

Faculty Senate Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 2011
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Lee Hall Auditorium
Presiding, Dr. Narayan Persaud, Faculty Senate President

Officers (Present)

Dr. Narayan Persaud, President
Dr. Dreamal Worthen, Vice President
Dr. Cynthia Davis, Secretary
Mr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian

Senators (Present)

Dr. Ngozi Ugochukwu
Dr. Bettye Grable
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Dr. Cynthia Davis
Dr. Gloria Aguilar
Dr. Lekan Latinwo
Dr. Desmond Stephens
Dr. Adrian McCollum
Dr. Marian Smith
Dr. Kyle Eidahl
Dr. Rufus Ellis
Prof. Thomas Pugh
Dr. Edward Jones
Dr. Roscoe Hightower
Dr. Angela Thornton
Dr. LaRae Donnellan
Dr. Gwendolyn Singleton
Dr. Pat Broussard
Dr. Kandy Woods
Dr. DeEdgra Williams
Ms. Jeneice Smith

Dr. Nazarius Lamango
Dr. Charles Magee
Dr. Tshaka Randall
Dr. Uloma Onubogu
Dr. Brenda Bryant
Dr. Frances Stallworth
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
Dr. Mary Diallo
Dr. Carl Moore
Dr. Narayan Persaud
Dr. Dreamal Worthen
Dr. Lewis Johnson
Dr. Lambert Kanga
Dr. Adrian McCollum
Dr. Beth Lewis
Dr. Elijah Johnson
Dr. Adrienne Cooper
Dr. Primus Mtenga
Dr. Aurelia Alexander
Dr. Marcia Owens
Ms. Ernestine Holmes

Senators (Absent)

Dr. David Jackson
Dr. Marian Smith
Lt. Diana Hess
Dr. Renee Reams
Dr. Hudson Nwakanma

Dr. Gary Paul
Dr. Endya Steward
Dr. Gervin Robertson
Dr. Angela Murphy

Senators (Excused)

Dr. Christopher Ikediobi
Mrs. Almeta Washington

Ex-Officio (Voting) (Present)

Dr. Uche Ohia
Dr. Donald Palm
Dr. Lauren Sapp

Parliamentarian James Muchovej announced that a quorum was reached at 3:23 p.m. Faculty Senate President Persaud called the meeting to order immediately following this notice.

Opening Remarks

President Persaud opened with comments that focused on how important it is to become involved in the decision-making process to help resolution of problems that will persist for many years to come. We have to become involved in addressing budgetary constraints by finding ways to make accommodations. He hopes that we will become actively involved and recognize that although there may be disagreements we should seek to minimize the conflict.

Approval of September 20th minutes

Faculty Senate Vice President Worthen moved to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2011 minutes. Senator Jeneice Smith seconded the motion. Minutes were approved pending necessary corrections to be phoned into the Secretary.

Approval of October 18th Meeting Agenda

Senators approved the meeting agenda for the 10/18/11 meeting.

Administration Remarks

President Persaud asked the Provost for an update on the current search committees under Academic Affairs. Provost Hughes-Harris provided information on the ongoing search processes including those to fill a number of dean positions, the Director of Retention and the Vice President for Research. She shared that the services of an external search firm will be used for many of the searches. One search has concluded with the hiring of the Vice President for University Relations. Dr. Thomas Haynes will begin serving in that position on October 29, 2011. President Persaud asked the Provost to share information regarding events that had occurred over the last few days.

Provost Hughes-Harris shared that many of the recent events in Florida mimic what has been happening in the State of Texas. (She referred members to the Texas Plan). The Provost had been asked by President Ammons to put together a response to Governor Scott's letter to all SUS presidents requesting specific data. The Board of Governors and the Boards of Trustees were all copied on the letter. Information requested including information about faculty productivity, students achievements especially in the areas of critical thinking, writing skills, and students' job readiness. The response is due no later than November 15th. The request covered questions A through Q with each question having up to an additional 3 questions embedded within. The Board of Governors will take the lead on responding to the Governor's concerns regarding students' readiness etc. Over the weekend the Provost had formed a committee to work on how FAMU would respond to the request. The Provost will coordinate the response to the Governor's request which is very much related to our response regarding the Texas Plan. This process began with assigning responsibility for gathering information for the response in a meeting on Monday. The administration will use the response as an opportunity to tell our story on how we are meeting the workforce needs in relation to our university's strengths and varied arenas. Some may object to our use of other titles and other goals, but we are going to tell our own story. The request may be spurred on by the Governor's desire for education reform. The Provost recommended strongly that we look at the Texas Plan and how it has been operating in the Texas system. She noted that Florida State University has already

drafted a response, but did not go into details in order not to take up too much time of Faculty Senate meeting.

