

## Advisory Council of Faculty Senates

September 25, 2009

Administration Building USF

Tampa, FL

### MINUTES

#### Meeting called to order by Chair Judy Solano at 8:50 AM

**Attendance:** FGCU – Halcyon St. Hill, Chuck Lindsey; FSU – Eric Walker; NCF – Pat McDonald; UCF – Ida Cook, Manoj Chopra; UF – Jack Mecholsky, Mary Ann Ferguson, Rick Yost; UNF – Judy Solano, Kathy Robinson; USF – Larry Branch; USF St. Petersburg – Brianne Reck, Richard; UWF – Nick Power; UFF – Tom Auxter and ; BoG staff – Rick Maxey, Tim Jones, Richard Stevens; missing – FAMU, FAU, FIU

**Action Items:** Highlighted below.

#### ACFS Business

The agenda was handed out. Judy Solano welcomed everyone, and apologized for the confusion of the meeting location and timing.

**Approval of Minutes of May 2009 Meeting** – Approved; Rick will send a copy to Sundra Kinney to post on our ACFS webpage on the BOG site. We agreed that minutes should only be posted after they have been approved.

Judy discussed the officer positions in ACFS and their succession.

Rick Maxey, Tim Jones, and Richard Stevens of the BOG staff joined us.

#### BoG Staff Reports

1. **Rick Maxey** updated us on legislative issues. He reported that the relation between the legislature and BOG are significantly improved, which will position the universities well for the 2010 legislative session. The outlook for 2010 is good, although the financial outlook is not great. The main focus for 2010 will be how the universities can help advance the state of Florida, as it moves from an economy based on agriculture, tourism, and population growth, to one potentially knowledge-based economy in which the universities will play a central role. Our new Chancellor, Frank Brogan, is meeting with key legislators over the next few weeks. He apologizes for not being able to meet with us here, but is meeting today with the Speaker of the House. The goal is to make a convincing case that the universities are key to this transition, and then have a plan that details the resources to fill that role over the long term. The Chancellor uses the model of the development of the Research Triangle in North Carolina 50 years ago.

We discussed a number of issues of concern to faculty around the state. One topic was participation in the Rally in Tally next March, and the value of our members meeting with members of their local legislative delegation. As soon as we have a date, Judy will let us know.

Other items Rick mentioned were from yesterday's BOG meeting. The BOG approved going from 5 to 7 providers for the Optional Retirement Program. The BOG is asking that a new source of revenue be identified to fund the concurrency fund and that issues of SUS self insurance funding be examined.

2. **Tim Jones** updated us on budget issues. There may be deficit of from \$1 to \$3 billion in next year's budget compared to this year's. Conversations continue about funds from gaming, oil drilling, or changes in the federal estate tax. The budget request approved yesterday by the BOG

was a base budget similar to this year's, including continuation of stimulus funds, with special requests for major gift and Courtellis matching funds (\$250M). Additional funding requests (raises, for instance) would be added in January. A significant concern is replacement in 2011-12 of the 8% of the university appropriations that the stimulus funds represent. PECO funds will not be adequate to fund any new construction this next year. There has been discussion of doubling the SUS budgets over the next 6 years

**3. Richard Stevens** reported on academic issues. He agreed with the discussion of trying to connect the needs for nurses and other health professions with the needs for medical schools, and suggested that some type of council or other body that integrated concerns for health professions and medicine. We had a discussion of the rising state colleges and the impact of baccalaureate degrees from these schools. Of particular concern is the lack of planning and coordination between the new state colleges and universities. Richard discussed criteria for awarding the baccalaureate degree now that the CLAST exam has been terminated. A new regulation has also been noticed specifying revised requirements for transfer students.

Richard and Judy discussed a new template for annual reports for the universities. It includes a "dashboard" summary plus extensive tables of data. There was discussion of the best way to reflect the performance of the universities given the differences in their missions. Jack brought up the issue of free textbooks available through Orange Grove and potential impact on textbook selection and academic freedom at each campus. Ida, who served on the textbook affordability task force, updated us on the issue.

**12:05 – 1:15 Lunch Break**

Judy summarized changes in the Florida Student Association. They have fired their executive director and are engaging the services of a firm that provides management for non-profit associations.

We discussed statement of principles for shared governance. UF has document on the faculty senate and BOT web pages. A committee composed of Pat, Kathy, and Halcyon will develop a proposal for a common set of principles for further discussion. Pat will coordinate the process.

**UFF Report**

Tom Auxter shared the talking points UFF developed for the 2009 legislative session, and discussed possibilities for the 2010 session.

**Date for Next ACFS Meeting**

We discussed options for our next meeting in January. Judy asked that everyone respond to a Doodle survey to set the date. Once the date is set, Judy will send the date and location to Sundra Kincey to post on our ACFS webpage on the BOG site.

**Campus Reports**

Campus Reports appear below. They were summarized and discussed during the meeting.

**Adjourned at 2:15 PM**

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Yost, ACFS Vice Chair

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**FAMU Report – Maurice Holder**

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**FAU Report – Tim Lenz**

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES  
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

Academic Reorganization. The FAU University Faculty Senate held a special summer meeting to discuss an announced reorganization of the College of Engineering and Computer Science (COE) and notice of layoffs received by five tenured faculty in the College—with the termination date summer 2009. The reorganization into a matrix with five departments (Civil, Environmental, and Geomatics; Computer Science; Electrical; Mechanical; and Ocean) and four functional divisions/programs (Student Services; Distance Education and Career; Graduate; and Engineering Design) undermines tenure by making it possible for an administrator to assign faculty to a “program” without contractual protections of assignment to an academic unit (e.g., department). Faculty in the College believed the reorganization was a pretext for layoff of tenured faculty; faculty in other colleges worried about the wider use of this model to solve fiscal problems. At the Board of Trustees meeting where the FAU budget was on the agenda for discussion and action, I voted against the adoption of the budget because it included the academic reorganization of the COE.

The Administration states that a reorganization internal to one college does not have to be brought to the UFS. The UFS states that 1) any academic reorganization that affects the University comes within its purview; and 2) the reorganization was not implemented consistent with the College bylaws. The UFS approved a motion that the reorganization is null and void until it is brought to the UFS and complies with College bylaws. In order to settle some of the issues raised by the layoffs, the Administration has offered some of the five tenured positions and others a year of employment (under notice). The matter of the UFS’s authority to be presented with academic reorganizations remains unresolved.

President Brogan’s Resignation. The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Provost John Pritchett as Interim-President. The Board of Trustees held a two-day retreat September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss Visioning/Strategic Plan and the presidential search. The Chair of the BOT announced that she received a letter signed by the deans (dated September 17<sup>th</sup>) advocating delaying the presidential search for two years. The Board voted to immediately begin the search for a new president with the goal of hiring a new president by summer 2010.

Timothy O. Lenz  
President, University Faculty Senate  
Florida Atlantic University

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**FGCU Report – Chuck Lindsey**

Florida Gulf Coast University  
Report to Advisory Council of Faculty Senates  
September 2009

General Information:

- FGCU’s Fall 2009 headcount enrollment is approximately 11,000 students, which represents an increase of about 900 from last year. FTE enrollment for 2009-10 is projected to be just under 7,000 FTE.
- The university’s overall budget (including auxiliaries, student fees, etc.) is more or less holding steady for 2009-2010, despite the cuts in state funding. This is mainly due to tuition increases (including the supplement), technology fee, and federal stimulus funds.
- New classroom/lab building (Academic Building 7) and Parking Garage 3 are scheduled for completion in Fall 2009. The university just broke ground on a music education and

performance building. An expansion of the student union building is underway; planning for new Health Science building is underway, with actual construction to await restoration of PECO funds.

Major university initiatives for the current year:

- The university will be conducting a review and update of the five year strategic plan; new plan to cover 2010-2015. Information on the planning process and timeline is available at <http://www.fgcu.edu/Provost/SP2010/index.html> .
- The campus master plan is being updated this year as well. We are currently in the process of selecting a consulting firm to assist with the review process.
- Our NCAA Division I Certification self-study is being conducted this year, as part of our transition to Division I membership. The self-study report is due April 2010, with the NCAA visit scheduled for Fall 2010.

Senate/faculty issues:

- We managed to escape without any faculty or staff layoffs this year. FGCU currently has about 400 full time faculty, including out of unit positions (about 330 in-unit).
- In Spring 2009, the university administration created a committee structure to consider and make recommendations on all areas of campus operation and planning that cut across multiple areas of authority. The main group, the Planning and Budget Council (PBC), has representation from all areas of campus, including four faculty representatives. The PBC has six committees that report to it, with varying areas of responsibility. All six committees have faculty representation (for more information, see <http://www.fgcu.edu/Provost/PBC.html> ). This appears to create groups with interests paralleling those of the standing committees of the faculty Senate. As a result, we are conducting a review this year to see how best to facilitate communication across these groups, and to cut down on unnecessary duplication of effort.
- The proposed diversity requirement for general education is still under study, to determine a reasonable way to implement and assess it. Last spring, calls for proposals for specific courses to meet the outcomes associated with this requirement did not generate many responses—not enough to be able to cover the demand that would arise from a requirement. The general education council is being asked to revisit the issue to determine the reason for the lack of response.
- As part of the strategic planning process noted above, the faculty are creating a task force to review the university's core student learning outcomes, and to make any recommendations for revision. We currently have too many identified outcomes to properly assess on a regular basis, and this has potential to become a serious issue with respect to SACS.
- The UFF completed a climate survey at the end of Spring. The summary paragraph of the results reads as follows: *“Generally faculty are concerned with salary in general and inversion/compression noted especially, the increasing scholarship requirements for promotion with less time and little support, a general and growing disconnect between faculty and administration, workload issues – especially class sizes, and the intentions to leave FGCU if improvements in these issues are not made or when the real estate market improves.* “ More details on the survey results are available at <http://www.uff-fgcu.org/breakingnews.shtml> .
- Unit promotion and annual evaluation criteria and standards documents are under review in all the colleges (at FGCU, the “unit” is defined to be the College rather than the department).
- The university has developed a new proposed policy on consensual relationships between employees (including employee-student relationships). It has been much discussed, and received a lot of attention in the local press. The document has gone to the President's cabinet for final recommendation on approval.
- Salaries for 2009-10 are still being bargained. Right now there is no proposal for general salary increases on the table (promotion increases have been awarded to faculty who

were promoted during the past year), so it looks like there will be no raises or bonuses for the current year unless something changes. Salary compression/inversion is still a major issue for faculty, and a joint task force is currently studying the matter.

Submitted by C. Lindsey, President, FGCU Faculty Senate

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**FIU Report – Tom Breslin**

A Report from the Chair of the FIU Faculty Senate to the ACFS, September 2009 (revised)

The installation in August of long-time FIU faculty member and former SUS Chancellor, Mark B. Rosenberg, as the University's fifth president marked a major change after the 23-year long presidency of Modesto Maidique. The new president is stressing engagement with the community and student-centered learning. The Chair of the Faculty Senate served on the presidential transition team. Convocation was well attended this year. I append the speech I made at the Faculty Convocation.

The new president issued a draft one-page document, "Hit the Ground Running." He intended this document to seed the development of White Papers that will shape pre-planning for the new FIU ten-year plan to be developed over the course of the next academic year. Faculty and staff committees have developed the White Papers and they will soon be available. In 1999, faculty forced inclusion of Health as a strategic theme in the then draft 10 year plan after it was found to lack attention to one of the region's most important industries.

The UFF critique of the recent growth in cost of university management and the Senate's defense of the Religious Studies Department, the MS program in Physical Trainer Education, and the Recreation and Sports Management program staved off elimination of those programs. There continues to be concern on the FIU BOT that management costs have grown inordinately. The UFF and the administration continue that discussion. Cutbacks in the university budget have been handled in a number of ways. Many open positions remain unfilled. The College of Arts & Sciences, for another example, has eliminated E&G support for professional travel.

Springtime concerns about golden parachutes given the Provost and CFO evaporated when those officials took positions outside the University. Dr. Ken Jessell, Finance Professor and CFO of FAU, has joined FIU and holds similar positions here. Dr. Douglas Wartzok, Professor of Biological Sciences, is interim Provost.

The Senate is strengthening its committee structure. Key areas of concern are the current research space allocation formula and the equivalency of on-line courses to face-to-face courses. Of particular concern is the University's contract with HEH, Inc., an on-line education management firm, through which FIU expects HEH to market and manage cohort-based, on-line programs in Business in return for 70% of the income collected. The University expects HEH to draw students from beyond FIU's service area. An On-Line Review Committee is studying the matter.

A major task facing the Senate this year is the implementation of a Quality Enhancement Plan involving the addition of two required global/international education courses to the curriculum, one at the lower division and one at the upper division level.

