

Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

May 11, 2012
1706 Turlington Building
Tallahassee, FL

MINUTES

Chair Rick Yost called meeting to order around 8:45 AM

Attendance: FAMU – Narayan Persaud, Dreamal Worthen; FGCU - Halcyon St. Hill, Douglas Harrison; FAU: Bill MCDaniel, Ron Nyhan; FIU – Tom Breslin, Delano Gray; FSU – Sandra Lewis; UCF – Ida Cook, Arlen Chase, Manoj Chopra; UF – Scott Nygren, Cheri Brodeur, Rick Yost; UNF – Patrick Plumlee, Kathy Robinson, Jeff Harrison; USF – Rick Smith, Chris Davis, Greg Teague; and UFF – Tom Auxter.

Absent – UWF, NCF.

ACFS Business

The first item of business was the approval of January 2012 meeting in Tallahassee: Motion was made and seconded to approve. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Rick Yost welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced himself or herself. The signup sheet was passed around.

Morning Session – BOG Chancellor and Staff Reports

Frank Brogan, Chancellor

The Chancellor stated ‘welcome back or welcome to new members’. He had just given an interview on FL Face to Face TV and covered a lot of material.

He discussed some of these issues in detail:

- a. \$300 million cut to SUS. Told up to last minute that it was going to be less (around \$200 million). A potential 15% tuition increase generates about \$100 million and then reserves of \$100 million were used to make the cut manageable. \$300 million was a large burden to the system. He stated that there are some gaping misconceptions:
 - i. 45th lowest tuition in US not high as misconception. Highest is \$16k in US. 15% increase is about a \$500 hit to the student. Rapidly moving up due to tuition increases is a misconception- we will stay 45th.
 - ii. For every dollar cut, we put it back with tuition. Not true. 15% increase only covers partial. Compared to 45% overall cut. It must be noted that 30% of the increase goes to financial assistance: not all tuition goes to operational funds.
 - iii. All 11 universities have ‘Christmas club’ reserve accounts for end of year parties by faculty. Obviously, this is not true. The reserve funds are needed for non-recurring items such as startup, paying adjunct faculty, PECO backfilling needs and others.

People use these misconceptions to their political benefit. Legislature is building into their budget assumption that universities will be increasing 15% tuition. There were initially very disproportionate cuts in the first draft of the bill. However, cooler heads prevailed in the version that passed.

b. FL Polytech and FAMU

FL Polytech: The BOG had better approach and plan laid out previously on how to accredit, meet certain benchmarks to gain independence from USF with SACS. The legislature had a different idea. The Governor made FL Polytech independent with stroke of pen and created a fresh start with no facilities, faculty, and accreditation. SACS made it clear that if the bill were signed; it would not be accredited until there is a graduating class. Bell Whelan, SACS – “ We do not accredit ideas”.

July 1, all fixed assets of USF have to be transferred to FL Polytech. However, at this time, there is no one to hand it to. A BOT needs to be established as soon as possible to start work. There is no plan in place yet for faculty or students. USF will handoff all assets in Lakeland to FL Polytech. BOT will start by hiring a President. New construction has begun on property next to I-4. \$65 million building to be completed 2014. Additional buildings are also planned. Legislature has provided \$35 million for operational costs. This funding will be gone quickly STEM education programs are typically the most costly programs to establish. Everyone at USF Lakeland is getting a one-year contract extension. They are developing multiple year teach out plan. Faculty have been assigned to teach out and are given an opportunity decide what to do – either join FL Poly or go to USF. The same opportunity also has been provided for the staff members. There is one year time frame to make these decisions. USF is committed to make this work.

Task force on Virtual Education chaired by Governor Perez – Chancellor opinion was that it should not be replication of UF program. There is no need to create another university. Instead we should take all the good work already done, harness all power and bolster online services support services, and connectivity. Student could walk through Technological Portal and access opportunities – use the technological power that they can get access to online. Faculty representation on the task force – Dr. Chopra. The task force will come back to BOG before the session starts with recommendations.

Task force on Facilities chaired by President Bense – there are no PECO dollars which has changed the way we do business. Cannot live without landline tax but it is gone as a source. Shelf life: Must come back before session.

Task Force on SUS Higher Education organization- Ava Parker chair. It also includes Dean Colson and the Chair of State College System. We need more baccalaureate degree production without just adding more universities. Some schools do not want to grow any further and may even want to decrease. We are running out of capacity. Group will look at how we are organized, main and branch campuses. Also look at opportunities to align with State College systems. Study the needs of undergraduate education. When it comes to MS and PhDs,

we are pretty good shape in general. Shelf life: By Nov. with some recommendations but really need to go until the end in May to do their work well.

Governor has setup a blue ribbon task force on higher education – he has had this idea coming for a while with the TX model on his mind. We are trying to get people off this TX reform movement by looking at it intellectually honest way. Governor office promised not to step on our toes as we determine our future path. They like idea that each university can have different missions and each is different. It is like we have Eleven children – all are our children (all offer Baccalaureate degrees) but all unique (different R&D, different programs). Chancellor expressed hope that this was not going to become the TX movement. The task force will hold five meetings before reporting on Nov 17 2012.

Chancellor concluded by stating that Dr. Rick Yost has been a marvelous representative of faculty on Board of Governors. He was fully engaged in the work of the board and spent his time and energy well. He thanked all the ACFS members for what they do for system.

Janet Owen, Governmental Relations Liaison – Presented a wrap-up of the 2012 Legislative Session

Handout 1: Budget summary- Conference report HB5001.
Handout 2: Tuition v State support,
Handout 3: UG Tuition and Fees for 2011-12 Moved to 45th in nation.

Nancy McKee, Academic Affairs

Florida Virtual Campus. (Handout)
Legislature during past session had four existing entities (FCLA, CCLA, FDLC and Facts.org) serving virtual education. These were eliminated and transferred to one entity called FL Virtual Campus. See handout for goals of virtual campus. The big challenge combining these is that the individual staff is in different places (UF, TCC and USF).

Pilot project (UWF working USF, FL state College and St Pete College) will work together recruit and retain students who have accumulated credit and but left in good standing. Governor vetoed 2.5 million associated with this effort. If a program gets funding vetoes, you cannot implement the planned program. Adult learners- we are moving forward but not use the vetoed language of pilot project. This will be transferred to FL Virtual Campus but will have to justify why pilot project could not be implemented. FL Virtual Campus will not confer degrees. These are the support services needed. The legislature did create a governance structure (see handout) under a Board of Directors. Chancellors will appoint BOD. 3 VP from SUS and 3 VP from College Systems.

Legislature did provide funds BOG to study a Florida Virtual University. Plan to change the name to FL Online University in RFP to avoid confusion. Virtual campus may fit in to provide FL Online University. Mr. Will Weatherford is a strong supporter of this approach and is the incoming speaker of the house.

Tim Jones, CFO - Perspectives on the Budget

Mr. Jones distributed and discussed two handouts.

- a. Revenue picture for the state: Revenue Over/Under. So far the revenues have exceeded the estimates. \$151 million above estimates. Another conference this summer heading into the new fiscal year.
- b. Monthly report with details of the various revenue sources (taxes). (15th of each month).

Chris Kinsley, Finance and Facilities Director – Facilities Task Force updates

Update on Facilities Task Force. The task force is looking at issues such if the system can advance pay leases, buy things in bulk, etc. – creative financing in advance. PECO was not cut since there was no PECO to start with. K-20 cut \$250 million. Legally, the government cannot issue debt. The legislature backfilled \$250 million and allowed some new authority to spend – lottery bonds, student facility funds etc. but no other. Task force was charged by Chair Colson to look what other states are doing? Most states fund through general funds or bond against tuition for construction. It will also look at public-private partnerships. PECO was free and could borrow at 3-4% but partnerships with private want at least 6% in return which may not be feasible.

List of task force members was provided. Each school and each sector has been represented. The goal is to get creative ideas early and run them by the legislature and see if it is even feasible.

PECO used to be national model. It may come back.

In 2006, there was a previous task force. It provided lots of recommendation but they were not implemented. In 2006, then Chancellor Rosenberg projected a 50K enrolment growth. Growth has been around 40K. There was always a strong need for facilities. Actual charge was pretty good forecast.

Classroom instruction is less than 10% of all the space on campuses. Is virtual space going to overshadow this requirement? Are offices needed as hard or virtual space? Research space needed for sure.

Public-private partnerships – has legislative support and also the Euro model to build and maintain for 50 years. Advantage that you are locked in.

Dr. R.E. Lemon

Dr. Lemon discussed HB 7135 Changes to General Education Requirement.

Dr. Proctor has sponsored this bill in the house and relates to the following - What makes a student a successful person and what should one get out of an education? There has been a proliferation of General Education courses. More institutions, more bodies of knowledge and, more interdisciplinary courses exist. This has led to more course variability in the general education experience at a given institution. Blocks of gen ed was setup as 36 hours and deemed to satisfy gen education requirements (1995) when 120 hour degrees were required. One of things that variability has produced is the ability to bypass certain areas that should be a mandatory part of gen. ed. such as history, literature etc. Variability of coursework allows this to happen.

House Bill 7135 reduces the number of hours from 36 to 30 hours. Second, it creates a set of CORE courses required for all. Five subject areas with five courses each identified as core. Student must take at least one course in each of the five core areas = 15 hours in core courses.

The implementation is at a formative stage. BOG is being careful in its involvement in this and want to do it right. There is a lot of thought into who should serve on this committee to consider this issue. These will be offered at SUS and FCS all institutions.

Action: if you have a suggestion for a faculty to serve at your institution that is knowledgeable, please forward to Dr. Yost. The committee should have multiple faculty looking at different aspects.

Deadline for this effort: 2013-2014.

General Discussion

Student Perception of Instruction – D. Harrison and Ida Cook

Ida Cook handed out penciled version of responses to set of questions about SPol. She discussed return rate percentages. She distributed a handout with more details. Discussion ensued.

Action: Please provide information to Drs. Cook and Harrison on Best Practices and remaining data for response rates.

Reduction in State ORP – T. Breslin

Tom Breslin (FIU): The Faculty Senate at FIU deplored the reduction in State ORP contribution and sent a letter to the Governor. He introduced a draft resolution related to the reductions to the ORP that had been passed by the Faculty Senate at FIU. Motion made to modify the draft FIU resolution to read as following:

The Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) expresses its deep concern over the dramatic reduction in the State of Florida's contribution to the Florida University System's Optional Retirement Program (ORP) and similar reductions in the FRS investment plan. In the period 2010-2013 it is estimated that this reduction exceeds 50% of the State's original contribution to ORP, which had been set at a level deemed to offset the higher market risks assumed by the participants. This reduction will impact negatively the lives of many ordinary families throughout Florida. More importantly, it will damage the ability of the State of Florida to retain and attract nationally competitive faculty and administrative staff. In the process, it will erode the quality of higher education in and the economic competitiveness of the State of Florida.

Approved unanimously.

Role of Faculty in Strengthening FL higher education vision and leadership - Teague

Dr. Teague asked - Is it possible for us to have impact if we can come together at ACFS to have common impact through local meetings, discussions with BOT, legislators?

Writing to letters to editorial pages can result in a collective impact. There is lot of wisdom to put together into a common approach.

Action: Please send your ideas to George Teague about your thoughts for discussion at the upcoming September retreat.

More detailed discussion moved to retreat in September.

Elections of new officers

Some ACFS members made some introductory remarks on the importance of the five-year commitment to the process to serve as vice-chair (2 years), chair (2 years) and at least one year as past chair.

Chair – Start Monday in August and serve a year. Nominations were made and accepted. Dr. Manoj Chopra nominated and unanimously approved by acclamation as the new chair of the ACFS.

Vice Chair – expected to go to BOG. Other duties include taking minutes of all ACFS meetings. Nominations for Vice Chair – must be currently a voting member of the ACFS and one of the two members that are designated as ACFS member.

The following names were nominated for Vice Chair:

Kathy Robinson

Halcyon St. Hill

Both candidates made brief statements. Secret ballot took place.

The result of voting: Kathy Robinson from University of North Florida will serve as the Vice Chair for 2012-13.

Date and location for next ACFS meeting – Retreat Meeting in September in Orlando

Action Item: Dr. Chopra will send out a Doodle poll for the meeting date.

Campus Reports

Copies of the campus reports were circulated. Some universities provided a brief update of their most important item.

Adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Manoj Chopra,
ACFS Vice Chair

FAMU Report - Narayan Persaud

HAZING:

Florida A & M University continues to deal with the troublesome issue of hazing. As of date, the University has worked on strengthening its current hazing policies. In addition, several faculty members and students have undertaken research on the subject which they hope would yield results and inform policies that lead to the eradication of hazing.

NEW PROVOST:

In March, Dr. Larry Robinson replaced Dr. Cynthia Hughes-Harris as Vice President and Provost. Dr. Robinson previously served as Provost under the presidency of Fred Gainous. Most recently, Dr. Robinson served as undersecretary of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for over a year before returning to the University to take up the appointment of Provost.

UNQUALIFIED FINANCIAL AUDITS:

For four consecutive years, the University continues to receive unqualified financial audits with no audit findings. These came on the heels of years of financial difficulties which placed the institution under intensive scrutiny by the BOG and SACS.

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE:

Under the influence and persistence of former Senate President Maurice Holder, who brokered the office space, the FAMU faculty senate was able to move into a newly renovated house on 664 Gamble Street. The facility not only houses the offices of the senate president, vice-president and office manager, but contains a conference room to comfortably sit 25 individuals.

FACULTY RAISES:

Despite the difficult financial situation, the FAMU Chapter of the UFF, under the leadership of Elizabeth Davenport, successfully negotiated a three percent (3%) pay increase for all full-time faculty. This increase came after years of struggle in which faculty members saw a reduction in wages.

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FAU Report – Bill McDaniel

No Report

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FGCU Report – Douglas Harrison

1. On April 27, 2012 the Faculty Senate Executive leadership delivered its annual report to the faculty. Highlights included:
 - Completion and Senate approval of the work of the Senate’s Outcomes and Assessment Task Force, which proposed revisions to university student learning outcomes.
 - Faculty Evaluation of Chairs and Deans: in February faculty had the opportunity to participate in a survey of faculty perceptions of chairs’ and deans’ performance – the first time in over five years.
 - Shared governance: A multi-party workgroup representing faculty, staff, administration, and student government is meeting regularly, including through the summer, to craft a common definition based off the ACFS framework approved last fall.

The complete annual report is available online at:

<http://www.fgcu.edu/FacultySenate/>

2. Budget and Planning: In March 2012, the provost initiated a campus-wide conversation on how the university will deal with the related challenges of budget cutbacks, space constraints in light of PECO reductions, and projections for continued enrollment growth.
3. Tuition: the BOT meeting in April included preliminary discussion of administration proposal to raise tuition by 15%. Indications from that meeting suggest awareness among the majority of the BOT for the need for the maximum allowable rate; discussion also suggests some efforts to propose a lesser amount of increase. Administration projections indicate that less than 15% will likely lead to layoffs.
4. Facilities and land use:
 - The legislature and governor approved \$4.9 million in PECO funds toward the university Innovation Hub, a public-private venture devoted to studying sustainable energy.
 - At its April meeting, the BOT approved revisions to the campus master plan.
 - In February, the University officially named its most recently built academic building, AB 8 (health sciences), in honor of Elaine Marieb, whose \$5 million gift funds various scholarships and faculty development opportunities.
5. Faculty Senate leadership has begun preliminary planning discussions with the Provost's office regarding the university's response to the Proctor Bill's various provisions.
6. A new QEP has been selected focusing on Writing, Literacy, and Critical Thinking.
7. The Faculty Senate reelected all officers from 2011-12 for the 2012-13 academic year:
 - President: Douglas Harrison
 - Vice President: Howard Smith
 - Secretary: Madelyn Isaacs
 - Parliamentarian: Howard Smith

Submitted: Douglas Harrison, FGCU Faculty Senate President

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FIU Report – Tom Breslin

FIU Faculty Senate Chair's Report to the ACFS, May 11, 2012

FIU continued its enrollment growth this spring to about 48,000 students. The number includes students enrolled in a Hospitality Management program in Tianjin and an electrical engineering program in nearby Hebei Province. It has been approached to begin a bachelor's program in Spanish with Qingdao (Tsingtao) University, Shandong Province.

Enrollment figures include over three thousand dually enrolled high school students in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. There has been difficulty in obtaining support from the school district for the supervision of these courses, potentially jeopardizing the University's accreditation. It is an item likely to be taken up by the Senate this summer and perhaps again in the fall if a mutually satisfactory resolution is not reached.

Enrollment patterns suggest a certain degree of cannibalization. Until recently, post-5pm classes constituted 40-42% of SCH. In the last two years enrollments post 5pm have fallen to 20-21% of SCH, with the largest decline post-7 pm. In the same period, on-line course enrollments grew to

17% of SCH. This shift may call into question the administration's plan to grow enrollment to 60,000 as students taking on-line courses are mostly already matriculated students.

Faculty turnover remains high. The Spanish-language urban ambiance and the unusually heavy workload are factors contributing to the turnover. The recent cut in faculty income in the form of cuts to the retirement package also has contributed to low morale. The Senate has protested this cut in ORP benefits and asks the ACFS to do likewise. University-wide, the student-faculty ratio is 28:1, second highest in the SUS. In some departments there are over 65 majors per faculty member. The number of contract and grant proposals submitted to outside agencies is falling.

The University continues to seek to acquire the lease to 85 acres of parkland adjoining its main campus to accommodate the needs of its expanding student body. FIU now is at or near the top of the space utilization category in the SUS calculations. Expanded leased space on downtown Brickell Avenue may provide some relief at the graduate level.

The fruit of efforts to recruit a class of 120 for the fourth class entering the College of Medicine will be known in late May. The College interviewed over 500 applicants for fall 2012 admission. The College has submitted the documentation for full accreditation. The adequacy of physical facilities continues to be a concern.

There is continuing concern among faculty in the health related schools and colleges that they might be administratively combined with and subordinated to the College of Medicine and declared out of unit thereby disadvantaging faculty in numerous ways, not the least of which would loss of rights afforded women of child-bearing age by the Collective Bargaining Agreement. At the moment the Senate is poorly prepared to serve the professional interests of faculty in colleges and schools out of the bargaining unit.

The University is in the silent phase of a \$750 million capital campaign. Faculty and staff are being asked to make a five-year commitment. While universal participation is being sought, no money goal has been set. A million dollars has been raised this way to date.

The FIU Faculty Senate has elected its Vice Chair, Delano Gray of the School of Accounting in the College of Business Administration, to be its new chair and Len Bliss of the College of Education to be its new Vice-Chair.

The Senate has established an ad hoc committee to study an oral communication requirement for graduation. It will also continue its review of college and school constitutions to ensure that they reflect the principles of the Faculty Senate Constitution. That process should conclude in December 2012.

The Senate has also committed to an overhaul of the Faculty Assessment of Administrators Survey, to make it more useful to the administration and participation in the survey more attractive to faculty. The new assessment should be in place by spring 2013.

The ongoing reform of the mathematics program led by the Provost's Office is proceeding nicely. In the fall, two new approaches will be used in College Algebra and the old approach abandoned. The Senate is cooperating with another Provost's Office-led Task Force to promote writing skills across the University curriculum. Participation has been excellent.

The Senate agreed that departments may require that adjuncts and visitors use certain textbooks without violating academic freedom.

The Senate decided that it would not webcast its meetings.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the ACFS for their collegiality and support over the past four years.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Breslin

Thomas A. Breslin
Chair, Faculty Senate
FIU

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FSU Report – Sandy Lewis

January – May, 2012

The news that the Governor had vetoed the Preeminence Bill arrived immediately before the first of FSU's three graduation ceremonies and certainly impacted the energy of the administration and faculty participating in this otherwise joyous event. While it appears that, even without the additional tuition that this bill might have allowed, the University will not operate at a deficit this year, there was much disappointment over the loss of what might have been possible had additional revenues been generated through tuition.

Of particular concern is the continuing loss of faculty at FSU. While a net loss of 97 faculty has occurred since 2004, nearly 1/3 of our tenure-earning assistant professors have left for other, presumably more lucrative, positions. This trend, in light of increasing numbers of students, puts a strain on our current ability to provide a high quality education, but is especially troublesome when considering the future of the institution.

Several searches for higher level administrators are ongoing at FSU. Three candidates interviewed on campus for the position of the Vice President of Research during finals week. No announcement, however, has been forthcoming concerning whether any of these candidates were hired. Also underway is a search for a new position, the Vice President of Faculty Development and Advancement. Previously, the primary duties of this position were conducted by a Dean of the Faculties. The elevation of this position to the Vice President level has excited faculty, as we believe we will have a stronger voice on the President's Executive Committee. It is anticipated that a decision will be made from several internal candidates before the end of the fiscal year. Several dean positions are also currently open. Dr. Yah Yeboah, from Penn State, has been hired as Dean of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Searches for the deans of the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Music, and the College of Nursing will apparently occur next year.

Faculty who work with undergraduates are extremely concerned with the implications of legislation recently passed into law that reduces the general education requirements that students must take and limits the courses that would meet these requirements. This legislation, HB7135, appears to infringe on the faculty's rights to control the curriculum.

Faculty are also unhappy about the dramatic reduction in the State's contributions to the FUS's Optional Retirement Program and would be supportive of an ACFS position against this further threat to our state's ability to attract high quality faculty members.

Another area that is receiving considerable attention is related to the challenges associated with the implementation and support of interdisciplinary programs. So much within the university structure seems to prevent the kinds of changes that are necessary to move forward with these programs, which many faculty (and the administration) believe are essential to meet the needs of students and society.

FSU celebrated 50 years of integration with a moving ceremony held on April 19th. Pioneers who were involved in the original integration of the University were present as three commemorative stones were passed by 1500 students, faculty and staff from the center towards the ends of campus to signify the values of diversity and unity.

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NCF Report – Rick Coe

No Report

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UCF Report – Ida Cook

Since our last meeting, the Faculty Senate approved a system whereby Instructor and Lecturers can qualify for promotion to Senior Instructor/Senior Lecturer. The resolution was approved by the administration and UFF. Final criteria and details are being developed so that the opportunities can be implemented next year.

The Senate also approved revisions of guidelines for awarding of Emeritus status to faculty. The resolution is still being reviewed by the administration.

UCF celebrated the graduation of its 200,000th university graduate during the Spring 2012 graduation ceremony, this month.

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UF Report – Scott Nygren

1. Shared Governance During Budget Cuts

The budget process created an unprecedented situation for shared governance this spring. Normally all structural changes proposed for programs and departments need to be approved through the Faculty Senate over two meetings, but the number of changes and the short time period for instituting cuts by July 1 made this impossible. When budget cuts were required in 2008-09, the legislature passed its budget in May after the Faculty Senate had recessed for the summer, so the Board of Trustees passed a resolution authorizing the president to make any cuts necessary without faculty consultation. This year, due to redistricting, the legislature passed its budget in March, and the president invited as much shared governance as possible within time constraints. Accordingly, discussions of the budget process have taken place at Senate meetings, and colleges were asked to produce budget cut proposals in consultation with their faculty, before the provost and president prepare a final university budget to present to the Board of Trustees on

June 7-8. Final opportunities for faculty to advise the president are scheduled for the Senate meeting on May 10 and at an Open Faculty Forum sponsored by the Faculty Senate on May 29. For the most part, the pressure of events has led to productive discussions between faculty and administration both in the colleges and at the Senate. Most colleges have adopted an adjusted across-the-board strategy to distribute cuts to units best able to absorb them, in consultation with faculty. The College of Engineering at first proposed a vertical cut that would restructure the Computer Information Science department, but after nationwide controversy may now be considering an across-the-board cut as well. The shared goal has been to protect faculty positions.

