

**Senate Steering Committee
Minutes
March 3, 2011
3-5 PM
226 Tigert**

Attendees:
Mary Ann Ferguson
Barbara Wingo
Joe Glover
Mark Orazem
Nancy Poehlmann
Bernie Machen
David Quillen

Scott Nygren
Henrietta Logan
Jack Mecholsky
James Klausner
Kathy Light
Elizabeth Holton
Wolfgang Sigmund
Sue Alvers

Guests:
Paul Ortiz
Bernard Mair
Margaret Temple-Smith
Kathy Long
Paula Fussell
Oscar Crisalle
Cammy Abernathy

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

The February minutes were approved.

Reports:

Chair's Report

Mary Ann Ferguson, Chair

Chair Ferguson reported that the candidates are needed for the Academic Policy, Infrastructure and Welfare Councils.

Plans are to reopen for discussion the 2006 Humanities task force report written by Kirk Ludwig. This report is quite extensive and if you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Chair Ferguson.

We have a full April agenda. The vote at the February Faculty Senate on engineering was an interesting show of self governance. After reflecting on what we can do to be fair, it was noted that the Chair will enforce Roberts Rules of Order for speakers. A speaker will be allowed to talk twice for no more than 10 minutes. After the first 10-minute comment, the senator will only be allowed to talk after all others have finished speaking. It was emphasized that when the Chair calls for a vote, a senator from the floor may ask for written ballots before the vote.

President's Report

Bernie Machen, President

President Machen gave an overview of what to expect from the legislative session that starts next week. Most likely the legislature will use the same funding model that it has for the past three years. Employee contribution to benefit/pension plans is predicted to be about 3%. There is concern about the likelihood of guns on campus. A bill that eliminates the university from automatically taking union dues out of employees pay checks is also in the legislature.

Information Items:

General Education Committee Recommendations

Margaret Temple-Smith,
Chair, Constitution Committee

Margaret Temple-Smith distributed the General Education Committee by-law revision from the Academic Policy Council and the Constitution Committee. After some discussion, Margaret will take the Steering Committee recommendations back to the Constitution Committee for further review.

UF Teaching and Learning Center

Kathleen Ann Long, Associate Provost,
Office of Academic Affairs

With the help of the Academy of Teaching Scholars and support from the Provost's office, plans are to recreate the Teaching and Learning Center. Startup is Fall 2011 and will be a part of a two-year pilot program. Some of the services that the Center will provide are: 2-3 day boot camps on new teaching techniques, mentoring new instructors, workshops, and peer evaluation of instructors.

FEO

Kathleen Ann Long, Associate Provost,
Office of Academic Affairs

This is the third year of the Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Awards. The task force requested that there should be an annual report to the Faculty Senate. It was noted that there were a record number of applications this spring from across the entire campus.

Role of HR in Safety and Counseling

Paula Fussell, Vice President for Human
Resource Services

Paula Fussell distributed a resource guide for troubled employees. This was patterned after the Student Affairs resource guide for students in distress. There has been an alarming increase in the number of incidents on campus and Human Resources wants to make faculty and staff aware of the many university programs that are available for distressed employees.

2011 Student Experience in the Research University Survey

Marie Zeglen, Chair, SERU Committee

Marie Zeglen explained to the Committee that the SERU survey will start again soon. It takes about 20 minutes and students have provided wonderful feedback.

Council Reports:

Infrastructure Council

Mark Orazem, Chair

Mark is making revisions to the Recommendation on Required Training report and plans to deliver it to Jodi Gentry. Elias Eldayrie from IT will soon receive recommendations from his committees and he'll report back to the Infrastructure Council at its next meeting. April meeting will have Lynn Vaughan from Campus Bookstore and Nandy Ferguson from Florida bookstore as guests to discuss textbook purchasing.

Research and Scholarship Council**Henrietta Logan, Chair**

Last meeting SCORS was introduced to online promotion and tenure. This program is in its preliminary planning stages and the council recommends that it should continue to be monitored. Plans to examine training grants with some PIs as guests are scheduled for upcoming meetings.

Welfare Council**Kathy Lights, Chair**

Met with Dr. Machen in early February to go over the Governor's proposed budget and how it affects our benefits. Welfare Council met again in February to continue this discussion.

Academic Policy Council**Nancy Poehlmann, Chair**

At the last meeting discussed with Dr. Evans the reasons why we are no longer offering the National Merit Scholarship. Requirements for the scholarship are very restrictive and the university wishes to look at more factors for awarding scholarships. This will make scholarships available to more students. Next meeting is March 18.

Budget Council**James Klausner, Co-Chair**

Working with Matt Fajack and drafting the council's report on RCM to the Senate. While researching RCM, the council found that it is a useful tool in budget transparency.

Action Item:**Approval of the March Senate Agenda****Mary Ann Ferguson,**

Chair

Approved with the addition of "Engineering Discussion" under Information Items.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.