An issue facing the Senate this year is the mismatch of state-mandated Academic Learning Compacts and SACS-required, university-generated student learning outcomes and program outcomes. Our current basket of assessment measures seems overly complicated and not well integrated. The Senate has initiated discussion about this problem with the Provost's Office.

Applications to the second class of the FIU College of Medicine passed 2,000 last week and are running ahead of last year at this time.

The Senate Steering Committee has taken up the issue of membership of associate and assistant deans in its committees and in the Senate itself after a challenge from our law school faculty arguing that, since it's not explicitly forbidden, it's permitted. Past practice has not allowed this.

University enrollments this fall are down at the lower division level and up at all other levels. Total enrollment is estimated to be over 38,000. This year for the first time Miami-Dade County High School students have been brought to campus where they will take lower division courses and required high school courses as part of a formally structured program. One hundred students are in the pilot program and it is expected that the program will expand to at least 200 students. FIU continues to operate an extensive, formally structured outreach program to the public schools.

The FIU physical plant is straining to accommodate the student body. It seems that state-level plant utilization formulae do not account for courses offered after 5pm or on weekends. If true, commuter schools offering substantial numbers of courses in the evenings and weekends are being penalized and the matter should be reviewed at the System level.

Respectfully submitted.  
Tom Breslin  
Chair, Faculty Senate, FIU  
September 22, 2009

Faculty Convocation Address, 2009

Dear Colleagues, today I would like to repeat some ideas that you have heard from me before and perhaps challenge you with some new ones as we launch the development of a new ten-year strategic plan and welcome a new president, a long-time and much honored colleague.

We are not just professors and librarians. We are university professors and librarians. That which distinguishes the university from other educational institutions is the mission to create new knowledge, new technique, and new art, to expose students to that process of creation, and encourage them to create as well. If our institution and its faculty and staff fail to do that, the university and we its faculty would betray an ancient mission and a contemporary obligation to our state and nation.

Creativity is not efficient. Creativity does not readily lend itself to business models, least of all to contemporary business fads such as Sigma Six and similar efforts to eliminate flaws in processes and products, especially in mass production, and to make greater profits for owners. When creativity is subordinated to efficiency, it dies. We have merely to look at the havoc wreaked on 3M, once a creative powerhouse, by an attempt to make it over in the image of GE, a company driven down from the heights by a leader, Jack Welch, who did not value creativity or the long-term. In our setting, subordinating creativity to efficiency would reduce FIU to a community college with satellite technical schools.

There are proxies we use to measure creativity, such as medals, awards, patents and other forms of grants. In our country of three hundred million people, grants from the national government are a very important marker of competitiveness and creativity. I am delighted to report that the Chronicle of Higher Education's Almanac reports that from 2000 to 2007 FIU faculty and staff increased FIU's federal research and development support 157%, from about 20 million dollars per year to over 50 million dollars. This was the fifth fastest percentage increase of any university

in the nation. This is a dimension of our university too little known and appreciated in our community.

This bounty is shared with students across this public university, in courses that would not otherwise be offered, through syllabi that would otherwise not be so rich and challenging, in laboratories that would otherwise not be open or, if open, not so well equipped. Indeed many are the students, undergraduate and graduate, who would not otherwise be here. Last year, faculty and staff supported students with over \$9 million in contract and grant money. That is still more to be proud of.

Thus, despite thinning ranks and a growing student body, FIU faculty members, librarians, and staff colleagues have been exceptionally successful in hunting and gathering the wherewithal that underwrites our education, research, and community service programs. We will have to do even better in the future and I am confident that we will.

As we plan for the next decade, we need to ask ourselves if our academic program and course offerings are university level or not, that is, whether they have a creative dimension or not. If they do not and we cannot add such a dimension, we should jettison them. Cutting programs and courses based on mere numbers is a Jack Welch type of damaging error. We also need to ask ourselves whether or not we are cultivating and recruiting students who exhibit the potential to survive and thrive in an atmosphere where the answers are not already known and students are expected to be creative and not merely good test takers. To do this we will have to develop a new partnership with the local schools, perhaps teaching our first year courses in the magnet schools. We should consider that type of seamlessness.

It is a time to keep up the great work, plan for greater achievements over the next decade, pursue the necessary support, and realize higher goals.

Thomas A. Breslin  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
Faculty Convocation  
Florida International University

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**FSU Report – Eric Walker**

Florida State University  
ACFS Update  
September 2009

1. On June 17, the FSU Board of Trustees passed a three-year budget for FY 09-10 through FY 11-12. This budget addressed \$82 million in E&G cuts from the legislature since 2007. For the faculty, the most dire news was the termination of 21 tenured faculty, 14 tenure-track faculty, and 25 non-tenure-track faculty. (There were over 100 staff layoffs as well.) All 60 faculty have been moved to stimulus funds for 09-10 and we are told that they will be funded for 10-11 with those same dollars for a second year, if necessary—at which point the stimulus dollars and the jobs disappear. In budget crisis planning during the year, faculty representatives consistently recommended furloughs as an alternative to faculty terminations, but the administration told the BOT that they needed to hold furloughs as a fall-back option in case the state economy does not recover and there are further cuts. Many of the affected faculty are pursuing grievances via the UFF. Layoffs occurred primarily in the Sciences and in Education, with a few more in Theatre and Art. In the Science area in Arts and Sciences, Anthropology, Geology and Oceanography took big hits (as those two latter departments and Meteorology are being reorganized into a new “Earth Sciences” department). Science education, math education, and physical education were also shut down; the Provost is reorganizing math and science education as a joint endeavor

between A&S and Education. (Notice the “reorganization” theme here: see grievances, above). The branch campus at Panama City was put on notice that it has to become self-supporting in three years. Ringling Museum and Asolo Theatre programs are similarly under the gun. Hospitality and golf management programs in the College of Business are also under a mandate to become self-supporting.

2. At that same June BOT meeting, President Wetherell announced his wish to retire sometime during the next year, if possible by December 09 but certainly by the end of AY 09-10. In July the BOT hired a search firm; at its September meeting a week ago, it approved a Presidential Search Advisory Committee of 18 members, plus a chair (who is also chair of the Board). There are four faculty representatives on the PSAC, plus one dean (of Arts and Sciences) who is also a faculty member. No vice-presidents. The other members are students, alumni, boosters, and community members. The consultant is now actively assembling candidates for review later in the fall. In addition to the huge handicap of Florida sunshine law, a major problem in the search is the fact that there will be a significant turnover in membership on the Board of Trustees in January. That fact alone will probably push the search into next year; once the legislature starts meeting in the spring, President Wetherell will certainly stay on board to wrestle with them.

3. As if the above were not enough, we still manage to get into the paper very regularly in an ongoing fracas with the NCAA. The appeal of the sanction of vacated wins has now gotten tangled up in suits and countersuits about open records law. This thing just limps along from one embarrassment to the next.

4. On the plus side, we had our third Rhodes Scholar in four years.

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**NCF Report – Pat McDonald**

New College Campus Report  
September 24, 2009

1. Campus Budget

The Faculty constituted an Ad Hoc Budget Committee which reviewed the college budget and suggested cuts to address the projected budget shortfall. These cuts included across the board reduction in operating expenses as well as targeted reduction in staff (nine total, no faculty positions, though two unassigned faculty lines were cut). The faculty voted to ask administration to include the Chair of Faculty in all high level budget discussions. Administration adopted the proposal and over the course of the summer a three year balanced budget was created. The general outline of this budget follows many of the faculty budget proposals. Roughly described, faculty proposed cuts, projected tuition increases, stimulus funds and cash reserves appear sufficient to avert disaster. The BOT approved the general outlines of the proposed budget and is expected to approve a more detailed budget in November.

2. BOT

The college BOT voted to increase fees and tuition for students as part of the process which is meant to address the current budget situation. Many seats are up for renewal this year.

3. Foundation

The New College Foundation, a direct support organization charged with fundraising for the college, has announced that it's projected shortfall will not be as severe as expected. Significant restructuring has resulted in a leaner, healthier organization.

4. Academic Administration

New College has a “new” provost. Sam Savin stepped down in June and was replaced by Char Callahan, who served as provost before Savin. Provost Callahan is on the

drop plan and will retire at the end of next year. We expect to be searching for a provost next year and a president in short order.

With growth experienced over the last five years, talks are under way to reshape the academic infrastructure. Specifically, the college is debating the relative merits of dropping our current divisional structure for a department based model. The college is also considering the merits of a “Dean of the Faculty” position. Finally, faculty are actively engaged in determining the fate of flexible scheduling, grant relief, shared positions and part-time faculty positions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick McDonald  
Chair of the New College Faculty

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**UCF Report – Ida Cook**

Report of Activities at UCF and the Faculty Senate  
September 2009

The University of Central Florida Faculty Senate has been actively engaged in the process having to do with the budget cutbacks emanating from the State economic issues.

1. UCF's new Medical College held its 'white coat ceremony' for its inaugural class of 41 medical college students. Each student received a first-of-its-kind full scholarship — funded entirely from community donations — that covers all costs for four years of medical school. The charter class boasts the highest average MCAT score (32.2) and GPA (3.8) of any incoming class of medical students in the state. For more information, link follows:  
<http://news.ucf.edu/UCFnews/index?page=article&id=00240041037381429012136c33d79002dda>
2. Program Eliminations related to budget cuts:
  - a. Early in June, faculty senators attended a special called meeting to learn the details of program eliminations in response to the budget issues. At that meeting, 5 programs were identified for elimination, affecting 45 faculty members, six staff members, and the 1092 students. The cuts would save \$6.1 million. Program closures will be scheduled over the next two years, providing a two-year teach-out path for students in those programs. Undergraduates within 36 credit hours of completing their majors should be able to so in the time allotted. Masters students should also be able to complete their degrees. All faculty and staff will have two semester termination notice, and some will remain employed for the full two years.
    - i. Cardiopulmonary Sciences (College of Health and Public Affairs)
    - ii. Engineering Technology (College of Engineering and Computer Science)
    - iii. Management Information Systems (College of Business Administration)
    - iv. Radiologic Sciences (College of Health and Public Affairs)
    - v. Statistics and Actuarial Sciences (College of Sciences)
  - b. Following the senate meeting, recommendations were reviewed by college and university committees and administrators at various levels. The UCF BOT held extra meetings for public input, and ultimately, the statistics program was retained, but actuarial sciences masters was suspended.
  - c. The programs that were approved for elimination have all been solicited as new bachelors programs at local area state colleges, Daytona State College, Seminole State College, and Valencia Community College. Engineering Technology was the only program that did not resist elimination and is actively working with the state college representatives to assure their programs continue at a state college.

3. Responding to widespread discussion and questions regarding the importance of faculty input to the program elimination/budget cutbacks, the provost directed the deans of all colleges to establish faculty committees to work with the administrators in determining how future cuts will be addressed. The Provost advised each college of the totals of next anticipated cuts. College representatives now report regularly at each Faculty Senate meeting of the progress and activities in their college committees.
4. On-line administration of all Student Perception of Instruction responses is scheduled to begin at the end of fall term 2009.
5. Review and revision of the Student Perception of Instruction documents has been an on-going (3-year) activity of an *ad hoc* committee of the UCF Faculty Senate. This month, their final report and recommendations was presented. The full senate will review and approve the final versions during this academic year so that it may be used beginning in fall 2010. Aspects of the questionnaires include questions relating to perception of instruction by the students, as well as faculty perceptions, and context of the classes, e.g., face-to-face classes, web-based courses and media-enhanced courses.
6. Faculty Senate is currently reviewing an online version of the Potential Conflict of Interest and Commitment form which is completed by faculty at least once a year.
7. A major revision of the Faculty Constitution is being prepared and will also be finalized by the end of Spring 2010.
8. Active planning to address the H1N1 virus pandemic is continuing with plans for informing students, faculty and staff. Our Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning is assisting faculty in preparing online or video lectures if they get the virus and cannot meet their classes. A policy has been established to encourage faculty to allow students to make-up missed work and NOT to require doctor's excuses to cut down on spreading the disease further.
9. UCF is holds a mass inoculation of the seasonal flu shots on September 30<sup>th</sup> which may also set a Guinness Book of World Records.

Report prepared by Ida Cook, Chair, UCF Faculty Senate

For further information, please contact Ida Cook at UCF, [cook@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:cook@mail.ucf.edu)

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**UF Report – Jack Mecholsky**

University of Florida Report – Jack Mecholsky

President Machen announced that there is still a \$16.6 M budget deficit that needs to be accounted for. Several suggestions were put forth as possible sources for some of the deficit. These are:

- (1) Rescind the sick leave payout for all faculty. This would be effective in two years.
- (2) Adopt an incentive for early retirement for those faculty members older than 65 years of age.
- (3) Place a minimum (\$5000.) fee for teaching courses in the summer.

