

Faculty Senate Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2008
12:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom
Faculty Senate President Dr. Maurice Holder, presiding

Faculty Senators present at the meeting were as follows:

Officers (Present)

Dr. Maurice Holder, President
Mrs. Jeneice Smith, Secretary
Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian

Senators (Present)

Mrs. Ernestine Holmes	Dr. Bidhan Saha
Dr. Charles Ervin	Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
Dr. Raymond Hix	Dr. Alice Rozier
Dr. Angela Thornton	Ms. Linda Williams
Dr. Joseph Johnson	Dr. LaRae Donnellan
Dr. Mary Diallo	Dr. David Jackson
Dr. Ngozi Ugochukwu	Dr. Kandy Woods
Dr. Maurice Edington	Dr. Gwendolyn Singleton
Dr. Christopher Ikediobi	Dr. Arthur Washington
Prof. Rhoda Cato	Dr. Kinfe Redda
Dr. Primus Mtenga	Dr. Kyle Eidahl
Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud	Dr. Roscoe Hightower
Dr. Janet Marshall	Dr. Rufus Ellis
Dr. Charles Magee	Mr. Sylvester Peck Sr.
Ms. Raquista Claitt	Dr. Eric Kalu
Dr. Velma Roberts	Dr. Michael Abrams
Dr. Lekan Latinwo	

Ex-Officio (Voting) (Present)

Dr. Uche Ohia
Dr. Lauren Sapp

Ex-Officio (Voting) (Excused)

Dr. Roland Gaines
Dr. Donald Palm

Senators (Excused)

Dr. Dreamal Worthen
Mrs. Almeta Washington
Prof. Thomas Pugh
Dr. Edward Jones
Dr. Narayan Persaud
Professor Crisarla Houston
Dr. Marcia Owens
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Dr. Renee Reams
Professor Beth Lewis
Dr. Matthew Powers

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m. by Dr. Maurice Holder, President of the Faculty Senate.

II. Opening Remarks

Dr. Holder made the following remarks to the Senate: After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Holder welcomed the President and Provost to the meeting. Explaining that it is the Holiday Season, he said that the President had afforded us the funds to have the lunch you see presented.

A reminder: the next Steering Committee's meeting will be held on January 5th and the next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on January 20th

A Spring General Faculty meeting is being planned.

Deadlines for Teacher of the Year are fast approaching and applications are due by February 13, 2009.

At the next Steering Committee meeting we will discuss standardized policy in units for the Teacher of the Year. The President wants to meet and discuss this. When this was set up, the President requested to have the Teacher of the Year go forward for professor of the year. We want to start this again.

We are planning a remembrance service for retired and deceased employees during the spring semester.

After his remarks, President Holder stated that we would now move on to Item "III" on the agenda for the approval of the Dec. 15, 2008 meeting Agenda.

Dr. Mary Diallo asked if there was a quorum to allow the Senate to conduct business. The senators present did not represent a quorum; therefore, items 3 and 4 were postponed until later.

III. Approval of December 15, 2008 meeting agenda – postponed, pending reaching a quorum.

IV. Approval of November minutes – postponed, pending reaching a quorum.

V. President's Remarks: Dr. Holder continued the meeting by asking the President to come forward to make his remarks. The following is a summary:

- President Ammons greeted the Faculty Senate and stated that he hoped all faculty have their grades in to the Provost & Administration.
- The president commended the faculty on the work they have done on the graduating class.
- The President expressed thanks for commitment to the children of the south side. The Saturday afternoon event was a huge success and appreciations generosity and caring.

- In spite of the state of our budget, we are committed to the research awards and the travel awards established by the Faculty Senate.
- The president thanked the Faculty Senate for attendance on committees and at group meetings.
- President reminded the Senators that it is important that we finalize our policy on research, intellectual property and other policies of the University relative to research.
- President reminded faculty that we have a serious budget issue in Florida. Even though we reduced the 2008-2009 budget by 1.4 billion dollars, we are still over 2 billion dollars short. The Governor withheld 4% from each state agency. This is now a permanent cut. We are looking at another 5% cut if the Governor and the Legislators cannot find funds. In 2009-2010 it may get worse. The Governor is looking at dipping into the Lawton Chiles fund. The senate is going to be meeting next week to make other budgetary decisions.
- The lottery is also down; the governor is holding back 4% from the lottery to the State University System.
- In the 2007-2008 fiscal year the total withheld was 16.4 million dollars and now the additional cuts that may be forthcoming.
- We will need to talk about the measures we will have to make. With the general revenue and lottery, reductions all classes, which are different from all sections, will be huge classes.
- We will do everything we can to protect our full-time faculty and staff. FAMU has not laid off any full time faculty or staff. Others have done this, but it is going to be hard. In 2009-2010 there is a possibility of a 15% budget cut, spelled out, that is over 15 million dollars. We will do everything we can as we go forward. All of us will have to make tough decisions.
- We need to talk about the tuition differential that Governor Crist has proposed. Four other institutions already have differential tuition. The Board of Trustees would have to approve 15% above regular tuition. First, the legislature has to pass it, then the BOT. 15% is \$368.50 per year and \$185.00 per semester. 33% of what we would raise or 7.6 million dollars would go toward need base financial aid. We would have to recommend that the remaining be used to hire new faculty and provide salary increases for the faculty.
- There can be a differential within the differential tuition proposal. Professional schools could raise their tuition. Schools like Pharmacy, Law or Business can decide what they want to do. The bottom line is that no one wants a tuition increase for our students, but unless we have a miracle from the legislature, this may be the only way we can do this.

President Ammons ended his remarks and asked for questions.

Dr. Johnson: Action was taken against Dr. Jackson reducing his salary. What is your general attitude concerning the AAUP censure?

President Ammons: We would ask that AAUP accept that the BOT makes policies in the best interest of the University.

Dr. Washington: Several years ago, we had a similar problem as we have today. FSU's president said to increase sales taxes. Is there an attitude to look at a sales tax increase?

President Ammons: There is an attitude that taxes should not be raised, period. Sin taxes has been brought up – taxes on cigarettes and liquor.

Dr. Kennedy: What is the process for submitting ideas to save money around the campus?

Provost Hughes-Harris: We requested input from all of you and we have had tremendous input campus wide, perhaps it is time to do this again.

Dr. Davenport: I commend the administration for having no lay-offs at FAMU. Will we have a way to have input in the tuition increase?

President Ammons: We have faculty representation on committees and during discussions. There is no way I would want to make those decisions without the faculty. We will have our meetings and at the end of the day, the BOT will receive our recommendations.

Dr. Abrams: Out of State graduate student tuition exceeds \$800.00. We will lose students from out of state.

President Ammons: It would not be automatic across the board increases. We would take into consideration that \$25,000-35,000 a year is already hard to pay.

This ended the question and answer session following the President's remarks.

The parliamentarian announced that a quorum had been reached, so President Holder asked that we adopt the December 15th agenda. It was moved and properly seconded that we adopt the agenda. The agenda was adopted.

Next, the Provost addressed the Faculty Senate. She greeted everyone and began her remarks by echoing the president's message concerning submitting grades and the commencement attendance.

Dr. Hughes-Harris stated that 15 people from FAMU attended the SACS Conference in San Antonio last week. Just a reminder, The SACS site visit is in spring 2009. We knew that it was to be March 2009. Now a date has been given, March 9, 2009. This is our spring break week. Dr. Silverman said that is the week. We have to have students and faculty commit to being here during the visit.

We had a chance to meet with the SACS team to get a verbal feel on our self study document. Concerns were the same as with other school of the Southern Association. We were glad to

hear “I am very proud of you for the document you submitted”. Now the committee must take the feedback we received and submit another report by January 27th. We have to clean up everything until the visit. The fact remains that we still have many names of faculty who were not credentialed for the courses they are teaching.

The Provost ended her remarks by thanking everyone for their help and she thanked Dr. Beckman, particularly for help given. There were no questions for Dr. Hughes-Harris.

Next, President Holder asked for the approval of the November minutes. It motioned and seconded that the minutes be approved. Corrections to the minutes from Dr. Friday-Stroud were noted. The minutes were then approved.

VI. **Unfinished Business**

A. Travel Awards – Dr. Hightower stated that he was still inviting and receiving input. Send your request to his email address. Over the break, approval will be given.

Dr. Washington asked how travel awards are related to the academic unit awards. Dr. Holder responded that the travel awards from the Faculty Senate are supplemental to any travel dollars provided by the academic units.

Dr. Washington said his next question is to the Deans - “Is there travel dollars in the units?” Dr. Holder stated that he could not answer for the individual schools.

B. Research Awards – Dr. Redda stated that the Research Awards Committee did not meet. The document is in its final process and it will be submitted to Dr. Holder and the Steering Committee.

C. President’s Book – Dr. Holder reported that they had planned to circulate a flyer; however that is on hold until a point is added. The call for submission has been issued to all faculty to submit a manuscript for the book. The Flyer was read by Dr. Holder.

D. Green Coalition –Dr. Donnellan made the following announcements. She began with an update that the Green Coalition has been switched to a student run association. She is the faculty advisor.

Help support the Signature for Power vote – 40 organizations are collecting signatures. 900 signatures are needed from FAMU.

- 1000 lbs of trash were recycled from the FAMU Homecoming game.
- You can still bring telephone books to the Journalism lobby to be recycled.
- You may have heard of the Better World Books Program. Text books are collected and recycled for the Africa program.
- A letter was sent about the Biomass plant.
- Britta has a \$10,000 grant. We want to use the grant to place 60 recycle bins around the campus. During the relay for life, the water bottles will be collected and recycled.

- Power Shift 2009 – On February 26th – March 2nd, two bus-loads of students will be going to Washington as a state delegation. Students for FAMU and FSU will be participating.
- Movie night is starting again. Also, the Change a light campaign and the CANpaigne will be repeated.

Dr. Friday-Stroud commented that the work of the Green Coalition met well with the SACS Standards and Dr. Donnellan was placed on notice for the SACS site visit.

VII. New Business

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Edington asked for a motion to approve the online SBI courses that were tabled at the last meeting. It was properly motioned and seconded to approve the online courses requested for the School of Business and Industry. The courses were approved.

QEP – Dr. Edington attended the SACS meeting in San Antonio. He reported that they are going to tweak the report.

Dr. Friday-Shroud and Dr. Edington attended a meeting for QEP presidents. He thanked the Provost for her support. Faculty Senators were asked to stick around for the site visit. Lastly, Dr. Edington reminded the Senators that we should all feel strongly about QEP.

VIII. Announcements

President Holder recognized Dr. Adeline Evans; a retired faculty member recently awarded the Professor Emeritus status.

Dr. Diallo announced that the Gilman Scholarship provides up to \$5,000 dollars to students who want to study abroad and students who are on Pell Grant. Spelman had 14 to apply and 12 received the award. The website is www.IIE.org/Gilman.

IX. Adjournment

With no other announcements presented, the December 15, 2008 Faculty Senate Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mrs. Jeneice Smith
Secretary

Mrs. Rebecca Bruce
Office Manage