

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

1 May 2007

Room 303 Cashion

2:02 p.m.

Members Present: Senators Baldrige, Blackwell, Cannon, Diaz-Granados, Duhrkopf, Garner, Ngan, Longfellow, Losey, McGlashan, Miner, Pennington, Purdy, Rosenbaum, Sadler, Stone, Marian Ortuno (for Supplee), Tolbert, Vitanza, Wilcox, Gardner, Kayworth, Nunley, Rajaratnam, Cloud, Connally, Robinson, Cordon, Boyd, Green, Myers, Sturgill, Brown, Spain, Vitanza.

Members Absent: Senator Chonko

- I. **Welcome and Invocation:** The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm; Robert Cloud offered the invocation.

- II. **Guests: President John M. Lilley
 Executive Vice President and Provost Randall O'Brien**

President Lilley: Thank you to the Senate for your engagement during this academic year, and to the Executive Committee, especially for the maintenance of confidentiality. Strategic Planning is going well. The additional information we have received has been very welcome and helpful. We appreciate your participation in this planning process. It will be mid-summer before we'll be able to give you any results of the planning process. *Provost O'Brien:* Comments about the Dean evaluations. The Senate was right about the usefulness of engaging in this process. The situation is an awkward one, but it is necessary for the good of the entire academic community. *Senator:* Have all the meetings been scheduled? *Provost O'Brien:* I expect they will be done before the end of the semester. *Senator:* The Deans should not see the faculty as adversaries; the Deans are our leaders, not our opponents. *Senator:* Thank you for your positive comments; I want to disagree without being disagreeable. About the research computer situation: what is happening? *President Lilley:* I've been assured that we are very close to a resolution of that situation. *Provost O'Brien:* We have spoken with Reagan Ramsower, and though we are not moving as quickly as you would like, Mark Hurd is in the process of equipping us with computer resources that will please you greatly. *Senator:* Is there a procedure or process by which Dean Evaluations will feed into action plans? *Provost O'Brien:* I've asked the Deans to do a self-assessment in light of their evaluations and to present goals for the coming academic year. *Senator:* Do Deans have term limits? *Provost O'Brien:* There is no such thing as a tenured administrator; when effectiveness diminishes or is in question then action may be taken.

In the face of poor performance there is job turnover. But it's only fair to give individuals an opportunity for course correction. *Senator*: Is this an annual evaluation? *Provost O'Brien*: That is the way it is set up right now. *President Lilley*: We need both the annual and the aggregated evaluation. The annual snapshot and the aggregate evaluation are both necessary. *Senator*: Consider an academic unit trying to find a chair; how would the search ideally unfold? *Provost O'Brien*: Publish the opening; seek the best people you can find and get them to apply; winnow to the top three candidates; lunches/dinners; presentations; administrative interview in Pat Neff; produce a departmental narrative describing strengths and weaknesses; engage in conversation about who is the best one to invite; and finally offer the position. *Senator*: Question about the Chair hiring procedures. Discussion. *Senator*: What wisdom might you have to offer about the issue of attendance at important faculty meetings? What are your thoughts about this attendance issue? *President Lilley*: I'm not sure what to say other than to speculate about individual motives. I hope none are feeling alienated. Discussion.

III. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve, Senator Longfellow; Second, Senator Cannon. Passed.

IV. Welcome to Newly Elected Senators for 2007-10:

Michael Korpi
Larry Lehr
Michael Long
Judy Bowman
Tony Talbert

V. Recognition of Senators With Terms Expiring in 2007:

Robert Baldrige
Larry Chonko
Ann McGlashan
Eric Robinson
Walter Wilcox

Senator Cordon, Chair-Elect for 2007-2008 presented a gift to Chair Vitanza for her excellence in service to the 2006-2007 Faculty Senate. (Browning "Clasped Hands" and a Pen and Letter Opener.)

VI. Report of the Nomination Committee and Election of New Officers:

Georgia Green (President), Frieda Blackwell (Publicity Officer), David Sturgill (Secretary)

Motion seconded by Senator Cloud; Passed.

VII. Old Business:

- A. Feedback from Dean and Chair Evaluations (*Chair Vitanza*): Please let Chair Vitanza know whether or not you are having these meetings. The faculty members of departments deserve feedback, and the President and Provost have expressed their desire that these evaluations occur. If there are issues to be addressed then those issues must be addressed or there will be consequences for the Chair (or Dean) in question. Discussion. *Senator*: Please attend these meetings once they have been arranged.
- B. Compensation and Benefits Update (*Senator Cloud*): No Report.
- C. Policy on Committees Update (*Senator Cordon*): No report.
- D. Faculty Contracts (*Chair Vitanza*): Try to find out if there were any problems with the contracts; were there mistakes? Please check with chairs to see if there have been significant problems. There were some problems reported by a senator, but the question was whether or not these few mistakes were representative of a problem for the entire University. Mistakes with contracts? Mistakes with new hires? Discussion about the summer 1%. We'd like to have information about these salary recommendations in the interest of consistency across the University. Discussion: faculty evaluations and their correlation with salary increases.
- E. Availability of Research Computers (*Senator Wilcox*): **Motion by Senator Wilcox**: We the faculty Senate express concern and dismay about the use of unencumbered research bond money originally set aside for computers to fund a Tennis Center. Such a use represents a bad funding precedent and an ill-considered diversion of resources. We urge the University to use the Bond money for its original purpose of purchasing research computers for faculty use. **Second**: Senator Cannon. Discussion. **Vote: Pass; Opposed, one; Abstain, four.** **Motion by Senator Duhrkopf**: To reconsider the motion at a later meeting; **Second by Senator Baldrige. Pass. One abstention.**

Motion by Senator Cordon: To postpone reconsideration until first meeting in the fall; **Second, Senator Cloud. Vote: Pass.**

- F. Staff Council Proposal to Ban Smoking (Senator Vitanza): **Motion by Senator Robinson** to remove the motion to endorse the proposal from the table; **Second by Senator Longfellow. Pass. Two opposed.** Motion by Senator Robinson to endorse the proposal; **Second, Senator Purdy; Motion failed. Motion by Senator Duhrkopf:** Senate requests the Staff Council to reconsider their proposal to remove item 6, or to restate item 6 to alleviate its potential effect on research. **Second by Senator Supplee; Vote: Pass.**

VIII. Committee/Liaison Reports:

- A. University Curriculum Committee (*Senator Myers*): There is a proposal to create a task force on curriculum improvement.
- B. Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend Ombudsman (*Senator Supplee*): The committee met with the Provost in March; he made very few changes and requested it be sent to legal counsel. We have received from the legal counsel suggested changes to the position. We'd like you to look over the changes Mr. Beckenhauer made; in some places he seems to have made substantive changes. Discussion. Chair Vitanza will distribute to the Senate the proposal as altered by the University's legal counsel and solicits your feedback both to the Senate Chair and to Senator Supplee.
- C. Academic Freedom (*Senator Longfellow*): No report
- C. Enrollment Management (*Senator Sturgill*): On deposits, we are lower than we would like, maybe by a few hundred. The number of provisional students is going up next year. The class is expected to number about 2800.
- D. Physical Facilities (*Senator Brown*): No report.
- E. Student Life (*Senator Chonko*): No report.
- F. Liaison Reports
- i. Council of Deans (*Chair Vitanza*): *Senator*: Were there hostile comments from the Council of Deans? *Chair Vitanza*: sometimes such remarks are pretty subtle. At present there are many more Deans than in previous years, and the Chair of the Senate is vastly outnumbered in these meetings. Discussion.

- ii. Athletic Council (*Senator Connally*): Our meeting was moved to next week.
- iii. Staff Council (*Chair Vitanza*): No report.
- iv. Student Government (*Chair Vitanza*): No report. Travis Plummer is the new President.
- v. Personnel, Benefits, Compensation (*Chair Vitanza*): We've met once. *Senator*: About sick Days, why don't we get any? Or Family Leave Policy? *Chair Vitanza*: The answer to that question is probably that we have more control over our professional activities than staff employees do.
- vi. Code of Ethics (*Senators Cordon, Robinson*): We meet tomorrow.
- vii. Strategic Planning (*Senators Cordon, Robinson*): We continue to meet, but we still don't know where the process is going. *Senator*: Are there conflicts of interest? *Senator Cordon*: We do not now anticipate that there will be that kind of problem. Senate discussion about the University's SACS evaluation.

VII. New Business: Senator Baldrige presented a gift to Chair Vitanza: A Bulldog mug.

The Committee on Committees Report is still in the Provost's office. *Chair Vitanza*: The Senate needs to approve that report, so it needs to be done earlier. *Senator*: Cost of living issue? Discussion. *Senator*: I hoped for a better presentation of the State of the University than I got at the AAUP meeting yesterday. The question/answer session was good, but I would have liked a more elaborate presentation by the President and the Provost.

Adjourn: 5:00

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Rosenbaum, Secretary