

**University Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
September 6, 2013**

**Members Present:** see *appendix A* for attendance sheet

Guests Presents: See *appendix B* for attendance sheet

1. The UFS meeting was called to order by Dr. Ron Nyhan, President, at 2:05 p.m. in the College of Nursing 202 on the Boca Raton Campus and video conferenced to Davie, Sea Tech, Fort Lauderdale, Harbor Branch and Jupiter.

2. The minutes of April 19, 2013 was **approved with one revision from Senator Harris**, see *appendix C*

3. **President's Report:**

4. **UPC Consent Agenda:**

No objections from the Senate. **Approved by majority vote**

5. **UPC Actions Items:**

**College of Arts and Letters**

- a) Admission Requirement request for Communication and Multimedia Studies B.A. degrees  
**Senate Approved by Majority Vote**
- b) Limited access request for Theatre and Dance B.A. and B.F.A. degrees  
**Senate Approved by Majority Vote**
- c) Limited access request for Studio Arts, Graphic Design B.F.A. degrees  
**Senate Approved by Majority Vote**

**College of Business**

- a) Health Administration Minor changes  
**Senate Approved by Majority Vote**

**College of Engineering and Compt. Science**

- a) B.S. in Mechanical Engineering changes  
**Senate Approved by Majority Vote**
- b) B.S. in Ocean Engineering changes  
**Senate Approved by Majority Vote**

**College of Science**

- a) Honors Program in Geology – Proposal Approval  
David Warburton represented the College of Science- **Senate Approved by Majority Vote**

6. **UGC Consent Agenda:**

There were no items

## 7. **UGC Action Items:**

There were no items

## 8. **Business Items:**

a) **UFS Website Info:** The UFS website has been updated. Please inform Jenny Govender, [jgovende@fau.edu](mailto:jgovende@fau.edu), if there are any corrections to the senatorial information. Important reports/news will be posted on the front page of the UFS website, like the Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee Report. The Advisory Council of Faculty Senates meets to provide updates on the BOG meetings and this information will also be posted on the front page of the website. A Discussion Forum board will be set up for Senators on Blackboard to post their comments or feedback on issues/items of interests or concerns. The UFS Senators were automatically enrolled in this Discussion Forum. Any other faculty members wishing to join the Forum should contact Jenny Govender [jgovende@fau.edu](mailto:jgovende@fau.edu) with their FAU username

### b) **Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee Report:**

- Dr. McDaniel, the former UFS President charged the committee to investigate whether the academic freedom and due process of an instructor was compromised due to an incident that occurred in the Instructor's class in February 2013.
- The committee found after extensive interviews with all individuals associated with this incident, that both Academic Freedom and Due Process were compromised.
- Dr. McDaniel moved to accept the report of the AF&DP committee
- Dr. Morton Levitt seconded, all were in favor, the **report was accepted by the Senate without objection**
- All members of the AF&DP committee were recognized and congratulated by the Senate on their stellar work.
- The committee will still meet in the coming semesters to continue their work on academic freedom

### c) **Election for Steering:**

- There is a vacant seat on Steering
- The Bylaws are silent on how to fill this vacancy.
- The bylaws call for a constitution of six members and for a rep from each of the North and South campuses if they are not included in the six, totaling eight members for Steering,
- The Senate was asked to consider whether there should remain six members at large and include one rep from the North and South thereby adhering to the bylaws, or if the bylaws should be changed to have equal representation from all nine colleges as opposed to having an unequal representation of the colleges or change the bylaws to drop the representation from the North and South campuses whose pool of faculty are very low
- In the interim, the Senate was asked to nominate candidates so that an election could take place, while the Senators consider whether to change the bylaws or leave as is.

- All nominations should be emailed to [jgovende@fau.edu](mailto:jgovende@fau.edu) so that the Senate can vote at the next meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- A discussion board will be set up for suggestions and comments on Blackboard – the Senate is asked to participate in an open dialogue on items posted on the Discussion Board.

d) **Committees:**

- There are several standing committees that need to be restructured – some are Senate led, University led and College appointed
- Dr. Nyhan is concerned that some of these committees are making decisions of which the Senate is not aware of.
- He would like to meet with the chairs of these committees to settle on an agreement that they report to the UFS any policy and or procedural changes made that may affect the faculty.
- Possibly change/reword the bylaws to reflect the committees seek Senate approval on policy changes

**9. Speaker: President Dennis Crudele:**

- President Crudele thanked the Senate for the opportunity to address them
- He also thanked the AF&DP committee for their outstanding report on the issue of academic freedom
- President Crudele would like to move forward by providing leadership and direction to the University
- He believes in the shared governance process and hopes that he can work with the faculty and all concerned in making key decisions
- President Crudele is very satisfied in selecting Dr. Gary Perry as Interim Provost, former Dean of the College of Science.
- President Crudele believes that he needs to be very strategic and wise in how the funding, that was recently given back to the SUS institutions, will be used
- He is looking at salary programs as a priority
- President Crudele expressed the importance of growing research and graduate programs and is looking at the goal of doubling research in the next five years
- He is very enthusiastic about supporting the Jupiter Science Initiative, as the Jupiter campus is geographically situated close to the Max Planck Florida Institute and Scripps Research Institute that gives FAU the added advantage to collaborate and partner with these world class institutions to grow their Jupiter Science Initiatives.
- He is also concerned about the low rate of enrollment- no funding coming in for enrollment growth
- Enrollment is down in upper division hours – need to look at other SUS Institutions who are showing success in their graduation and retention rates
- President Crudele invited the faculty to help him find solutions to these issues that are posing a threat to the graduation and retention rates at FAU.

- He also sees the need to revisit the Strategic Plan especially the part that deals with Graduation and Retention.
- President Crudele also recognized the outstanding work accomplished by the QEP and thanked Dr. Donna Chamely-Wiik for her incredible hard work to make it such a success. He sees this as one of the initiatives to help grow the undergraduate programs and thereby help to retain students.

#### 10. **Open Forum with the Provost:**

- This was Dr. Gary Perry's first meeting with the Senate as Provost
- Dr. Perry thanked President Crudele for appointing him as Interim Provost
- Just like the President, he also wants to move forward with his plans and goals for the coming year in promoting the university before the next President is elected.
- He thanked Dr. Diane Alperin for her dedication and service as Acting and Interim Provost over the past couple of years and has promoted her to Vice Provost.
- Dr. Perry will be making some administrative changes by employing more senior staff to ensure student success as the low graduation and retention rates are a serious concern at FAU
- Dr. Perry stated that revenue generated from the undergraduate programs underwrites all we do – it provides release for research, pays for Physical Plant, pays for our research and labs
- Therefore he feels that it is imperative we have a very successful undergraduate program which will enable us to grow our research and develop new graduate programs.
- He also see the QEP as an important part of this process
- He also sees the need to revisit the governing structure of the signature themes to find out how they interrelate to the colleges, college priorities and college programs.
- Part of the Strategic Plan is to hire faculty within the signature themes but there is insufficient data available on how to apply this concept.
- Of the ninety tenure track lines that was promised by former Provost Claiborne, sixty lines have been approved for faculty hire. Dr. Perry is also reviewing the requests from the Deans for additional lines but he also stressed that he will need to be very wise on how to use the funding strategically to support the most needful areas.
- Dr. Perry looks forward to working with the faculty and senate and is open to suggestions and meetings with the faculty on issues that concern them

#### 11. **BOT Report:**

- A discussion platform will be set up on Blackboard for the senate to engage in open dialogue about issues that concern them.
- The UFS Senators were automatically enrolled in this Discussion Forum. Any other faculty members wishing to join the Forum should contact Jenny Govender at [jgovende@fau.edu](mailto:jgovende@fau.edu) with their FAU username.
- There will also be forum set up for news on the Senate and a report on the BOT meetings.

- As a Trustee of the BOT, Dr. Nyhan will post information of the BOT meetings to keep faculty informed so that they can post their questions and comments which he is hoping can be addressed in a timely manner.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:55pm**