

Infrastructure Council

Mark Orazem, Chair

Mark Orazem reported on his meeting with VP Elias Eldayrie regarding the government structure of IT. Eldayrie has identified heads of the IT government structure for the interim, and is looking to the senate for help populating the committees with faculty who can represent a diverse range of interests. They need five faculty representatives for the proposed committees. Mark Orazem suggested that the senate chair should ask the college councils to identify individuals who could serve in this capacity. She agreed to do that.

Research and Scholarship Council

Henrietta Logan, Chair

Henrietta Logan discussed the focus group held by Elias Eldayrie regarding IT infrastructure. The other issue she discussed was RCM and off book courses and what this means for the scholarship of the university; she hopes to address this with the Budget Council in a future meeting. The T&P software developed by Enterprise was also mentioned and the lack of faculty input on this. Angel Kwolek-Folland will be meeting with this council about this.

Welfare Council

Kathy Light, Chair

Kathy Light reported on the council's follow up on student safety issues. There had been discussions regarding free speech and when calling the police is appropriate. The resolution was that if you are in a meeting and feel threatened as an individual, you have the right to call the police and report the behavior, but people are entitled to freedom of speech. There was also discussion urging police department training to become more socially minded and improve interaction with the community.

The December Senate agenda was approved with the removal of the report on the Sustainability of Interdisciplinary Programs information item sought by Anna Prizzia.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM