

Mission Statement Task Force Meeting
Minutes
August 16, 2012
1 - 3 p.m.
Emerson Alumni Hall Room 208

Those attending: Richard Romano, Nawari Nawari, Henrietta Logan, Elizabeth Bondy, Jennifer Curtis, Maria Rogal, Keith Schneider, Jon Morris, Betty Smocovitis, David Quillen, Andrea Gregg (by phone), Karen Whalen, Linda Cottler, Janet Yamamoto, John Parady, Tim Brophy, Sue Alvers, Scott Nygren, and Cheri Brodeur.

Scott Nygren called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Introduction and Welcome

Cheri Brodur, Chair, Faculty Senate

Cheri Brodeur emphasized the importance of the Mission Statement Task Force. This is a perfect time to review the Mission Statement, in part due to the upcoming SACS accreditation and start of recruitment for a new University President. To pass SACS accreditation, everything in the university must tie in to the Mission Statement. Cheri thanked the members for taking the time to assist with this important project.

History and Purpose

Scott Nygren, Immediate Past Chair, Faculty Senate

Scott noted that the Task Force members include representatives from all 16 colleges at UF, and were appointed by the Faculty Senate and approved by the President. Two non-voting liaisons are included: Tim Brophy, Director of Institutional Assessment, has agreed to be liaison for SACS, and Scott Nygren, Immediate Past Chair of Faculty Senate, will be liaison for the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees. Any revision of the Mission Statement must be approved by the Faculty Senate, President, and the Board of Trustees.

The purpose of the Mission Statement Task Force (MSTF) is for faculty to consider a restatement of the university's mission, in light of public debate over higher education and the transition to a new President of UF. This task also coincides with the SACS review, although everyone should understand that the mission drives SACS and not the reverse. The QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) for SACS is internationalization, which might be recognized as part of the mission. Scott noted that the initial goal is to have a finished statement by the end of October in order to go before the Senate at their November 15 and December 13 meetings, then to the next Board of Trustees meeting early in 2013.

The history of the MSTF goes back to 2010, when students from the Graham Center approached the Faculty Senate about the addition of "global citizenship" to the University of Florida's Mission Statement. In retrospect, this might fit well with the SACS QEP of internationalization. President Machen was receptive to the possibility of adding international service to the mission statement, but recommended that the entire statement be reviewed while ensuring that "research and teaching" remain the university's highest priorities. Scott approached the College Faculty Council Chairs (CFCC) in Fall 2011 to request representation from all 16 colleges, since all parts of the university would need to agree if the mission statement were to be successfully rewritten. Although delayed by budget concerns and related issues last year, the CFCC in April 2012 agreed that now would be the time to proceed.

Sunshine Law Requirements

Scott Nygren, Immediate Past Chair, Faculty Senate

Scott noted that the Task Force will be governed by "public meetings" and "open records" laws. As a result, Task Force members are not permitted to talk to each other outside of publically scheduled meetings about task force business. A Faculty Senate website was created that includes the opportunity for faculty discussion, and most faculty are encouraged to contribute comments to participate in the process of rewriting the mission

statement. However, because the Faculty Senate created the MSTF and will vote on the result, task force members and Faculty Senate members are not permitted to add comments on this site.

[Comparison of AAU Mission Statements](#)

Proposed Organization of Task Force

Scott Nygren, Immediate Past Chair, Faculty Senate

Scott suggested that the members elect a chair to manage meetings. A subcommittee would meet between the large group meetings and report back with drafts for full meeting discussion. Three to five members should be on the subcommittee.

[Role of Mission Statement in SACS Process](#)

Tim Brophy, Director, Institutional Assessment

Student Proposal to include “Global Citizenship”

John Parady, Student Representative

After meeting with Senator Graham, students at the Graham Center were discussing the Mission Statement. They noticed that when they looked for the statement, they initially were unable to find it, which suggests that it could be made more visible. After reviewing the existing mission statement, students recommended that the statement should incorporate “global citizenship”.

[Attach student proposal?]

General Discussion

- A long discussion ensued. Items that were noted:
 - Current mission statement looks more like an advertisement.
 - Should be able to state our mission in short and concise terms.
 - How will the mission statement play in the community and state?
 - Should be clear, simple and direct.
 - Suggestion: Jodi Gentry is great to help facilitate
 - Should note creativity, innovation and knowledge
 - There is a paradigm shift on how institutions are considered. Shifting from “teaching institutions” to “student learning”
 - How is UF viewed outside of here? Local, regional, national and global?
 - Pay attention to the legislative environment. We are not unique. Do we need to address self-sustaining?
 - Outreach services – IFAS and the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act

Actions Taken

- A motion was made (Keith Schneider) and seconded (Betty Smocovitis) that the Task Force use Scott’s suggestion of electing a chair and have a subcommittee produce drafts for full task force discussion. The motion passed unanimously. It was then proposed that the task force hold off until the next meeting to elect a chair. Members agreed as they are still getting to know each other.
- Members unanimously agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled as soon after Labor Day as possible, and that Jodi Gentry be invited to facilitate the process.