

ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED TEACHING SCHOLARS
Office Of The Provost
235 Tigert Hall, PO. Box 113175
Gainesville, Florida 32611-3175

Telephone: (352) 392-2404
Fax: (352) 392-8735

Meeting Notes

Date: Friday March 18, 2010

Time: 12:50 – 1:40 pm

Meeting Place: 239 Tigert Hall

The Academy met on the date and times indicated above. The meeting agenda and supporting materials discussed in the meeting are appended below, including annotations made by the Secretary of the Academy.

AGENDA

1. Review of the induction letter received by new members.
2. Review of the 2011 induction selection process. Identification of best practices and of opportunities to introduce improvements.
3. Status update: Teaching and Learning Center
4. Standing Committees
5. Discussion of a new project proposal: *The University of Florida Academic Scholars Walk*
6. Discussion of draft of Article 6 of our internal policies and practices document
7. Items from the floor

MEETING HANDOUTS AND NOTES

1. REVIEW OF THE INDUCTION LETTER RECEIVED BY NEW MEMBERS

The Academy reviewed the text of the letter that the Provost sends to new inductees, and proposed the inclusion of new language. The intention was to inform the inductees that it is hoped that they continue to participate in the Academy beyond the initial three years of induction, that they are expected to participate in meetings regularly, and that they are awarded a lifetime title. The updated language was submitted to Ellen Sattler for approval by the Provost's office.

The Academy may choose to propose other text refinements next year, as additional input is received from members. The main body of the final text proposal is given below.

Congratulations! You have been selected as a new member of the Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars. Your term as an active member of the Academy will begin Fall 2011 and run through Spring 2014. After that you will still remain a member of the Academy, and we hope you will continue to participate vigorously in on-going endeavors and proposing new initiatives that are consistent with this group's vision and mission. The University of Florida is pleased to confer to you the lifetime privilege of retaining the title *Distinguished Teaching Scholar*.

A university-wide announcement will be made within the next couple of weeks. In addition, we will formally acknowledge your membership at a faculty awards banquet to which you will receive an invitation later in March. Meanwhile, please reserve the date of April 6, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the President's House.

The Academy meets on a regular basis during the academic year, and you will be contacted in late summer about your availability for meetings. You are expected to participate regularly in Academy meetings and to contribute to the achievement of the goals set forth by the Academy. My office will arrange for the financial aspects of the award.

Your membership in the Academy further strengthens the distinguished nature of this group of teacher-scholars, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and other members to promote faculty excellence.

2. REVIEW OF THE 2011 INDUCTION SELECTION PROCESS

During the Academy's candidate-selection meeting of March 16 Gail Kauwell collected numerous insightful comments regarding possible improvements to the instruction documents made available to potential applicants. The suggestions covered a wide range of options, including for example, modifications to the structure of the application package, enhanced description of the merit criteria, and revisited instructions on the preparation of the narratives required in addition to a T&P-like package, among others. Additional suggestions were presented during today's Academy meeting.

Gail will work with the members of the Induction Procedures Committee that she chairs to propose a revised draft of the documents in question. Sid Homan volunteered to join the committee.

3. STATUS UPDATE: *TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER*

On March 3 the Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate approved Dr. Long's request for presenting the initiative for the creation of the Teaching and Learning Center to the Faculty Senate.

The Senate presentation is scheduled for March 24 (3:00 – 5:00 PM, Reitz Union Auditorium). All Academy members are welcome to attend. The agenda for the senate meeting can be obtained from the site

<http://www.senate.ufl.edu/senate/meetings.htm>

4. CREATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

We are considering the classifying the following committees as *Standing Committees*:

1. Induction Procedures Committee
2. Graduate School Interface Committee

The Chair calls for additional suggestions on standing committees that may be necessary for the purpose of addressing annually recurring Academy services. Previous discussions have suggested that the Honors Program and Academic Quality Committee be also be classified as a standing committee; this issue will be discussed in a future meeting.

All other committees will be considered as *Working Committees* in the sense that they address a specific project that may be completed after a given date in a fashion that does not require annually recurring Academy Service.

A current list of the Academy's Committees is given in the Appendix.

5. THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS WALK

Mike Olexa presented the idea of establishing a physical site on campus called *University of Florida Scholars Walk*, displaying plaques recognizing our university's most distinguished faculty and student scholars. As an example, Mike showed photographs of a site of this nature at the University of West Virginia, where the plaques are mounted on a building wall.

The potential benefits of a Scholars Walk are numerous. They include the enhancement of the university reputation in the eyes of visitors and making a favorable impression on prospective students and parents who participate in the university's Preview program, among others.

The *Academic Scholars Walk Committee* was created to address this project. Mike Olexa will serve as Chair and Elliot Douglas volunteered to join the committee. Other members to participate in the committee are sought.

The plan for this committee is to produce a proposal for the Academic Scholars Walk project that will be presented to the Provost. The Chair suggested that it might be useful for the proposal to include the following tentative sections:

- Vision for an Academic Scholars Walk
- Benefits to the University of Florida
- Practices at peer institutions
- Realization options
 - o Existing or new wall, low-cost and high-cost alternatives, strategic location on campus, etc.
- Some specific proposals
 - o Composition of committee that would be entrusted with the selection of honorees, guidelines for honoree selection, examples of achievements and awards meritorious of recognition (as well as examples of cases that may not belong in the walk), etc.

6. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT OF ARTICLE 6 OF OUR INTERNAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES DOCUMENT

The Academy discussed the version of Article 6 given below. Useful suggestions for improvement were given (not yet included in the text quoted below).

Sid Homan and Oscar Crisalle request additional input from the Academy (all members are invited to send them additional suggestions).

Article 6: Orientation and guidelines for new inductees

- 6.1 The Academy expects that all new inductees either: 1. to join one or more ongoing sub-committees focusing on a specific project of the Academy; or 2. after

they feel they are sufficiently oriented with the principles of the Academy, to define and pursue a worthy project.

- 6.2 It is assumed that members will participate in all Academy meetings (and those of any sub-committees the member has joined) throughout the duration of their careers. Since each member is compensated with a three-year grant, an Academy member is expected to attend such meetings with a very high regularity, and, for this reason, schedules should be adjusted so members will be free from conflicts that would interfere with their attendance. Extended absences because of Sabbatical leaves and other formally approved leaves will be reasonably compensated by extending by an appropriate period of time for that three-year period of mandatory attendance.
- 6.3 New inductees are required to join (or initiate) at least one committee during their first term of induction.
- 6.4 All members are expected to formulate a concrete plan of how they will contribute to the vision and mission of The Academy. The plan may be an entirely new initiative, or a proposal that would complement an on-going project. Collaboration activities with other members are acceptable and encouraged. Such plans should be presented in an Academy meeting no later than the first of November of the second year of induction.
- 6.5 New inductees are encouraged to participate actively in other projects of The Academy different from their own proposed projects.

7. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

No items were suggested from the floor.

APPENDIX: CURRENT LIST OF ACADEMY COMMITTEES

1. *Induction Procedures Committee* (Standing Committee)

Mission: Simplify the process for applying for membership in the Academy and ensure that correct and unambiguous application instructions are disseminated to the academic community. Specific projects include revising last year's procedure (including input from most recent inductees), drafting a proposal for improvements, coordinating the annual induction process including the specification of deadlines for announcements application-submission, applicant-evaluation process, and assisting the Provost in the wording of the induction letter (include a statement indicating the lifetime right to use the title *Distinguished Teaching Scholar*, state expectations during the first 3 years of membership, etc.)

Chair: Gail Kauwell

Members: Oscar Crisalle, Sid Homan

2. Graduate School Interface Committee (Standing Committee)

Mission: Identify opportunities for supporting the activities of the Graduate School. Address issues of large significance to the educational mission of the university, including the promotion of academic honesty principles, and the implementation of preventative and remedial procedures that enhance academic values and ensure fair implementation of investigative procedures.

Chair: Nigel Richards

Members: Doug Levey. Other members are sought

3. Honors Program and Academic Quality Committee (Standing Committee)

Mission: Identify venues for the Academy to provide assistance in a formal fashion to the Honors Program and to the Center for Undergraduate Research, and identify and seek to implement policies, practices and procedures that lead to improvement in the academic quality of UF curriculum, with an emphasis on large-scope issues. Example projects include the analysis and cure of grade inflation problems, service in the advisory committee of the Honors Program and Center for Undergraduate Research, etc.

Chair: Howard Louthan

Members: Nigel Richards, Sandy Berg, William Logan, Miklos Bona, Michael Olexa, Elliot Douglas

4. Teaching and Learning Center Committee (Working Committee)

Mission: Establish and collaborate with a campus-wide Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), to educate UF graduate students and faculty on pedagogical practices, leading to a national reputation for UF as an institution committed to excellence in education.

Chair: Marianne Schmink

Members: Linda Behar-Horenstein, Greg Sawyer, Sid Homan, Doug Levey

5. Funding Initiatives Committee (Working Committee)

Mission: Identify opportunities for UF participation in large funding initiatives from governmental or private sources, and help to identify and establish a faculty and administrative team to draft and submit proposals on the topic of pedagogy. Specific tasks include making a list of funding sources, discussing with the Provost opportunities to provide material support required to qualify as a grant applicant, and bringing together a team of faculty with suitable background to take on the task of writing the proposal.

Chair: A chair is sought.

Members: Miklos Bona

6. *International Initiatives Committee (Working Committee)*

Mission: Identify opportunities for enhancing the UF curriculum with international experiences. Specific projects include drafting a vision document for internationalizing the graduate UF curriculum, including study abroad programs for doctoral students, international dual degrees, as well as international ethics and cultural awareness issues.

Chair: Ranga Narayanan

Members: Marianne Schmick, Doug Levey, Miklos Bona, Oscar Crisalle

7. *Academic Scholars Walk Committee (Working Committee)*

Mission: Establish the *University of Florida Scholars Walk*, a physical site on campus displaying plaques recognizing our university's most distinguished faculty and student scholars.

Chair: Mike Olexa

Members: Elliot Douglas. Other members are sought

8. *Academic Best Practices Committee (Working Committee)*

Mission: Identify best practices for running Academy affairs, including election processes, and other internal policies and practices. Specific projects may include maintaining a document of internal policies and practices, and surveying the mission, vision, and activities of groups similar to our Academy that are currently functioning in other universities, (including Texas, Virginia, and Southern California) for the purpose of adopting and adapting their best practices.

Chair: Oscar Crisalle

Members: Sid Homan. Other members are sought.