

**Faculty Senate Meeting
March 19, 2003
Dodd Hall Auditorium
3:35 p.m.**

I. Regular Session

The regular meeting of the 2002-2003 Faculty Senate was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2003. Senate President Valliere Richard Auzenne presided.

The following members attended the Senate meeting:

V. Auzenne, G. Bates, F. Berry, S. Blumsack, M. Bonn, J. Clendinning, P. Coats, J. Cobbe, C. Connerly, J. Cowart, C. Darling, P. Dean, L. Dehaven-Smith, L. Edmondson, B. Ellingson, J. Elsner, L. Epstein, J. Fiorito, S. Fiorito, P. Garretson, T. Glenn, T. Gomory, J. Grant, C. Greek, C.J. Hardiman, L. Hawkes, H. Hawkins, E. Hilinski, S. Huckaba, T. Hart, A. Imershein, A. Kalbian, D. Kuhn, K. Laughlin, W. Leparulo, R. Leushuis, S. Lewis, R. Light, S. Losh, C. Madsen, N. Mazza, T. McCaleb, D. Moore, J. O'Rourke, T. Ohazama, A. Payer, G. Peterson, J. Renwick, E. Schroeder, D. Seaton, J. Sobanjo, F. Standley, J. Standley, L. Van Dommelen, D. Von Glahn, V. Walker, C. Ward, S. Wood, P. Wright, P. Xiong.

The following members were absent. Alternate who attended are listed in parenthesis: D. Abood, S. Allen, A. Archbold, B. Atkins, R. Atkinson, M. Baldwin, J. Beckham, G. Boggs, D. Boroto, J. Bowers, R. Braswell, J. Brown, W. Cooper, P. Cottle, R. Deyle, G. Erlebacher, J. Flannery, L. Flynn, J.C. Galeano, K. Glendenning, V. Hagopian, K. Harris, C. Imwold (**C. Reynaud**), I. Jones, N. Jumonville, J. Kline, W. Landing, P.E. Lin, R. Mariscal, T. Matherly, W. Modrow (**R. Cole**), G. Papagiannis, C. Pfaff, K. Myers-Pietralunga, D. Rasmussen, P. Rawling (**C. Maslen**), R. Reeves, R. Reiser (**G. Tenenbaum**), M. Rosal, S. Sirmans, S. Sommer (**T. Welsh**), R. Turner, M. Young.

II. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for today's meeting was approved as distributed.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of January 22, 2003 and February 19 were approved as distributed.

IV. Report of the Steering Committee, J. Cobbe

The Steering Committee has met three times since our last Senate meeting, including our regular monthly meeting with the President [Provost Abele was out of town].

We received a request from the Student Senate concerning putting SUSSAI results on the Web. Our response was that SUSSAI are Public Record, and therefore there is nothing for us to say on this topic. We agreed that the recommendations of the task force on evaluation of teaching should be taken in two parts, first the establishment of the standing Senate committee on evaluation of teaching, and second the recommendation that the new instrument be adopted. We also met with Lori Chorey Smith, Vice-President in charge of the Capital Campaign of the FSU Foundation, who briefed us on the current Faculty and Staff campaign.

The Steering Committee spent a considerable amount of time with Kathleen Daley, who provided us with considerable insight into the operations of her office and the legislative session. She will be reminding Senators, and through them other faculty, that if someone approaches them for input from the legislature, they are requested to complete information form for her office so that the University can keep track of participation in the legislative process by faculty and staff.

In our meeting with the President, T. K. Wetherell expressed his interest in exploring possible changes to the Calendar, such as re-introducing official closures between Christmas and New Year's and possible four-day-week arrangements for staff in the summer. It is expected that last year's experiment with a "Fall Break" will not be repeated. He also discussed with us the progress of the legislature, and the probable introduction next week of a proposal to move both FSU and the University of Florida into a "State-related" status, wherein the institutions would receive guaranteed lump sum appropriations in return for agreed outputs, and be released from current funding formulae and earmarking of appropriations. Some legislative leaders seem receptive to this idea. There is also an expectation that the legislature will approve some new fees, such as a technology fee. Overall, this will not be a good budget year, but it need not be disastrous unless the State's economic condition worsens markedly.

The President also informed us that a determination from PERC on collective bargaining is expected this week. We discussed with him the Senate's recommendation that the University join the WRC, subject to certain provisos, while remaining a member of the FLA, on which

President D'Alemberte had never made a final decision. President Wetherell requested information on the topic from us, which is being provided, and promised to give the matter full consideration.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

Elections, D. Moore

Senator Moore opened the floor for additional nominations for the University Committee on Faculty Sabbaticals. John Fenstermaker and Tom McCaleb were nominated.

Senator Moore continued with nominations for the Professional Relations and Welfare and Grievance Committees. Jim O'Rourke was nominated for the PR&W committee.

Undergraduate Policy, J. Clendinning

At the March 17 UPC meeting, the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee (Marilyn Young, Jim Tull, and George Buzyna, Chair) charged with proposing a timetable for a rotating pattern of review of Liberal Studies, skills competency, and multicultural courses, such that every course is reviewed within a five-year span, presented a proposal for the review of courses. After careful consideration of the merits of two approaches—1) reviewing some courses from each Area each year, grouped by departments and 2) reviewing the courses by Area, with Area III first, then part of Area IV, etc.—and possible variants on them, the UPC decided to follow the latter plan. Beginning next year, the Area III (History and Social Science) Liberal Studies courses will be reviewed, Area IV will span two years (literature humanities courses mostly the first year; fine arts along with religion and philosophy the second), then Area V (Sciences), with the multicultural, skills competency, and any other courses under the UPC purview not elsewhere classified to be examined the fifth year of the cycle.

The review process for courses that have been approved previously will be the same as for new courses:

the department, area, school or college responsible for the course will submit copies of the syllabus or syllabi currently in use, along with the standard cover sheet used for new courses;

the syllabus and cover sheet should clearly reflect that the course as currently taught meets the current Criteria for the Area of Liberal

Studies the course falls in, and the criteria for Gordon Rule, multicultural, etc. if the course is proposed for those categories;

the syllabus should include a statement for students describing how this course meets the criteria for the Liberal Studies Area to which it belongs.

This review process is to evaluate whether courses continue to reflect the criteria required by each category under the UPC's oversight. If a course no longer demonstrates the characteristics required by the criteria, the department, area, school or college will have an opportunity to revise the course syllabus to conform to the criteria, and, if that is not completed satisfactorily, the course will be brought to the Faculty Senate with a recommendation from the UPC that it be removed from the list of Liberal Studies (Gordon Rule, multicultural, etc.) courses.

The UPC reviewed one request regarding a changed course number for Oral Communications Competency. The titles and course number for the music oral communication course MUE 3494 has been changed during recent revisions to the music education curriculum to accommodate changes in state laws. The content formerly in MUE 3494 is now in MUE 3493, with a new title **Communication Skills for the Musician: Instrumental** that more clearly reflects the course's content. The second music course approved for Oral Communications Competency has the same number as before, but a new title MUE **3491. Communication Skills for the Musician: Choral**. These changes were viewed by the UPC as technical corrections for a discrepancy that was not noticed when the new curriculum was put in place for music education majors, and will take effect retroactively from the time the curriculum changes were made to conform to state certification requirements.

The Oral Communications Sub-Committee recommended to the full UPC that the course CJL 4512: The Courts and Social Policy be approved for Oral Communication Credit. The UPC unanimously approved this course, as recommended by the subcommittee, and, following our protocol; it is announced today to the Senate as having been approved.

Please remind your colleagues to adhere to the published Final Exam Schedule. Any deviations from that schedule must be approved by the UPC, and will need to be submitted prior to our last meeting for 2002-2003 on April 14.

