

Faculty Senate Steering Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2015 3 – 5 p.m.
Tigert 226

Attendees: Ana Spiguel, Ken Gerhardt, Angel Kwolek-Folland, Margaret Temple-Smith, Karen Whalen, Sue Alvers, James Seale, Sylvain Doré, Beverly Sanders, Nicole Stedman, Kent Fuchs, Eric Segal, Paul Davenport and Valrie Minson.

- The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Paul Davenport and the September minutes were approved.

Chair's Report

Paul Davenport, Chair

- David Groisser, Chair of Constitution Committee, developed a conflict and could not attend. However, David submitted his report by email.
 - At the moment, the Constitution does not give a procedure on temporary replacements for committee/council members. The Constitution Committee recommends that the Steering Committee address the lack of written procedure.
 - Dr. Davenport suggested that this should be referred to the Committee on Committee. The Steering Committee agreed.
 - The constitution committee moves that the words “a majority of” be struck from the wording of Article IV Section 5 to align more closely to the wording in Senate Bylaw 4(G)(4).
 - Dr. Davenport explained that the Constitution Committee should assemble all language clarifications as a package and submit to the Senate at that time.
- Currently the RCM Taskforce does not have a faculty representative on it. Dr. Davenport asked that James Seale, Chair of the Budget Council, be appointed on the RCM taskforce as the faculty representative. President Fuchs agreed.
- Representative from the RCM Task Force should give a report to the Senate after it has finished with its charge.

President's Report

Kent Fuchs, President

- The university is celebrating the 50 year anniversary of Gatorade and also a \$50,000,000 gift from Herbert and Nicole Wertheim to the College of Engineering.
- A question about faculty compensation came up at the State of the University Address. After researching, it was found that UF is in line with some of our aspirational peers as far as salaries are concerned. However, comparing market value, UF is behind. The state has not given any funding for raises, so the university plans to work on this issue in the future.
- UF is committed to academic freedom for all faculty. It is a good idea to have a faculty workshop or forum on Academic Freedom that includes freedom of speech and advocacy. President Fuchs suggested that this should be organized by Faculty Senate.

Faculty Ombuds

Ken Gerhardt, Faculty Ombuds

- Ken Gerhardt explained that the Faculty Ombuds was created last year at the request of the Faculty Senate. He found that many faculty do not know that the office exists or what it does. He will give a presentation to the Senate at the November meeting. Twenty-two faculty visited the office this past year.

- Dr. Gerhardt noted that the College of Medicine plans to have an ombudsman. Dr. Davenport pointed out that it might not be beneficial to the university if each college had their own ombuds. He asked the Welfare Council to discuss the “ombuds overdose” issue.

Climate Survey

Angel Kwolek-Folland, Associate Provost
Academic and Faculty Affairs

- Angel Kwolek-Folland stated that the university will be do a climate survey that will open October 27 and close in November. It will be available by hard copy or internet. Information from the survey will be available in the spring of 2016.
- Rank and Associates will administer the survey and it will be completely confidential. Prizes will also be available.
- President Fuchs pointed out that the follow up plan is for leaders in each area to address issues brought out by the survey.

Harn Museum

Eric Segal, Education Curator, Harn Museum

- The Harn has many faculty opportunities to help their students experience art, history and culture. Eric will give a presentation at the Senate meeting about what is available for faculty.

Council Reports

- **Academic Policy Council** – Beverly Sanders, Chair
 - Evangeline Cummings, new director of UFOonline, was the guest for the first APC meeting. Ms Cummings explained that the concerns are slowly being addressed.
 - Council plans to discuss the T/TH class meetings. Some have suggested that it is better to have 1.5 hour classes instead of 1 hour on Tuesday and 2 hours on Thursdays. Also, there was concern about Monday and Friday holidays.
 - The course approval system is cumbersome. Bernard Mair started streamlining the Curriculum approval system before he left. Angela Lindner is continuing that process.
- **Welfare Council** – Karen Whalen
 - Discussed the Faculty Club and amenities
 - One member indicated that there is no process information on the website for employees who wish to retire.
- **Budget Council** – James Seale
 - The online dynamic template designed by the financial office and Budget Council will go live soon. When it does, the council wants someone from finance to give a presentation at the senate.
 - The council will request the UFOonline task force to give a report.
 - Other items the council wishes to review is:
 - Financial aspects of preeminence program
 - Shands
- **Research and Scholarship Council** – Valrie Minson
 - Valrie Minson is the new chair and the council has a meeting next week.
 - Items that SCORS plans to review are:
 - Academic Analytics
 - Protection of research time
 - Federal Mandates about Open Access
 - IDCs related to small grants – Should we have a voice in IDC policy?
- **Infrastructure Council** – Bradley Walters (via email)
 - The council discussed amenities to be included in the Faculty Club and will refine these in time for their next meeting

- Concern was raised about the approval process and whether projects are following the proper sequences. In some cases, projects are approved with certain conditions that are not being implemented later. The council plans to look at this to understand the issue better and to propose solutions.

Agenda for the October 15, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting was approved

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.