The Faculty Senate Budget Blog (<http://blog.senate.ufl.edu/>) will be open for all faculty members to discuss these issues. The faculty is asked to be constructive with their comments even if they do not agree with the present proposals, because we still need an approximate \$4-5 M recurring reduction from an alternate plan. The Faculty Senate Budget and Welfare councils and the Senate Compensation committee (<http://www.senate.ufl.edu/>) will review the comments and develop suggestions for the administration to review.

An Academic Plan is being discussed by our Academic Policy Council. Not only will this list the academic goals for the next 20 years, but also suggest ways of achieving these goals given the present economic situation. The committee or ad hoc task group would identify the core values and academic goals for the faculty of the University of Florida that envision the university of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The University Strategic Work Plan will be reviewed to assess progress in the last five years.

There is a UF regulation being discussed which establishes the definition of a unit for purposes of layoffs. Our Constitution committee is working with the legal affairs office to develop an agreeable wording for this regulation.

The established Faculty Enhancement Opportunity (FEO) program was very successful. All but one submitted proposal was accepted last Spring semester and that proposal was rejected for incorrect format rather than content. The program is offered this Fall semester once again, for all faculty not in the bargaining unit.

A Creative Campus Committee including faculty and administrators is being established to identify mechanisms for creating innovation and interdisciplinary environments at the University of Florida. The Creative Campus Committee would spur cross-cultural excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation, aid in acquiring resources and removing institutional barriers in support of new ideas. UF realizes that it must do more to prepare students for the challenges facing the country and the world. UF can accomplish this by recognizing, embracing, supporting and celebrating a broad view of creativity.

Respectfully submitted,  
John J. Mecholsky, Jr.  
Chair of the University of Florida Faculty Senate

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**UNF Report – Kathy Robinson**

University of North Florida  
Campus Report  
September 24, 2009

UNF is pleased to welcome John Delaney, who served as President in Residence of the Board of Governors, back to campus on a full-time basis. We had mixed feelings when we almost lost him to the United States Senate!

Despite the challenges of the last year, UNF is off to a good start of academic year 2009-2010. Our new College of Education and Student Union buildings are fully functional. Several major landscaping projects are underway contributing to the beauty of the campus. Our upscale “luxury” dorm (complete with “Lazy River”) opened, and is fully occupied. Planning is continuing for a Biology Building and a Center for Disability services. (UNF serves the largest number of deaf or blind students in the state).

Our just admitted freshman class has the highest academic achievements in UNF’s history: SAT 1199.2; ACT 23.85 and a GPA of 3.73. At our spring commencement we graduated our first group of DPTs (Doctor of Physical Therapy), and during the summer commencement, our first group of DNPs (Doctor of Nursing Practice).

Faculty morale is variable with ongoing concerns about no raises in the last two years. No faculty positions have been cut, however, and 41 tenure-earning lines were opened for search last month. We are in the process of searching for Deans for the Coggin College of Business and the Graduate School.

As is true on your campuses as well, administrative staff and faculty are wrestling with the implementation of the textbook affordability regulations. We are looking to our sister universities for any of their solutions.

All academic programs that were reviewed for accreditation by their respective accrediting bodies successfully achieved accreditation or re-accreditation. UNF is actively implementing their QEP, Community Engaged Learning, and continues to offer incentives to individual faculty members, groups of faculty or departments, to develop community engaged transformational learning projects. We have also been able to maintain our student-faculty ratio.

Respectfully submitted:

Katherine M. Robinson, PhD  
President, UNF Faculty Association

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**USF Report – Laurence Branch**

University of South Florida Report  
to the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates  
September 24, 2009

The University of South Florida (USF) welcomed its largest class ever in August – more than 47,000 students. USF was also recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education a few months ago as the university with the greatest increase in federal research funding in the 2000-2007 interval of any university in the country. In addition, there are no plans for downsizing anything at the university due to budgetary reasons at this point in time. All these factors are causes for smiles.

The USF Faculty Senate signed a MOU on the process to be followed in instances of academic restructuring with Provost in February of 2009 (which was shared with the ACFS). The administration wants to open a new School of Global Sustainability, and is bringing the proposal through the Faculty Senate in accordance with the MOU.

The President of USF charged the Provost with chairing the USF System Budget Planning Advisory Committee. The committee is charged among other things with making the budget planning process as transparent and accountable as possible. The Faculty Senate President is a member of the committee, and the process seems to be working very well.

The President of USF has offered a draft of a proposed “Governance Policy for the USF System” as we move forward with separate accreditation for USF St. Petersburg (which occurred two years ago), for USF Sarasota/Manatee (whose application has been submitted to SACS), and for USF -Polytechnic which intends to submit its application to SACS in January of 2009. The intent to have a system of four separately accredited universities all with variants of the name “USF” has created some challenges. Recall that USF’s original Honors College eventually became the New College and joined the SUS. Among the challenges that separate accreditation brings is whether we would have a system faculty senate, and if so what would it look like?

The Faculty Senate is revising its Constitution and Bylaws. There has been almost a year of hard work by a joint committee of senators and administrators. Now the Senate Executive Committee is working with the draft. We hope to bring it to the full Senate in three months. But the proposed Governance Policy for the USF System may require additional efforts.

The Faculty Senate implemented a faculty assessment of the university’s president, provost, and VP for Health in the spring of 2009. This was the first opportunity for a systematic assessment by faculty of these administrators.

The Faculty Senate’s concern over the trend of the last several years to create new administrative positions without any consultation and to appoint senior administrators without appropriate searches persists.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurence G. Branch  
President, University of South Florida Faculty Senate

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**USF-St. Petersburg Report –Brienne Reck**

University of South Florida St. Petersburg  
Report to the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates  
September 24, 2009

**Administrative Changes:**

USFSP begins the 2009-2010 academic year with Interim Regional Chancellor at the helm. The College of Business welcomed new Dean Maling Ebrahimpour, the Nelson Poynter Library welcomed new Dean Cathy Hixson and Dr. Helen Levine has been named Regional Vice Chancellor for External Affairs. Reorganization and departures over the summer has reduced the number of campus administrative positions.

**Budget:**

USFSP has thus far avoided elimination of programs and positions due to the current budget challenges. Stimulus funds are currently being utilized to maintain approximately 55 positions.

**Capital improvements:**

Since its legislatively mandated autonomy in 2003, the campus has seen approximately \$55 million in capital construction. The most recent addition, a new science and technology, and Harborwalk, a central lawn project, are scheduled to be completed this fall.

**Accreditation:**

USFSP has been separately accredited by SACS since 2006. Last Spring SACS removed the probationary status from USFSP, and we are completing the institutional report in preparation for our September 2011 reaffirmation visit. The College of Business and the Program of Accountancy were both accredited by the AACSB, and the College of Education just completed its NCATE site visit and anticipates a positive report when the accrediting body meets in April.

**Governance:**

The Faculty Senate is working to strengthen communications with the college and system governance bodies. We are currently preparing a survey to measure perceptions of adherence to principles of shared governance, and faculty roles and responsibilities. The President and Vice President are now members of the Chancellor's Leadership Team. Establishing voice and participation at the system level remains a challenge as the system evolves.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brianna L. Reck

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**UWF Report – Nick Power**

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

President Bense's contract has been extended through 2012, when her DROP period ends. She took the interim job in 2008 with the proviso that she wouldn't run for the permanent position. The BoT first delayed the national search, and then considered changing the terms of her contract so she could enter a search and even considered simply appointing her president. The faculty pressed for a national search, and Senate President Richie Platt was largely alone in firmly opposing these proposals, and the "compromise" of an extension until 2012 settled the issue.

Some 26 fac/staff positions were cut, including 3 (retiring) faculty, but 46 new hires were made, mostly in Visiting lines, using most of a \$4m Federal Stabilization fund allocation.

Enrollment growth is an unprecedented 9% in UG and Graduate and we now have 11,300 students, due to (i) a \$400,000 marketing campaign focused on central Florida; (ii) new programs,

e.g. MSW; (iii) new scholarship programs (e.g. free tuition for any student graduating from any FL HS in the top five of his class).

A General Studies re-structuring is lumbering towards a task-force somewhere, and SACS warned us about our explosion of online offerings. The Senate is trying (mostly in vain) to stem this tide.

We remain at impasse over salaries and the inclusion of anonymous student-teacher comments. UFF's grievance officer is over-worked, and morale seems very low among faculty, who do more with less every term.

Sincerely submitted,  
Nicholas Power

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