The Undergraduate Policy Committee has been reviewing the university-wide Computer Skills Competency requirement--now almost ten years old--in the context of computer experience that current students have

entering the university (as compared to the low level of experience when the Competency requirement was instituted) and the high level of discipline-specific skills needed for some majors. Members of the UPC have observed that the level of skills required by the current Computer Skills Competency are so low (using email, a word processor, the internet, and one additional program) that students wonder why we are making them prove they have these skills or take a course covering them, especially since most students use the internet to register for classes, and routinely use email, web searching, word processing, and other programs for their high school and college classes. In addition, the level of computer skills required by some disciplines considerably exceeds the requirement, but various disciplines are requiring knowledge of different programs. For example, a design major may need to use computer-assisted design programs, while a music major may need notation and music editing and sequencing programs, while a business major may need to use Excell and other business-related programs . . . and scientists and engineers will use other discipline-specific programs. To raise the university-wide standard to accommodate all of these various discipline-specific needs would make a course that would not really prepare anyone well for the specific skills their major requires. Many majors (nursing, engineering, music, business among them) already have in place discipline-specific computer skills courses; for others, it would be possible either for such courses to be offered, for skills to be covered in pre-existing courses within the major, or for the major to require a "generic" or major-specific computer course taught by computer science (generic courses are already in place and new major-specific ones could be designed as well) so that each Department, School, and College could document for SACS and other accreditation reviews that their majors have the computer skills specific to their chosen field. For many majors, courses already required as a part of the major may cover the needed skills. The Computer Skills Competency was put in place to solve a problem that existed at the time it was constituted, with the hope that one day it would no longer be needed. The UPC, after careful review and discussion of this issue, feels that it is time for this requirement to sunset.

Recommendation:

The Undergraduate Policy Committee recommends that the Computer Skills Competency requirement as a single, university-wide standard sunset as of Fall 2003. In its place, each College, School, and Department should determine for each of the majors under their purview what specific computer skills are needed, and require courses as a part of the major that meet those skill needs.

Task Force on Evaluations, E. Walker

Senator Walker reported that the Task Force on Evaluations has been meeting regularly. The committee recently met with evaluation services personnel. New forms are ordered in June, so if the Senate wishes to adopt a new instrument time is important.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Senate:

1. Establish a Standing Committee of the Senate on the Evaluation of Teaching. This new Teaching Evaluation Committee would be charged to implement and monitor the new student classroom evaluation instrument and to address on a regular basis more general policies and procedures concerning the variety of ways teaching is evaluated at FSU, which include but should not be limited to student evaluation instruments. This committee will coordinate the work of the Faculty Senate with the administrative units concerned with teaching evaluation and teaching resources, such as Evaluation Services and Instructional Support Services.

This Senate voted to accept this recommendation.

2. Discontinue the use of SUSSAI as the mandated evaluation instrument in all academic-year courses, discontinue the use of SIRS as an optional evaluation instrument, and adopt a new evaluation instrument, the Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT), for all academic-year courses.

Senator Losh presented the following motion:

Whereas, even the best of student evaluation documents measures student perceptions of effective teaching and

Although student perceptions of instruction are important and probably are indicative of student motivation to learn course material, they are not the only kind of measure of instructor effectiveness and should not be treated as the only measure of instructor effectiveness.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate go on record to strongly endorse that student perceptions of instruction be only ONE of the measures of instructor effectiveness to be considered in the:

Annual evaluation

Promotion consideration
Tenure consideration
Teaching awards (at any level)
Instructor commendations

of Florida State University teaching faculty.

Other measures may include:

Course syllabi

The nature of course assignments

Evidence of course development

Involvement in graduate student thesis and dissertation development and/or completion

Involvement with the FSU Honors Program

Involvement with student independent study

And other evidence that the instructor wishes considered that directly relates to student instruction.

The motion was seconded and after discussion the motion was approved.

After a lengthy discussion the second recommendation from the Evaluation Task Force was accepted.

VI. Announcements of Deans and other administrative officers

a. Kathleen Daly, Director of Governmental Relations

Ms. Daly gave a brief update on activities relating to her office and some issues dealing with the Legislature. If faculty are approached to speak or appear before a legislative session, there is a form on the Governmental Relations web site that should be completed and forwarded to their office.

VII. University Welfare

There were no items of university welfare for today's meeting.

VIII. Announcements of the President and Provost

Neither the President nor the Provost attended today's meeting.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Janis D. Sass

Secretary to the Faculty