Dr. Holder stated that as he has read the Governor's letter. This is a monumental task, in which he is asking for 10 years of data that includes a period of time in which FAMU was having some serious problems. Dr. Holder does not envy the task that the Provost has ahead of her. The response to the Texas Plan has been discussed with other SUS Faculty Senate Presidents at the meeting in Orlando. The consensus was that the response should be university-specific.

The Provost stated that we will have to respond in some way, either using the A-Q format or in some modified way. But this is an opportunity to tell the story in FAMU's way.

Dr. Holder suggested that the administration use the data that was collected for President Ammons' transition team.

VI. New Business

A. Election of Steering Committee Members

College of Arts & Sciences: Dr. Desmond Stephens

College of Education: Dr. Elizabeth Davenport

College of Agriculture: Dr. Charles McGhee

College of Law: Dr. Tshaka Randall

College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences: Dr. Angela Thornton

FAMU DRS: will be addressed later

FAMU/FSU College of Engineering: Dr. Carl Moore

School of Allied Health: Dr. Kandy Woods

School of Architecture: Dr. Thomas Pugh

School of Business & Industry: Dr. Roscoe Hightower

School of Journalism: Dr. LaRae Donnellan

School of Nursing: Dr. Uloma Onubogu

College of Environmental Sciences: Dr. Marcia Owens

Library: Ms. Ernestine Holmes

B. Election of members for the Committee-on-Committees

College of Arts & Sciences: Dr. Lewis Johnson

College of Education: Dr. Endya Steward

College of Agriculture: Dr. Lambert Kanga

College of Law: Dr. Pat Broussard

College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences: Dr. Nazarius Lamango

FAMU DRS: will be addressed later

FAMU/FSU College of Engineering: Dr. Peter Kalu

School of Allied Health: Prof. Aurelia Alexander

School of Architecture: Prof. Thomas Pugh

School of Business & Industry: Dr. Roscoe Hightower

School of Journalism: Dr. Bettye Grable

School of Nursing: Dr. Brenda Bryant

College of Environmental Sciences: Dr. Elijah Johnson

Library: Ms. Kristine Smith

Provost Hughes-Harris asked to be excused early due to schedule constraints. Also two at-large seats on the Committee-on-Committees are needed. Dr. Ugochukwu was selected for one seat.

C. Budget Committee

1-year term was filled by Dr. Deidre Williams

2-year term was filled by Dr. Roscoe Hightower

Academic Council

The current VP has to be one of the members of the Council. Dr. Diallo was elected.

University Executive Council

The positions traditionally include the President of the Faculty Senate and one other person. Dr. Latinwo will be the other person.

Approval of the Councils

The Committee-on-Committees nominates the people for the Council. Vice President Worthen moved that the proposal be accepted pending any necessary corrections.

Continuing Business

Curriculum Committee Dr. Edington presented the following action items:

College of Law would like to add 2 new courses LAW 6XXX-Advanced Topics in Law: Critical Race Law Theory Seminar and LAW 6XXX – Human Rights and the Environment Seminar. Both courses have been taught previously as Special Topics. The Law School would like to offer both courses on a more routine basis.

SBI/Department of Information Systems & Operations Management would like to add a new MBA track in Supply Chain Management. This would formalize the offerings in this concentration by requiring students take 18 hours in the area.

The College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Biology wants to add a non-thesis track to the existing M.S. degree program in Biology.

Dr. Holder questioned the non-thesis option in Biology. Dr. Latinwo explained that the non-thesis option will allow students not interested in going to medical school to finish quickly, without doing research that has no time set for completion. This option is ideal for teachers wanting to enhance their knowledge without the research component.

Dr Holder stressed that the University must be careful to establish and maintain quality graduate programs especially in the sciences. The non-thesis option says to students that you do not have to do extensive research. He is emphasized caution because of how it may affect other M.S. degree programs.

