

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 9, 2013

3 p.m. -- Lee Hall Auditorium

PRESIDING: *Dr. Narayan Persaud*, FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

Officers Present

Dr. Narayan Persaud, President
Dr. Dreamal Worthen, Vice President
Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian

Senators (Present)

Dr. Maria Diallo
Dr. Kyle Eidahl
Dr. David Jackson
Dr. Huberta Jackson-Lowman
Dr. Na'Imah Ford
Dr. Merlin Langley
Dr. Jermaine Robertson
Dr. Carol Scarlett
Dr. Lekan Latinwo
Dr. Jessse Edwards
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
Dr. Lambert Kanga
Dr. Violetka Colova
Dr. Margaret Gitau
Dr. Maurice Holder
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Dr. Perry Brown
Dr. Carl Moore
Dr. Primus Mtenga
Prof. Kandy Woods
Dr. Aurelia Alexander
Dr. Aretha Hill
Prof. Andrew Skerritt
Dr. Bettye Grable
Dr. Elijah Johnson
Ms. Jeneice Smith
Mrs. Ernestine Holmes

Senators (Absent)

Mrs. Marci Duncan
Ms. Edith Carnley
Dr. Desmond Stephens
Dr. Lavetta Henderson
Dr. Ann Cavazos
Dr. Nise Nekheba
Dr. Gervin Robertson
Mr. Sylvester Peck
Ms. Raquista Claitt
Dr. Ronald Lumpkin
Dr. Chao Li
Dr. Oliver Chamel
Dr. Angela Murphy
Dr. DeEdgra Williams

Senators (Excused)

Dr. Deidre Evans
Dr. Rufus Ellis
Dr. Angela Thornton
Dr. Roscoe Hightower
Dr. Sevilla Brinson
Dr. Marcia Owens

Ex-Officio (Voting) Absent

Dr. Donald Palm
Mrs. Brenda Wright

SGA (Voting) (Absent)

Mr. Evan Bailey

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Narayan Persaud at 3:19 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Drs. Persaud , Ebenezer Oriaku, Maurice Holder, Primus Mtenga , Hudson Nwakanma and other Senators agreed or offered comments that would support the idea of the Faculty Senate writing a statement and/or resolution recognizing the global impact, activities and accomplishments of the historic and recently deceased former President of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela.

Dr. Jermaine Robinson reported that he travelled to a university in a rural territory outside of Johannesburg, Africa, following President Mandela's rise to the presidency of South Africa. Dr. J. Robinson offered that he observed that "Nelson Mandela was the hope of the nation."

Dr. David Jackson raised his hand to call a point of order. He reminded Senators that a motion was on the floor that had not been acted on regarding the writing of the resolution. The motion was then seconded and carried. The resolution discussion continued. Dr. Jackson also suggested that the Faculty Senate coordinate any resolution or communication with the university so that only one such resolution/communication become written and offered by FAMU. He also asked where such a resolution would be sent. Dr. Mtenga suggested that the resolution be sent to the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. Drs. Latinwo, Holder and J.Robinson offered ideas regarding the content of the resolution.

Dr. Persaud reported to the Senate that Dr. Bettye Grable would serve as the secretary for today's meeting. Faculty Senate Secretary Dr. Joe Houston had a previous engagement and could not attend today's Senate meeting.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Dr. Dreamel Worthen moved that the meeting agenda be accepted and Dr. Maurice Holder seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Nov. 19th Meeting Minutes

Dr. Worthen moved that the Nov. 19th, 2013, meeting minutes be accepted with appropriate corrections. The motion was seconded and carried.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Curriculum Committee Report

Dr. Neil James offered a slate of approximately 22 courses consisting of New Course Requests (6), E-Course Requests (9) and Course Change Requests (7). Dr. Holder offered the motion to approve the six New Courses. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dr. Worthen offered the motion to approve the nine (9) E-Course requests. Her motion was seconded and carried. It is worth noting that the E-Course Requests represented courses that were already in the system.

A motion was offered, seconded and carried to approve all seven (7) Course Change Requests.

Dr. Latinwo stated that no information existed on who will teach these requested/changed courses listed on the Curriculum Committee Report. He offered that he would like to see a more detailed Curriculum Committee report that includes:

- 1) information about who will teach the courses being requested/changed,*
- 2) information that lets Senators know that enough faculty exist in the specified department to teach the requested/changed course(s),*

3) information explaining whether industry professionals will teach these courses, and

4) information suggesting whether potential industry professionals are qualified to teach the classes based on the faculty credentialing criteria.

NEW BUSINESS

Presidential Search

Dr. Persaud reported that at least five (5) additional candidates for the President's position were added to the list of presidential applicants. He said that those candidates are currently in positions and preferred not to be identified at this juncture of the search process.

*One question from the floor of the Senate meeting asked if Interim President **Dr. Larry Robinson** would be considered for the position. Dr. Persaud said that in August of 2012, Dr. Larry Robinson agreed to take the Interim President's position with the understanding that he would not be eligible to become an applicant for the permanent presidential job.*

Dr. Persaud said that the BOT will meet on Jan. 6th and that he would keep the Faculty Senate abreast of the activities related to the presidential search process. He added that he wanted Senators to know that their comments are important regarding the presidential search process.

Dr. William Guzman suggested that the University consider not offering an evergreen contract to the next president like the one that was provided to President James Ammons upon his selection as FAMU President.

Dr. Worthen stated that the FAMU president's contract is negotiated between the BOT Chair, President-Elect and the President-Elect's attorney.

Dr. Holder stated that FAMU needs stability after having an interim president for approximately 18 months.

Dr. Nwakanma asked Dr. Persaud to please share with the rest of the BOT membership that the faculty expects them to consider merit in the selection of the next FAMU president. Nwakanma added that if the search is national to make sure the process reflects a national search.

Dr. Persaud said a national search is a national search and does not come back home to the university.

Dr. Jermaine Robinson offered that a national search should be national, and asked would a national search preclude Dr. Larry Robinson from being considered for the position.

Dr. Persaud stated that the University needs to focus more on what FAMU's needs are. He agreed with Dr. Holder that the process should not continue to linger semester after semester. He added that FAMU was founded on the basis of disadvantaged students. That fact according to Dr. Persaud represents a different reality from what may have been the case for other Florida SUS schools. He believes that the selected candidate for FAMU President needs the best advocate for the institution.

Dr. Guzman said that in looking at the Tallahassee Democrat's list of candidates, some applicants do not come from a traditional background. Some applicants come from a political arena. He believes that the search for candidates should focus on the university's longevity and the need for fundraising.

Dr. Persaud stated that the list of candidates is not limited to the list published in the Tallahassee Democrat. He said that the applicant search is open until it closes. He went on to say that some candidates have been nominated, however they have not submitted a formal application. He also said that political preferences are already a part of the process, but that he will not make his selection on such a basis. Dr.

Persaud said that he would base his selection more on addressing student support to aid students in progressing academically. He stated that he is also concerned about paychecks for faculty.

Student Problems

Dr. Mtenga and other Senators offered their concerns about the delay students face regarding the release of students' financial aid. Several Senators believe that faculty should bring such issues to the attention of the administration. Dr. Nwakanma said that because FAMU is not responsible toward students in the timely distribution of the student's financial aid, students go elsewhere. In addition, he offered that the candidate chosen for the position of FAMU President should respect the suggestions offered by the faculty related to students' progress in the academy.

Dr. Dreamel Worthen retires from the position of Faculty Senate Vice President

Dr. Persaud reported that Dr. Worthen will retire from the University and the Vice President's position in the Faculty Senate this month. She has diligently served as a faculty member at FAMU for 30 years. The Faculty Senate wishes her well during her retirement.

Adjournment

A motion was offered and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 3:00 p.m. in Lee Hall auditorium.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Bettye A. Grable