

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Tuesday, January 21, 2014
3:00p.m. – 5:00p.m., Lee Hall Auditorium
Dr. Narayan Persaud, Presiding

Officers Present

Dr. Narayan Persaud, President
Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian
Dr. Joe Ann Houston, Secretary

Senators (Present)

Dr. Mary Diallo
Dr. Marci Duncan
Dr. Kyle Eidahl
Dr. Huberta Jackson-Lowman
Dr. Na’Imah Ford
Dr. Merlin Langley
Dr. Deidre Evans
Dr. Lekan Latinwo
Dr. Desmond Stephens
Dr. Jesse Edwards
Dr. Rufus Ellis
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
Dr. Lambert Kanga
Dr. Margaret Gitau
Dr. Ann Marie Cavazos
Dr. Nise Nekheba
Dr. Gervin Robertson
Dr. Maurice Holder
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Dr. Perry Brown
Dr. Angela Thornton
Dr. Primus Mtenga
Prof. Kandy Woods
Dr. Aurelia Alexander
Dr. Ronald Lumpkin
Dr. Chao Li
Dr. Roscoe Hightower
Prof. Andrew Skerritt
Dr. Bettye Grable
Dr. Marcia Owens
Mrs. Ernestine Holmes

Senators (Absent)

Ms. Edith Carnley
Dr. Jermaine Robertson
Dr. David Jackson
Dr. Carol Scarlett
Dr. Violetka Colova
Mr. Sylvester Peck
Ms. Raquista Claitt
Dr. Oliver Chamel
Dr. Angela Murphy
Dr. DeEdgra Williams
Dr. Uloma Onubogu
Dr. Sevilla Bronson
Dr. Elijah Johnson

Senators (Excused)

Dr. Lavetta Henderson
Dr. Carl Moore
Dr. Aretha Hill
Ms. Jeneice Smith

Ex-Officio (Voting)(Present)

Dr. Donald Palm

Ex-Officio (Voting)(Absent)

Mrs. Faye Watkins

SGA (Voting)(Absent)

Mr. Evan Bailey

The Faculty Senate opened at 3:30 when it was ascertained there was a quorum present. President/Senator Persaud gave opening remarks. He stressed the need for senators to be present on times when the Senate meets. He also discussed the need for faculty to work together to improve the overall climate of the University.

It was motioned and seconded the agenda be approved. The motion carried.

It was motioned and seconded the minutes of the December, 2013 meeting be approved with corrections if any. The motion carried.

Dr. Neil James then gave a report from the Curriculum Committee. It was motioned and seconded the report for a new track in Electronic Music be approved. The motion carried. It was moved and seconded to establish a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction. The motion carried.

The parliamentarian was asked to conduct an election for a vice president. Senators Perry Brown and Betty Grabble were nominated. It was motioned and seconded the nomination be closes on the two names. The motion carried. It was agreed to vote by ballots. Senator Grabble was elected to complete the term of Senator Dreamel Worthen, who retired in December, 2013.

President/Senator Persaud gave remarks about the process in the presidential search. He mentioned the difficulty of conducting this search because of the Sunshine Law. He also reported that President-Elect Mangum is currently in contract negotiations with the BOT.

Senator Diallo said we should be cautious about trying to circumvent the Sunshine Law as it applies to presidential searches. She noted that both FSU and UF had been able to select viable candidates within the sunshine.

Senator Davenport then reported about the efforts of the United Faculty to negotiate faculty salary increases. He reported that FAMU was the only university that did not give additional increases beyond the \$1,000 increase from the state; she did report, however, the faculty in Pharmacy will be receiving salary increases. She encouraged all faculty to get involved with this process.

Senator Holder talked about the working conditions, and Senator Latinwo asked what the senators could do to help the Union advocate for salaries.

Senator Davenport also reported there will be a \$600 bonus in the spring based on last year's evaluations. Senator Owens then asked about evaluations.

Senator Perry Brown pointed out that faculty in the College of Pharmacy will be given increases because of the accreditation.

It was motioned and seconded a resolution be sent to the administration asking that the university collective bargaining team be required to come to the table and work in "good faith" to complete contract negotiations within 90 days. Senator Holder then offered a friendly amendment that was accepted. This amendment added that three people from the Senate would prepare the resolution and would then advise the Senate on future actions to be taken. Question was called on the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Drs. Houston, Latinwo and Holder will craft the resolution.

Next item on the agenda was the move to a plus/minus grading system. Senator Hightower re-capped his original suggestion. President/Senator Persaud said this item would have to go to the Policy Committee. Discussion occurred. Finally, Senator Davenport agreed to work on this issue and report back to the Senate.

Senator Latinwo then brought up the inequities in the Faculty Meal Plan. It was agreed that President/Senator Persaud would send a letter to the current contractor addressing this issue. A motion was made and seconded to send a memo to Assistant Vice President Donald Palm asking him to investigate a resolution to this issue. The motion carried.

In response to a question, Dr. Palm reported that enrollment on January 13, 2014 was approximately 10,000.

Senator Diallo asked the senators to read the speech given by the new chairman of the Board of Governors.

It was motioned and seconded the Senate be adjourned. The motion carried.

Submitted,

Joe A. Houston,
Recorder