Dr. Latinwo stated that the non-thesis option is not unusual. He cited programs around campus and around the country. One area of concern is that there are currently 22 students that have to finish a thesis in the current program. Limited resource issues were acknowledged for example labs supporting students. He stressed that even in the non-thesis option, students will get research experience.

Dr. Holder stated that he hopes there will be something else in place instead of just a paper. Dr. Edington responded that the non-thesis is common in other areas as well. For some select students the non-thesis is the better option. However, the majority of students still choose to do the thesis option. There will still be a committee that is similar to the thesis committee for the non-thesis student. Dr. Holder stressed that we need to capture the talent that is potentially lost if the students choose to do the non-thesis option.

Curriculum changes were approved by the members.

B. Report on the ACFS (Advisory Council of Faculty Senates) meeting

President Persaud reported on the issues discussed at the ACFS meeting in Orlando.

1. Budgetary Crisis: Faculty Senates should be involved in the budgetary process including faculty members on the campuses. Faculty cannot have input in the process if we choose not to be actively involved.
2. Tenure: some have the perception that once faculty members are granted tenure they become less productive. This is where the post-tenure review serves as a solution. It will provide an opportunity to re-evaluate tenured faculty members. One thing that needs to be done is that we need to get the Legislature to understand the issue of tenure.
3. The 40-hour work week: Politicians do not understand that the commitment to teaching, research and service requires more than just being in the office.
4. The Texas Plan – the President is very interested in their response to that plan in order to provide him with additional information for our response.
5. The creation of new stand-alone programs at SUS institutions. Right now, universities are being encouraged to have cooperative ventures. Too many universities are asking for new programs that are not feasible given the current makeup of the Legislature and ongoing fiscal crises.
6. The Governor would like to see greater emphasis on teaching. However, the political climate today borders on one that is anti-academic, especially towards the social sciences. We need to be in the forefront of challenging this misconception. We can do this successfully if we do so collectively.

A question was raised regarding who on the Faculty Senate is a member of the ACFS. Dr. Holder responded that in the past it has included the immediate past President, and the current President, as well as the Vice President of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Holder's view was challenged with regards to voting privileges on the ACFS. One member serves on the Board of Governors and out of that meeting comes decisions that must go to the Faculty Senate Dr. Holder said. It was suggested that we look at the Shared Governance Plan with intent on adoption and refinement.

When the Texas Plan was first discussed a few years ago we started to hear about the notion that we do not need tenured faculty at the universities. This also led to discussions about the role of the post-tenure review plan that was previously put together by Dr. Holder, Dr. Diallo and several others.

Dr. Diallo stated that when she was Faculty Senate President the only voting members on the ACFS were the current President and Vice President. Dr. Holder stated that during his tenure as Faculty Senate President we went back to the policy laid out in the Constitution of the ACFS in which the past President served as one of the two representatives from each university. Dr. Persaud assured Dr. Diallo that he would look at the Constitution of the ACFS and get clarification on the matter.

C. Report on the Texas Plan

Dr. Davenport stated that she had worked in Texas when this plan first came about under then Governor George Bush. She will send out the PowerPoint that she prepared in advance so that we can have intelligent discussion of the issues with the plan. Dr. Friday-Stroud asked for either a brief summary or context of the plan. Dr. Davenport stated that there were seven main points for the entire plan. One of the major points was the ideas of non-tenure and focusing on teaching students as our customers. President Persaud added that the plan also focus emphasis on the faculty members' teaching load. FAMU faculty is already carrying a heavier teaching load in comparison to FSU and the other SUS institutions.

Announcements

Kenyatta Rozier from SBI presented information for the Global Leadership Conference to be held April 18-20, 2012. A number of global leaders in their specific markets will be attending the Conference. The Conference will support FAMU's mission at the local, regional, and global levels. The Conference is also consistent with the University's Strategic Plan.

President Persaud reminded Senators to ask other Senators to participate in the meetings. If they are not interested then they should seek release from their position and allow someone else to serve who will actively participate. He also noted that there is an unfortunate tendency to overlook those at the Law School who remain an integral part of this University. The Senators from the Law School take the time to drive the significant distance to participate at the meetings. Senators local to Tallahassee need to participate as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dr. Cynthia Davis
Faculty Senate Secretary