

**Senate Steering Committee
Minutes
October 7, 2010
3-5 PM
226 Tigert**

Attendees:
Mary Ann Ferguson
Jack Mecholsky
David Quillen
Bernie Machen
Kathy Light
Joe Glover
Henrietta Logan

Mark Orazem
James Klausner
Elizabeth Bolton
Nancy Poehlmann
Scott Nygren
Wolfgang Sigmund
Amelia Bell

Guests:
Stephanie Hanson
Frank Bova
Bernard Mair
Jim Seale
Tim Johnson
Judy Russell

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM

The September minutes were approved.

Reports:

Chair's Report

Mary Ann Ferguson, Chair

Mary Ann Ferguson reported that she met with college faculty assembly chairs and discussed problems with the evaluation of very small classes and administrators, concern that interdisciplinary programs will suffer under RCM, and tenure and promotion challenges for clinical faculty. The group also discussed RCM and the need to ensure senior faculty participate in college assemblies. The group would like to meet on a quarterly basis. The group also noted that communicating information to all faculty is very difficult. The provost clarified that clinical faculty are not eligible for tenure but are eligible for promotion according to college specified criteria. The steering committee discussed evaluating shared governance this year.

President's Report

Bernie Machen, President

Bernie Machen reported that the NRC survey about graduate programs has been released. He stated that graduate education and research distinguish UF from other state universities and the report will be presented to the senate. Machen announced that the BOG will meet in Gainesville in November and that Rick Yost serves as a faculty representative on the BOG.

Provost's Report

Joe Glover, Provost

Joe Glover reviewed the NRC information which will be used to inform discussions on doctoral programs. He also presented minus grade data and James Klausner raised a concern that a C- is not a passing grade. Glover reported that the university is considering submitting a block tuition proposal to the BOT and BOG. He also discussed the spring/summer cohort. The university is currently formulating a proposal for this program but would not implement the program before January 2013.

Information Items:

Distance Learning

Frank Bova, Distance Learning Committee Member

Frank Bova will provide the Senate with a report on the distance learning vendor selection process, specifically reviewing four or five key issues. He will ask two faculty who are engaged in distance learning to explain how the process works.

Open Access

Judy Russell, Dean of the University Libraries

Judy Russell will give a report on Open Access at the October Senate meeting.

Constitution Changes regarding departments

Jim Seale, Constitution Committee Past-Chair

The Constitution Committee will present constitution changes to allow departments to reside within more than one college as an information item at the October Senate meeting.

Academic Integrity Task Force

Stephanie Hanson, Task force co-chair

Stephanie Hanson will provide the Senate with a report on the status of the Academic Integrity Task Force's work to date and future plans.

Directed Discussion Topic

Interdisciplinary Research

James Oliverio, Digital Worlds Institute Director

The UF Digital Worlds Institute is an interdisciplinary partnership between the UF College of Fine Arts and the College of Engineering. Since that time it has grown to embrace affiliate faculty from numerous additional Colleges and Departments by promoting a wide range of activities in Interdisciplinary Research and Education.

James Oliverio will give a brief presentation on the specific activities of the Institute, including current and previous research and the development of the interdisciplinary Digital Arts & Sciences degree program.

Council Reports:

Infrastructure Council

Mark Orazem, Chair

Mark Orazem reported that Andy McCollough talked about distance learning and how to maintain the quality of education. He also talked about its application to undergraduate programs. The council expressed concern over the new IT governance structure. The council will invite IT representatives to a council meeting to discuss these concerns.

Research and Scholarship Council

Henrietta Logan, Chair

Henrietta Logan reported that Jim Ferrer met with the council to discuss effort reporting vendors. The council will discuss training grants and why faculty are not incentivized to write training grants and how to provide incentives.

Welfare Council

Kathy Light, Chair

Kathy Light reported that the council discussed parental leave, background checks and peer evaluations at their last meeting. Angel Kwollek Folland also discussed the online tenure and promotion pilot. The council is concerned about parking and would like to obtain information from faculty about what issues are important to them. The council requested a task force be formed to look at student evaluations of teaching. The steering committee would like the welfare council to follow up with the mental health report.

Academic Policy Council

Nancy Poehlman, Chair

Nancy Poehlmann reported that Dr. Mair reviewed the proposed academic calendars including having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a holiday. The council also reviewed the minus grades data. The council would like to review interdisciplinary education, distance education and an academic work plan this year.

Budget Council**Regina Bussing/James Klausner, Co-Chairs**

The budget council is working to understand the RCM implementation. They will meet with deans about RCM the implementation to understand how its working at the local level. The council would like to collect metrics on where colleges currently stand in the RCM metrics. They would potentially like to give a presentation to the senate in the spring about RCM implementation.

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

The October Senate agenda was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM