



MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2006
DODD HALL AUDITORIUM
3:35 P.M.

I. Regular Session

The regular session of the 2006-07 Faculty Senate was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. Faculty Senate President James Cobbe presided.

The following members attended the Senate meeting:

D. Abood, T. Adams, J. Ahlquist, M. Allen, P. Aluffi, V. R-Auzenne, T. Baker, G. Bates, A. Bathke, S. Beckman, G. Blakely, B. Bower, J. Bowers, F. Bunea, G. Burnett, J. Cao, D. Cartes, J. Clendinning, P. Coats, J. Cobbe, C. Connerly, V. Costa, L. deHaven-Smith, V. Dobrosavljevic, J. Fiorito, S. Fiorito, M. Frank, K. Gelabert, J. Geringer, P. Gilmer, C. Greek, L. Hawkes, J. Hellweg, P. Hensel, R. Herrera, L. Hogan, C. Holmes, J. James, L. Keller, A. Kercheval, A. Lan, T. Lee, S. Lewis, C. Madsen, N. Mazza, C. McCann, R. Miles, J. Milligan, M. Mondello, D. Moore, R. Morris, A. Mullis, R. Neuman, J. O'Rourke, P. O'Sullivan, R. Pekurny, D. Pompper, T. Ratliffe, R. Roberts, J. Scholz, J. Sickinger, J. Standley, G. Tyson, C. Upchurch, Y. Wang, J. Whyte, J. Wulff.

The following members were absent. Alternates are listed in parenthesis:

E. Aldrovandi, M. Childs, R. Coleman, J. Dodge, I. Eberstein, L. Edwards, K. Erndl, M. Fernandez, J. Gathegi, N. Greenbaum, K. Harris, M. Hartline, D. Houle, E. Hull, D. Kangas, A. Koschnik, W. Landing (**D. Nowacek**), W. Leparulo, T. Logan, S. Losh, T. Matherly, K. Myers, A. Payer, A. Plant, D. Rice, F. Rodriguez, J. Sobanjo, N. Trafford, J. Turner, E. Walker, N. Warren (**A. Epstein**), T. Welsh (**D. Corbin**), S. Wood.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the September 20, 2006 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

IV. Report of the Steering Committee, J. Standley

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee has met 4 times since the last Senate meeting.

We were informed that the BOG has funded consultants, the Pappas group, to advise them on future development of the SUS in light of the population growth and subsequent college enrollment increases expected in the state. Issues under scrutiny include university strategic goals, SUS facilities, critical issues in defining the structure of the SUS, and a state plan to meet increased demands for access. Faculty Senate President, Jim Cobbe, participated in a conference call providing input to the consultants. The Presidents of the SUS universities, and the Chairs of the University Boards of Trustees, are also meeting with this group today to provide input. Input will be synthesized and a report provided to the BOG in January.

The FSU Faculty Senate has been invited to join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). This is a voluntary organization with 53 institutional members from NCAA Division IA schools. You have material about this group and this issue will be on the agenda today for discussion purposes only.

V. Report of Standing Committees

a. Undergraduate Policy Committee, S. Lewis

I have one item of business to report from the Undergraduate Policy Committee, which met last week. At that meeting, PHI 2620: Environmental Ethics, was approved as a Gordon Rule Course. Since the Faculty Senate approved this course for Liberal Studies Area IV last year, no vote is necessary on this action; I provide it for informational purposes only.

b. Graduate Policy Committee, G. Bates

The GPC is conducting 10 program reviews this year, 5 in fall and 5 in spring. We have met twice so far this semester and discussed the following items:

The policy regarding sequestering electronic theses and dissertations to facilitate students patenting their work or publishing it with commercial presses. This current policy is under review by the GPC and a proposal to modify the current policy will be brought to the Senate later this semester or early next semester.

IBTOEFL scores are coming in and the GPC is reviewing the effectiveness of the minimum passing score of 80 that was set by the Senate last year. A report on the IBTOEFL will be forthcoming.

The GPC approved a proposal by the college of medicine to explore offering an MS in Biomedical Science.

The GPC enacted a policy requiring all graduate programs to have a graduate handbook and to make this handbook available to their students. This had been a long standing but unwritten policy of the GPC and the GPC wanted to have a formal record of this policy. Graduate handbooks are examined by the GPC subcommittees when they conduct program reviews.

The GPC continued its discussion of university policies regarding doctoral dissertation defenses and at the request of the Steering committee specifically discussed whether the outcome of the dissertation defense should be based on a majority vote or a unanimous vote of the supervisory (examining) committee. The GPC concluded that this was an issue that each program should decide for themselves, that a uniform university-wide policy was not needed or appropriate. The GPC also concluded that each program needs to inform its graduate students of what its policy is regarding dissertation defenses.

Senators asked if votes could be consensus or did they have to be unanimous or majority. Dr. Bates asked that he take that question back to the GPC. Dr. Ahlquist also stated that students should be in contact with the committee so problems do not arise.

The GPC discussed the role of internal members (the departmental representatives) on GPC subcommittees doing program reviews. The GPC concluded and passed a motion that the internal members are ex officio, advisory members on review subcommittees.

VI. Old Business

- a. Progress Report: Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Committee Report, B. Clark

Dr. Clark reported that the committee received considerable feedback on the report presented to the Faculty Senate last month. The committee met and reviewed the comments and are working on a substantial revision. We expect to have a new draft sometime in early November.

VII. New Business

- a. Proposal to join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, J. Cobbe

Dr. Cobbe reported that this group has been around since 2002 and it was decided not to join at that time. They have contacted us every year since and the Steering Committee looked at them this year and has decided that that they have grown substantially and would recommend that the FSU Faculty Senate joins the COIA.

Dr. Ahlquist mentioned a student whose admission to college was questioned and while his case is pending he was not allowed to set foot on campus. A Senator asked if the athletic department has any opinion about the COIA. Dr. Cobbe talked with Dave Hart and that Mr. Hart did not try to sway him one way or the other.

VIII. University Welfare

a. Updates on Bargaining and Related Matters, J. Fiorito

Good afternoon! Just a brief update on developments since our September Faculty Senate meeting.

As you know, faculty ratified the amendments to our 2006-07 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) by a vote of 350 to 0. One of the better lines I heard about this was "So much for the anti-parental leave backlash."

We held a Consultation meeting with the Provost concerning contract implementation and some non-contractual issues. (See Article 2 of the CBA.) There was a lengthy agenda, but we had brief and mostly productive discussions on a wide range of items.

Both administration and faculty bargaining teams attended a refresher session on interest-based bargaining (IBB) techniques led by a Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Commissioner. Our first bargaining session is scheduled for Thursday the 26th at 2pm. All faculty members are welcome to sit in, and Faculty Senators are especially welcome to attend.

Our UFF-FSU Chapter sponsored a "Bargaining Forum" luncheon today to invite input from faculty on the upcoming negotiations for 2007-08 and beyond. More than 20 faculty members attended and we had some lively discussions on various matters. One of the hot topics was summer teaching. The administration has indicated that it will want to discuss changes on this, although it is not yet clear what changes are of interest.

The FSU administration has decided not to grant the 3% legislated pay increase to "new" faculty (defined as those hired since May 6th). The legislation says that eligible faculty shall have these raises computed as of their September 30th pay rate, and refers to eligibility in terms of meeting minimum performance standards. There is no mention of May 6th as a critical date. It seems reasonable to assume that the vast majority of new faculty, if not all new faculty, were meeting minimum performance standards on September 30th, and thus the administration's decision is surprising. We will pursue further discussions on this, and possibly contractual or legal remedies. Reliable sources report that at least two other SUS schools, FIU and USF, have included new faculty in these raises.

Merit increases were implemented earlier this month, and the dust is still settling. When we have details, as we will soon, we will make them available. Transparency helps to make sure that merit rewards truly go to meritorious performance, and thereby motivates good performance.

I'll be glad to take questions if time permits. Thank you.

IX. Announcements by Deans and Other Administrative Officers

a. Dean of Undergraduate Studies, K. Laughlin

Dean Laughlin told the Senate that the student Dr. Ahlquist mentioned was probably being cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse and that she would be glad to investigate the students' situation. She would also be glad to talk with anyone about the Athletic Support program.

X. Announcements by Provost Abele

Provost Abele was not in attendance.

XI. Announcements by President Wetherell

President Wetherell was not in attendance.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



Melissa Crawford
Faculty Senate Coordinator