

Minutes of Faculty Assembly Steering Committee Meeting November 21st 2003

The Faculty Assembly Steering Committee met on Friday November 21st 2003 at the Melby Center. The meeting was presided over by Perry Schoon. Those present: Ali Danesh, Mike Brady, Paul Peluso, Allison Ford and Dilys Schoorman.

Approval of minutes

Perry called the meeting to order at approximately 10.15 when Mike strode in and we cheered that we now had a decent quorum to approve the minutes. Paul moved that we accept the minutes with two modifications. The modifications were: the spelling of Vilma Petrovsky's name was corrected and the acronym for COOP - Continuity of Operations - was added, thanks to Mike. Allison seconded the motion to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Tape recording meetings

Dilys noted that it had been difficult for her to take accurate and detailed notes while trying to participate meaningfully at the October Faculty Assembly Meeting. She asked if it would be OK to tape record future Faculty Assembly meetings. In the discussion that ensued Paul asked about where the tapes would be kept and we agreed that they would remain with the secretary along with other archival data (notes, agendas, minutes) that was typical for the secretary to handle. It was also noted that the taping of business meetings was a fairly common practice. There was consensus that Dilys would use a tape recorder on all future Assembly meetings to help her in the note taking.

Decision making on final questions

The committee then perused the questions for President Brogan that had been submitted by the faculty. Paul added three more from his department. Dilys read out two that she had received via e-mail. Mike suggested that we each try to identify 5 questions that we thought were the most significant. In the discussion that followed 7 issues were identified and were ranked and sequenced in what we thought was the most logical presentation of ideas. We also identified faculty members who would be best suited to ask questions. Although it was suggested that the Steering Committee members pose the questions, the committee decided that the persons chosen to ask questions should be members of the faculty who were recognized by their colleagues as being well suited to pose each particular question.

The following topics were selected as the focus of each question. Some questions needed modification. We agreed that the person posing the question would try attempt to re-word a question (when deemed necessary) and these modifications would be circulated to the Steering Committee for final approval.

Question #1

Topic: The difference between Merit vs. Equity

Faculty member designated to pose question: Mike Brady

Wording of question: Could you explain to us your position on merit money vs. salary equity? [Wording deemed OK; no change needed.]

Question #2

Topic: Presidents' campaign to increase funding

Faculty member designated to pose question: Allison Ford

Wording of question: Could you provide some details on the SUS Presidents' campaign to increase funding to the universities? What are the plans, how are they progressing, and how can we assist? [Wording deemed OK; no change needed.]

Question #3

Topic: COE share of FAU funding

Faculty member designated to pose question: Ira Bogotch

Wording of question: The COE currently receives back from the University approximately 65 cents for every dollar it generates in FTE. While this serves other University purposes well, it does not allow for adequate funding for the College of Education programs and new initiatives. *Furthermore, we lost 22 faculty lines last year, we have to depend on adjuncts for a lot of our teaching, thereby jeopardizing our accreditation, we are unable to provide services to area districts because of the lack of faculty.* Is there any plan to decrease the magnitude of this funding gap?

How do you plan to address the projects that are draining resources from the University (e.g the Honors College, Sea Tech, some campuses? What impact do you expect the Scripps location in Palm Beach County to have on the COE funding?

[This question needed to be re-worded, esp. the sections italics. Ira will be asked to work on it and send it back to the Steering Committee for approval.]

Question #4

Topic: Role of the COE in a Research 1 institution

Faculty member designated to pose question: Dilys Schoorman

Wording of question: What is your vision of the role of the College of Education in a university that is striving to be a Research 1 institution? What is the path that you would like the College of Education to take to achieving Research 1 status? Or do you see the College of Education as playing a different role than aspiring to be Research 1? [Dilys and Mike would work on this and submit to the Steering Committee.]

Question #5

Topic: Faculty salaries

Faculty member designated to pose question: Perry Schoon

Wording of question: If Florida Atlantic University is striving to become a Research I institution, it is essential to raise faculty salaries to a competitive level in order to retain and attract excellent faculty. According to a recent UFF communication, FAU's Board of Trustees is committed to this. Could you share details? [To be approved by Steering Committee.]

Question #6

Topic: Retirees' sick leave payment

Faculty member designated to pose question: Pat Maslin-Ostrowski

Wording of question: Last year the College of Education was asked to take on the financial burden of our retirees' sick leave payments. This was previously the responsibility of the University. Our college had a large group of retirees and our bill came to \$500,000+ (please verify amount.) This was both an unexpected and exorbitant expense. *There is a deep concern among faculty that this was unfair. What is your perception of this situation?*

[The wording in regular font seemed OK. The committee worked on the section in italics, and would defer to Pat to come up with the final wording.]

Question #7

Topic: Faculty governance

Faculty member designated to pose question: Not decided

Wording of question: Give the dynamics between faculty and administrators typical of academic institutions, what is your agenda in ensuring the integrity of faculty governance and what are your plans to maintain and strengthen this model of shared decision making?

[Entire question needs to be looked over in terms of wording.]

Format of December 5th meeting

With regard to the format of the meeting, we agreed that Michele would preside over the meeting as the moderator. She would not ask any questions, but would call on each designated faculty member to pose a question. All questions would be printed out and read verbatim by the designated faculty member. It was also agreed that we would send President Brogan the topics/ issues (see above) that we want to address, so that he would have the opportunity to gather any necessary data for his responses. We were operating under the assumption that President Brogan would be present from 10-11, so we noted the need to begin on time. We also agreed that the meeting with him needed to be divided into three segments:

- President Brogan's remarks
- Questions from the faculty (as planned/ designated)
- Open forum

If President Brogan did leave at 11, we would move on with additional agenda items such as the reports from the ad hoc committees. As such the agenda for the December 5th meeting emerged as follows:

1. Welcome (Michele briefly explains the process of how questions and questioners were selected; explains format for meeting.)
2. Approval of minutes
3. President Brogan's remarks
4. Questions from Faculty
5. Open forum with President Brogan
6. Reports from Ad Hoc Committees
7. Any other business
8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12.20 p.m.

Submitted by:
Dilys Schoorman
Secretary, Faculty Assembly