2. Graduate Student Demonstrations at Faculty Senate meetings Budget cut proposals in the College of Engineering and in CLAS would reduce graduate assistantships, and both led to large protests by graduate students at Faculty Senate meetings on April 12 and May 10. At both meetings, a representative of the graduate students was invited to speak to the Senate, to make it possible for these affected parties to have a voice in the discussion. Even while most students recognized that the primary problem is the need for Tallahassee to adequately fund higher education, they also legitimately sought to debate policies and values at UF.

3. Open Access

The Faculty Senate voted to become a signatory of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access of 2003, and to charge the University Library Committee with developing a proposal for a UF Open Access policy. This action is part of a new wave of interest in Open Access by universities across the United States.

4. Faculty Oversight of Athletic Programs

To increase faculty oversight of athletic programs, the director of the University Athletic Association, Jeremy Foley, agreed to make annual presentations to the Senate. Mike Sagas, the Faculty Athletic Representative, continues to make an annual presentation on the Inter-Collegiate Athletic Committee’s analysis of academic progress by athletes.

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UNF Report – J. Patrick Plumlee

**University of North Florida Campus Report
ACFS Update, May 8, 2012
Submitted by J. Patrick Plumlee, UNF Faculty Association President**

The Republican party staged one of the party’s national presidential primary debates on the UNF campus on January 26. This debate was televised in prime time by CNN to a national and international audience. UNF received many accolades from around the country concerning the impressive physical appearance and welcoming atmosphere of the campus.

UNF Trustees voted in March to approve a 15% increase in tuition differential for undergraduate students in the 2012-2013 academic year. This increase was vigorously opposed by representatives of student government. The university administration argued that failure to pass the recommended increase would result in unsustainable reductions in academic programs and operations.

So far, UNF has weathered the budget reductions imposed on SUS institutions this year. No layoffs have occurred, most current searches to fill vacant positions are continuing, and research and travel funds have been sustained.

In April, The University of North Florida Student Union building, constructed in 2009, was voted as one of the top 10 buildings in the state in an online poll conducted by the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects. The Student Union building was nominated as one of Florida's Top 100 buildings in the "Florida Architecture: 100 Years. 100 Places" competition, which was designed to identify and commemorate 100 buildings and places that represent the best of Florida architecture. The UNF building came in first place in the vote of architects and fourth in the online popular vote. Read more at Jacksonville.com:
<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2012-04-19/story/unf-student-union-and-beaches-church-voted-two-top-buildings-state#ixzz1uTh16W6p>

The new state of the art Biological Sciences building was dedicated in March, and is now operating on the UNF campus. In addition to its many innovative design features, the building contains the only large animal necroscopy lab in the northeastern corner of the state. This lab will allow dissection of large marine animals, and should be a significant factor in the many coastal studies and monitoring projects.

The University of North Florida was named in February was one of the nation's Top 75 "Best Value" public colleges and universities, according to The Princeton Review. UNF was the only Northeast Florida institution of higher learning to make the list and is among five universities in the state to be featured on the annual list, including the University of Florida, Florida State University, University of Central Florida and the New College of Florida.

The UNF chapter of the UFF continues its negotiations with representatives of university administration. A new contract, however, has not yet been finalized.

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USF System Report

USF is unusual among the SUS universities, in that we are a system. As of July 1, 2012, the system will comprise three separately accredited institutions (Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota-Manatee). There are, therefore, three faculty senates, as well as an overarching body called the USF System Faculty Council (SFC), comprising faculty from all three institutions, focusing on issues of importance to faculty throughout the USF system.

Since the January ACFS meeting:

- With the signing of SB 1994 by Gov. Rick Scott, creating the 12th university in the SUS, USF Polytechnic (Lakeland) is scheduled to close June 30th. Current faculty will "teach out" the remaining Polytechnic students over about three years, and most will become members of the USF (Tampa) faculty. The processes for those transfers are currently being developed.
- The SFC has recognized that the USF system has an identity issue, because the BOG does not recognize each USF institution separately, but only recognizes them collectively, as if they reflect a single institution. Thus, the SFC has created a sub-committee to discuss the challenges of, as well as opportunities presented by, the system structure.
- For 2012-13, Chris Davis (St. Petersburg) has been elected to the position of SFC President, and Greg Teague (Tampa) has been elected to the position of SFC Vice President.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Smith
Vice President: System Faculty Council, USF

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UWF Report – Richie Platt

Several items of consequence occurred during the spring term at UWF. First, an important achievement the faculty, the administration and UWF-UFF concluded negotiations on the reopener for the CBA that started *last spring*. Two important salary items were negotiated. First, the faculty in the bargaining unit (and it was extended by the administration to all faculty) received a 1.7% raise effective with the first payday in April (no, it was not retroactive to the beginning of the academic year). Secondly, the administration agreed to add an additional \$300,000 (plus benefits) into a plan to begin to address salary compression. Both sides agreed to appoint members to a committee working outside of bargaining to come up with a process/formula to define “predicted salary level.” Having served on this committee, I can unequivocally say this was one of the finest groups I have ever worked with and a true example of collegiality and shared governance at work. The committee had less than six weeks to complete its work, and I can proudly say, the report was submitted a week before the contractually imposed May 15th deadline. Anyone wishing to see that document may download from the documents folder on the committee’s google site: [UWF Predicted starting salary committee](#). Once the recommendation is approved by the bargaining teams, UWF faculty will see the \$300,000 allocated to address salary compression. The UWF Business Enterprises, Inc. (BEI), was created last fall by our UWF Board of Trustees as a nonprofit corporation, acting as a direct support organization. The purpose of the BEI is to “build and manage public/private partnerships, create new services and businesses to support the campus community and enhance current auxiliaries and businesses to increase alternate sources of revenue for UWF.” The BEI wasted no time in embracing its mission and has started exploring at least three initiatives, including soliciting bids for construction of some form of a hotel/restaurant/conference center at the entrance to UWF on North Davis Highway. UWF is progressing with its five-year campus master plan update. One item on the plan has already been rejected due to push-back from the local community. UWF is in need of an entrance from the west. However, the local community strenuously and vocally objected to the university’s planned extension of an existing neighborhood street as that entrance and that planned option was cancelled.

UWF has agreed to another partnership with a private company which is going to build additional living units (165 apartment-style units in two, four-story buildings). These two units will be on private property adjacent to UWF’s southern border, but to meet building code requirements, the units will link to the parking areas of existing UWF housing units. These housing units will be completed by fall of 2013 and will help house the new students coming to UWF as we strive to meet our goal of 14,000 students in 2015.

UWF continues to progress in the development of its Academic Visioning plan started in January of last year. We lost a little momentum as we transitioned from one provost to a new interim provost, but in April there was a daylong planning work shop to help define priorities for academic affairs going forward. All involved appeared cautiously optimistic that this plan will help structure the objectives and priorities for academic affairs over the next 5 - 10 years.

Football is still on the horizon. Pensacola now has a beautiful multi-use stadium build on the downtown waterfront, so can football be far behind. Stay tuned.

Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, Professor Rick Yost has served as Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates and as a member of The Florida Board of Governors since August 2010, and

WHEREAS, Professor Yost brought to the ACFS his strong commitment to the importance of a collegial system of shared academic governance, and provided invaluable input to the BOG from a faculty perspective, and

WHEREAS, Professor Yost brought his independent judgment, knowledge, ideas and considerable wisdom to the ACFS and BOG to promote and strengthen the public system of higher education in the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, Professor Yost will complete his term of office as Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates on August 6, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates does hereby recognize and commend Rick Yost for his manifold contributions to the State University System of Florida, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be presented to Professor Yost as a token of our appreciation and thanks.

For the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

Vice Chair, ACFS

Past Chair, ACFS

June 24, 2012