



MINUTES  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
JANUARY 23, 2008  
DODD HALL AUDITORIUM  
3:35 P.M.

**I. Regular Session**

The regular session of the 2007-08 Faculty Senate was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2008. Faculty Senate Steering Committee Vice-chair Eric Walker presided.

**The following members attended the Senate meeting:**

T. Adams, J. Ahlquist, M. Allen, P. Aluffi, I. Audirac, T. Baker, G. Bates, S. Beckman, P. Beerli, S. Bellenot, G. Blakely, R. Blaufarb, P. Bowen, B. Bower, R. Bruschweiler, G. Burnett, J. Cao, E. Chicken, J. Clendinning, F. Davis, L. deHaven-Smith, J. Dorsey, I. Eberstein, K. Erndl, J. Fiorito, S. Fiorito, K. Gelabert, J. Geringer, P. Gilmer, J. Hellweg, W. Hochwarter, L. Hogan, P. Iatarola, B. Landing, W. Leparulo, S. Lewis, D. Lick, S. Losh, C. Luongo, C. Madsen, B. Maier-Katkin, N. Mazza, C. McCann, V. Mesev, W. Mio, D. Moore, K. Myers, J. O'Rourke, R. Pekurny, R. Radach, D. Rice, R. Schwartz, L. Shepherd, J. Sickinger, O. Steinbock, E. Trowers, J. Turner, G. Tyson, C. Upchurch, E. Walker, Y. Wang, P. Ward, W. Weissert, C. Wiebe, S. Wood, P. Young.

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

C. Alamo, J. Bowers, D. Cartes, J. Cobbe, E. Cormier, V. Costa, B. Diskin, J. Dodge, L. Edwards, M. Frank, A. Gaiser, C. Greek, T. Houpt, L. Keller, A. Kercheval, G. Knight, D. Latham (**M. Kazmer**), T. Lee, T. Matherly, M. Mondello, R. Morris, A. Mullis, R. Neuman, A. Opel, A. Payer, V. Richard Auzenne, R. Roberts, F. Rodriguez, H. Schmidt, J. Scholz, J. Standley, M. Wasko, C. Weissert, T. Welsh.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the December 5, 2007 meeting were approved as distributed.

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

#### **IV. Report of the Steering Committee, E. Walker**

Since the December Senate meeting, the Steering committee has met twice. At our January 10 meeting, we received an update on the implementation of the Non-Tenure Track Faculty (NTTF) Report from Vice President Bob Bradley and from Susannah Miller and Christopher Pitts from the Human Resources Staff in the Dean of the Faculties office. Their current first-phase task is to assemble as accurate an inventory as possible of the approximately 300 teaching positions in this category. President Standley reported on the discussions at the Council of Deans meeting earlier that same day, which focused on the current budget crisis. We discussed the fallout from the academic honor case in the athletic department; we have invited the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the interim Athletic Director (aka the Special Assistant to the President for Athletics) to meet with the Steering committee to discuss changes to the academic support structures in undergraduate studies and in the athletic department.

At our January 17 meeting, President Standley reported on her meeting with President Wetherell concerning the budget crisis and plans for the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, January 18. The President agreed with her suggestion to consider a surcharge on athletic tickets to provide a pool of funds for faculty salary enhancement; that proposal is before the university Athletic committee this afternoon, and President Standley is currently attending that meeting. We invited Ralph Alvarez to speak to the senate today about current budget conditions; he is out of town, so Vice President Bob Bradley will give the budget overview you see on your agenda.

President Wetherell is unable to attend today's meeting but wants to meet with faculty about the budget. The Senate is therefore calling a meeting of the General Faculty of the University with President Wetherell. That meeting will take place here in Dodd Hall auditorium a week from today, Wednesday January 30 at 2:30 PM.

This concludes the report of the Steering committee.

#### **V. Report of Standing Committees**

##### **a. Graduate Policy Committee, G. Bates**

Senator Bates introduced the GPS's report on Doctoral Directive Status. The report will be discussed along with a specific recommendation from the GPC at the February Faculty Senate meeting. The full report can be found on the Faculty Senate website at <http://facsenate.fsu.edu>.

**VI. Old Business**

There were no items of old business.

**VII. New Business**

There were no items of new business.

**VIII. University Welfare**

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

Good afternoon and Happy New Year! Well, times are not so good or happy with the budget situation what it is, but I try to stay optimistic.

With regard to collective bargaining, administration and faculty bargaining teams met on December 14<sup>th</sup>. No progress was made and no bargaining sessions are presently scheduled.

The UFF has filed unfair labor practice charges against the FSU Administration and Trustees over unilateral reclassifications of bargaining unit faculty into out-of-unit positions. These reclassifications remove these faculty members from protections of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, protections such as Sec. 13.2(b) that allows non-tenured faculty with more than five years service to be laid off only after more junior non-tenured faculty in the layoff unit. Of course there are many protections in our contract, but this one seems a notable illustration just now. A hearing on these charges before a Public Employees Relations Commission Hearing Officer is scheduled for next month.

Additional charges may be forthcoming soon regarding salary bargaining. The UFF-FSU Chapter does not enjoy litigation, but we will litigate when necessary to protect faculty rights. The support of our national and state affiliates is greatly appreciated at such times. When you hear colleagues say they support a strong voice for faculty but that UFF dues are too high, please remind them that good lawyers don't come cheap, and that all too often our UFF-FSU Chapter is forced to resort to litigation. We remain open to discussions that might avoid further litigation.

In the bigger picture, budget matters obviously loom very large right now. Before too long, legislators need to look seriously at fixing a state funding system that poorly serves Florida citizens. In the short run legislators are all

too prone to political showmanship, gimmicks, and pandering to wealthy special interests.

Closer to home, at last Friday's meeting, Trustees and top administrators discussed layoffs and "re-opening" collective bargaining agreements to address the under-funding crisis at FSU in the near term. Such re-openings are also known as "givebacks," "take-back bargaining," and "collective bargaining in reverse." None of these sounds encouraging.

We agree with the Administration that there are serious state funding and tuition problems. We have not yet received any specific proposals from the Administration, or even any direct contacts regarding what the Administration is considering or would like to discuss. Our UFF-FSU Chapter will of course vigorously defend faculty rights, work to ensure that faculty have a voice, and that fairness is a major consideration in Administration actions.

Two quick announcements:

- The UFF-FSU Chapter will host a luncheon with special guest Dean Joe Travis tomorrow at 12:30 in the Oglesby Union Florida Room. All Senators are welcome, and please encourage your colleagues to attend. Lunch will be provided.
- Next Thursday the UFF-FSU Chapter will host a luncheon with special guest Bob Graham.

**IX. Announcements by Deans and Other Administrative Officers**

There were no announcements by Deans and Other Administrative Officers.

**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 4:46 p.m.



Melissa Crawford, Faculty Senate Coordinator