Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
October 24, 2024
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
ZOOM

Members Present: Kim Dunn, William Trapani, Bruce Arneklev, Charles Dukes, Khaled Sobhan, Chris Beetle, and Meredith Mountford

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Chair, Dr. Kim Dunn.

2. UFS Steering minutes
   - The UFS Steering minutes from September 26, 2024, were **approved by the committee.**

3. President's Report
   Dr. Dunn reported on the following:
   - Importance of faculty input on the presidential profile; feedback due by November 19.
   - Committee Updates:
     - Policy and Procedures Committee: Addressing current bylaw issues.
     - Preventive Process Committee: Focusing on responses to new regulations affecting academic freedom.
   - Upcoming Meetings:
     - Board of Governors Meeting: Scheduled for November 30.
     - November Steering Meeting: Approved to be held virtually.

4. Guest Speakers
   - General information about new rules covering Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, Bobby Brown, Executive Director Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Coordinator and Michelle Shaw, Director, ADAC
     - Mr. Brown presented the following on the topic of Compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.
     - **Key Points**:
       - New requirements mandate full accessibility of electronic and information technology for federally funded programs.
       - Beginning in April 2024, all courses must be accessible from day one, without needing specific accommodation requests.
       - Emphasis on preparing all online course materials to meet accessibility standards.
     - **Support for Faculty**:

        - Training resources available to help faculty meet accessibility requirements.
- Stacy Volnick, President and Gregg Fields, Vice President for Research
    - The speakers did not present but are scheduled to present at the upcoming Senate meeting.

5. Committee Reports
- Academic Budget and Planning Committee, Bill Trapani, Chair
    - The Chair reported that academic planning and budgeting activity this semester has been minimal, with few new proposals under review.
    - A key upcoming event is the November 25 session with the CFO, providing faculty with an opportunity to discuss the new budget model, raise concerns, and gain clarity on its implications. This session is intended to enhance transparency and engagement on financial matters affecting the faculty.

6. UPC Consent Agenda

Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**

7. UPC Action Agenda

A. Business
    - Program Change, BS in General Economics
        - A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
    - Program Change, Gerontology Certificate
        - A motion was made to move forward with no recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**
    - Program Change, Health Administration Minor for Non-Business Majors
        - A motion was made to move forward with no recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**

B. Honors College
    - Program Change, General Education Curriculum
        - A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering with the removal of SOP 3004 and DEP 3053. **Motion carries.**
    - New Program, Biomedical Science Concentration
        - A motion was made to move forward with a positive recommendation, with the indication to improve the formatting of the catalog entry. **Motion carries.**

C. University-Wide
    - Policy Change, Academic Petitions Process.
        - A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering with edit recommendations. **Motion carries.**
    - Policy Change, Baccalaureate Degree Requirements.

- A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**

8. UGC Consent Agenda
   Motion: A motion was made to move forward with positive recommendation by steering. **Motion carries.**

9. UGC Action Agenda
   None.

10. Old Business
    None.

11. New Business
    None.

12. Open Forum with the Provost
    Provost Ivy reported on the following:
    - The Provost updated the Board of Governors' recent meeting outcomes, specifically on textbook affordability policy changes that will require individual faculty members to confirm their review of assigned materials, effective by spring 2025. Additionally, a committee will be created to address anti-Semitism in course content, possibly using an AI tool for review support. Ongoing discussions with UF and FSU aim to synchronize approaches across institutions, and an upcoming meeting will help shape the committee.
    - Dean Searches Update: The Provost shared progress on dean searches, mentioning that the new dean for the College of Nursing will be announced soon, while the College of Education dean search continues with candidate visits expected in late January or early February.

13. Good of the Steering Committee
    None.

14. **Meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm.**