

**Senate Steering Committee  
Minutes  
May 5, 2011  
3-5 PM  
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Attendees:	Henrietta Logan	Nancy Poehlmann
Mary Ann Ferguson	James Klausner	Bernard Mair
Barbara Wingo	Sue Alvers	Paul Ortiz
Joe Glover	Margaret Temple-Smith	Nathan Crabbe
Bernie Machen	David Quillen	Dyan Gershman
Scott Nygren	Kathye Wright	

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

April minutes were approved with corrections.

**Reports:**

**Chair's Report**

**Mary Ann Ferguson, Chair**

Chair Ferguson thanked the council and committee chairs for all their hard work this past year and reminded those who have not done so to send in their council/committee reports. Due to a change in Dr. Machen's schedule, the senate will meet May 12, 2011 instead of May 19.

**Provost's Report**

**Joe Glover, Provost**

Joe Glover reported that the SEC received two proposals from University of Florida for its SEC Academic Conference. The spring/summer cohort was approved by the legislature. The university plans to admit about 2000 students for spring and summer. The process on how to structure programs is an ongoing project. Zina Evans will start recruiting first class this fall.

**University Constitution Committee**

**Margaret Temple-Smith, Chair,  
Constitution Committee**

Constitution Committee presented possible wording solutions to the APC revision and also the CoC's recommendation for a change to the bylaw describing the UCC. It was suggested that the proposed language, which is the same for both revisions, be broken into three sentences and add "the Vice President of Student Affairs to select two non-voting student members". This will be presented to the Faculty Senate at the May 12 meeting as an information item.

**Mission Statement**

**Scott Nygren, Chair-Elect**

Several students approached the Senate about changing the University's mission statement by adding something about citizen engagement. The President agreed as long as it did not compromise the meaning that this is a "research" university. Scott Nygren suggested that if we are going to try and add something to the mission statement, we should modify the whole statement. This should be taken up in the fall with a task force that has student participation.

**Shared Governance****Mary Ann Ferguson, Chair**

Mary Ann distributed a summary of shared governance reports that the Faculty Senate has received from the colleges this year. Most colleges reported that shared governance was working well or making good progress. The units that are currently doing evaluations can serve as role models for other colleges.

**President's Report****Bernie Machen, President**

President Machen reported that the budget is on legislators' desks. He plans to send out a memo on Monday to faculty and staff about what he knows at that time about the budget. Dr. Machen explained that he will give a complete report to the Faculty Senate next week (May 12). It is clear that we will have to pay 3% towards retirement system, however there was no health reform this year and no premium increase in health insurance. We did receive approval from the legislature to self-insure in the future. Bright Futures is getting cut 20%, and IFAS has had a minimal budget cut, but we are not sure about the Health Science Center as Medicaid payments have been reduced. Because of RCM the administration has a clearer view of the budget. It will probably be June before we know how things work out. Dr. Machen also mentioned about the special spring/summer cohort that will start January 2013. Colleges are discussing ways to offer broader course selections for these students.

**Constitutional Shared Governance****James Klausner, College of Engineering**

James presented a timeline of a shared governance issue that happened in his college, College of Engineering. Faculty seem to be unhappy with the process and are asking if the Provost can give support. The Provost mentioned that he can meet with the leadership committee of CISE. One suggestion from the Steering Committee was to ask the APC to address the College of Engineering process of shared governance in the fall. Currently, the College of Engineering is trying to amend its constitution.

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

SCORS has been working on effort reporting and faculty assignment reports with Jim Ferrer. The council is also reviewing training grants. Outstanding graduate students are turning down University of Florida positions because of pay check delays which is an internal problem. The university is reimbursed 60% with T-32 grants, however what about the 40% that is left? There's all kinds of paperwork involved with shuffling the funding between departments. Other institutions just waive the 40%.

**Academic Policy Council****Nancy Poehlmann, Chair**

APC has had problems with attendance, but has been able to work on National Merit Scholarships and the APC place in shared governance. The council does not want to become an appellate body. Co-chairs for next year are Nancy Poehlmann and Cynthia Morton.

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

Budget Council worked on the RCM report. There is still concern about interdisciplinary programs. James will present at the Board of Trustees meeting on May 12, 2011. Marc Heft is the Chair for 2011-2012.

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.