



Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
Minutes
February 20, 2008

Chairman Armand Grossman convened the meeting with the following committee members present: Bob Stilley, Vice Chair; David Feder; Lalita Janke; Sherry Plymale; Eric Shaw.

Other trustees attending the meeting included: Board Chairman Norman Tripp; Nancy Blosser, Vice Chair; Scott Adams; Rajendra Gupta; Tony Teixeira; Tom Workman.

The following university officials participated: Frank T. Brogan, President; John Pritchett, Provost; David Kian, General Counsel; Gary Perry, Dean of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science; Len Berry, Director of the Center for Environmental Studies.

AS: A-M. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2007 meeting corrected to note the absence of Trustee Lalita Janke. **The motion passed unanimously.**

AS: A-1. Approval of Proposal for a Ph.D. Program in Geosciences

Dr. Gary Perry provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed program which is designed with a professional practice orientation and specifically tailored to train a new generation of working geoscientists. He noted that the program is the only one of its kind in the State of Florida and that the initiative to establish the program came as an outgrowth of collaborative working relationships that have been established with governmental and public agencies such as the South Florida Water Management District; U.S. Geological Survey, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Broward and Palm Beach County Planning Offices as well as private industry.

The program is interdisciplinary in nature and will engage with many academic departments and centers as well as research centers within the University, including HBOI. The program will offer five areas of emphasis:

- Geographic Info Sciences
- Hydrology & Water Resources
- Urban Development and Sustainability
- Bio-geography
- Marine Paleontology.

It is expected that the program will enroll 16 students in the first year rising to 58 or more students in the fifth year. The program will be available on a part-time basis in order to provide

professionals currently working in related fields with the opportunity to participate in the program.

Current faculty are qualified to teach courses in the program, and existing E&G funds have been redirected to support the initiative; thus, there will be no need for additional funding to implement the program.

Dr. Perry introduced several of the developers of the program, including Dr. Russell Ivy, Chair of the Department of Geosciences, the lead developer of the program; Dr. Leonard Berry, Director of the Center for Environmental Studies; Dr. Tara Root and Dr. Maria Garcia-Quijano, Professors in the department; and, Dr. Howard Hanson, Associate Vice President for Research and Professor in the department.

Dean Perry also referred to a newspaper article written about the program in which professionals from local businesses in the field were cited as being very supportive of the program. He then introduced Dr. Charles Finkl, a representative from Coastal Engineering and Planning, who spoke of the increasing need in industry for professionals in this field.

Dr. Perry addressed several questions from Committee members regarding the likelihood of obtaining approval from the BOG, the availability and source of funding, and the need to move master's programs on to the Ph.D. level.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Ph.D. in Geosciences. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned.

(Prepared by M. Mertz)