

Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
August 27, 2013
Community Engagement Conf. Rm. 246 - 3pm – 5pm

Members Present: Ron Nyhan, William McDaniel, Bill Bosshardt, Deborah Floyd, Hari Kalva, Morton Levitt, Marguerite Purnell, Diane Alperin, Michelle Hawkins, Gary Perry

Guests: Noemi Marin, Edgar An, Brian McConnell

1. The meeting was called to order by chair, Dr. Ron Nyhan
2. The minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2013 was approved with no objections from the committee.
3. **President's Report:**
 - Dr. Nyhan is actively involved in discussions with the President and Provost regarding the role of faculty and hopes that with the help and encouragement of Steering, to develop a new shared faculty governance model.
 - The three areas concerned with the new faculty governance model is
 - a) Admission and Retention-Reactivated the Admission and Retention Committee to look into the low graduation and retention rates at FAU, emphasized at the last BOG meeting. The committee will be charged to come up with strategies on improving these rates.
 - b) Need to form an *ad hoc* committee to develop strategies to counteract the threat of the increased enrollment at State Colleges who are offering more degrees at lower costs.
 - c) Also need to develop strategies to encounter the growth of online learning which is becoming very successful at other State Colleges and also posing a threat to FAU's enrollment growth.
4. **UPC Consent Agenda:** *see attached*
No objections from the committee - will go forward to Senate with **positive recommendation from Steering.**
5. **UPC Action Items:** *see attached*

College of Arts and Letters

- a) ~~Limited access request~~ **Admission Requirements for Communication and Multimedia Studies B.A. degrees.**
Steering was in favor of changing the language to "admission requirement" in keeping with the BOG regulations. Will go forward to Senate **with positive recommendation from Steering.**
- b) **Limited access request for Theatre and Dance B.A. and B.F.A. degrees**

No objections- will go forward to Senate **with positive recommendation from Steering.**

c) Limited access request for Studio Arts, Graphic Design B.F.A. degrees

No objections- will go forward to Senate **with positive recommendation from Steering**

College of Engineering and Compt. Science

a) B.S. in Mechanical Engineering changes

No objections- will go forward to Senate **with positive recommendation from Steering.**

b) B.S. in Ocean Engineering changes

No objections- will go forward to Senate **with positive recommendation from Steering.**

College of Science

a) Honors Program in Geology – Proposal Approval

There was no representation from the College of Science. Five were in favor of moving forward without recommendation to the Senate. One abstained

6. UGC Consent Agenda:

The committee did not meet – There are no items to review.

7. UGC Action Items:

The committee did not meet – There are no items to review.

8. Business Items:

a) Bylaws:

- There are several issues with the UFS Bylaws
 - Dr. Nyhan sought advice from previous UFS Presidents on editorial changes – there is no need for Senate approval
 - There are three items that need to be revisited
1. Need to have the committee chairs agree on getting approval from the Senate about decisions made within their committees. P&T committee approves policy changes without it being vetted through the Senate. The UFS bylaws need to be amended to include verbiage that accommodates for this approval process of decisions made by the committees through the Senate.
 2. The UFS Bylaws require membership representation from the North and South campuses as well, for Steering, totaling six members. In the past it has been the practice to elect members to Steering who have been actively involved with Senate business. However, this practice can become too unbalanced with membership representation. Some members of Steering are in favor of having representation from all eight colleges as these reps can relay important messages back to their colleges that are discussed at Steering. The task for Steering is to consider whether to change the bylaws to reflect equal representation from each of the eight colleges or stay with the current bylaws which require representation from the North and South campuses with a limited pool of six members. Also to consider is the election process for members of Steering. Will the Senate vote on membership or will this be the decision of the colleges if Steering agrees to change the bylaws in favor of equal representation from each of the colleges. Will the Faculty Assembly Heads be eligible to serve on Steering?
 3. The UFS Bylaws are inclusive and excludes all non-tenure track faculty to serve on the Senate. Since new policies and criteria were developed to promote

instructors to senior instructors, Dr. Nyhan is requesting Steering consider exploring this option of including instructors in the Senate constitution. With the tremendous amount of work to be expected from the Senate, there is a need for more hands to accomplish the tasks at hand. Some instructors have been employed at the university for more than 10 years and have a vested interest in the university; they have Ph.D.'s and are doing research and publishing as well. They are expected to perform otherwise their contracts will not be renewed. Steering should explore the advantages and disadvantages by looking at the data available and comparing how other schools are dealing with this situation to be able to have an informed discussion on the pros and cons to be able to present to Senate.

b) Elections for Steering:

- Need to elect a replacement for Michele Hawkins.
- Need to elect a rep for the North and South campuses
- Or revise/change the UFS bylaws as discussed in 8 (a) above.

c) Vacancies on Committees:

- Since the university is now faced with the task of improving graduation and retention rates, the Admission and Retention committee needs to be more actively engaged in finding strategies to overcome this deficiency. Currently there are only four members on the committee – need representation from all colleges- looking for faculty to fill these positions
- eLearning committee exists only on paper, there are no members.
- Looking for representation – committee will be tasked to look at eLearning policies at FAU and other universities and what makes other universities more successful with their online programs.

9. Speaker: None

10. Open Forum with the Provost:

- Dr. Gary Perry thanked Steering for the opportunity to address them in his new role as Interim Provost
- Dr. Perry spoke of his plans and goals for the coming year
- Dr. Perry would like to continue to encourage the faculty to be more actively engaged in the governance of the university
- Dr. Perry sees the need to develop strategies to improve the graduation and retention rates
- He sees a need to establish a strong undergraduate program that will eventually lead to successfully growing the research and graduate programs at FAU.
- He also sees the need to revisit the Strategic Plan that addresses the Graduation and Retention issues-there is a need to prioritize the Strategic Plan metrics-limit the number of metrics so that the goals are more attainable.
- These goals can only be accomplished through faculty involvement and the work of the Senate and is willing to listen to the faculty needs and concerns.
- He is also looking to firm up the university to make its programs more successful so that FAU will be a more attractive institution for highly qualified presidential candidates.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm