

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 15, 2011
3:00 – 5:00 pm, Lee Hall Auditorium
Dr. Maurice Holder, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Officers (Present)

Dr. Maurice Holder, President
Dr. Gwendolyn Singleton, Vice President
Mrs. Jeneice Smith, Secretary
Mr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian

Senators (Present)

Dr. Ngozi Ugochukwu
Dr. Bettye Grable
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Dr. Cynthia Davis
Dr. Phyllis Smith
Dr. Lekan Latinwo
Dr. Desmond Stephens
Dr. Mary Diallo
Dr. Adrian McCollum
Dr. Gary Paul
Dr. Kandy Woods
Dr. Narayan Persaud
Mrs. Almeta Washington
Prof. Thomas Pugh
Dr. Alice Rozier
Dr. Roscoe Hightower
Dr. Janet Marshall
Ms. Raquista Claitt
Dr. LaRae Donnellan
Dr. Elijah Johnson

Dr. Gloria Aguilar
Dr. Charles Magee
Dr. Tshaka Randall
Dr. Edward Jones
Ms. Ernestine Holmes
Dr. Frances Stallworth
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
Dr. Primus Mtenga
Dr. Clyde Ashley
Dr. Carl Moore
Dr. Renee Reams
Dr. Rufus Ellis
Dr. Dreamal Worthen
Dr. Angela Murphy
Dr. Lambert Kanga
Dr. Uloma Onubogu
Mr. Sylvester Peck, Sr.
Dr. Velma Roberts
Dr. Marcia Owens

Senators (Excused)

Dr. Marian Smith
Prof. Beth Lewis
Ms. Linda Williams
Dr. Kinfe Redda

Ex-Officio (Voting) (Present)

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

Call to Order:

The Faculty Senate Meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm by Dr. Maurice Holder, Faculty Senate President.

Opening Remarks:

- The minutes were sent out electronically. Hopefully you have had a chance to call in your concerns, if you had any.
- My opening remarks are extensive today, I might have to take up a whole 1 ½ hours. The first thing I want to do is welcome you to the March meeting of the senate. There is only one item which I really would like to see completed before I leave office, and I am going to work on that arduously between now and the retreat so that I can get that item done. I honor and respect those individuals who served in this capacity before me, Dr. Diallo, Dr. Theodore Hemmingway and other presidents.
- A lot of things are happening in the state. One is the attempt to remove the union. I stress that you cannot let that happen. We must not let that happen. We must bind together as a faculty. Please encourage your colleagues to join the union. During my course as faculty senate president, one of the things I learned going to several meetings across the campus, is that at the University campus you must have a strong union, strong faculty and strong administration, such that the three of them can interact for the betterment of the campus.
- Remind your colleagues and deans that the elections for senators for next year, must be done in April. The names of the new senators must be submitted to the office of the provost. The provost appoints senators to this body.
- Restructuring and reevaluation is something that is upon us. I know that when the President comes in he will be talking to you about what efforts are out there and what new plans are being added to the ones that you were able to give advice to. The BOT will make a decision on the first week of April relative to the President's report on restructuring. If you have not yet voiced an opinion, please do so today by going forward during the President's questioning and answering or by some other means.
- Dr. Palm was thanked for his support over the years. Dr. Holder stated that he is looking forward to serving as our representative in the next year at the Association of Faculty Advisory Forum. Past-Presidents have one more year to serve in that Body. We have three brilliant representatives on that body, myself, Dr. Worthen and Dr. Singleton. Dr. Worthen will now be taking her leave of that position and it will be myself and Dr. Singleton remaining.
- Dr. Holder concluded his remarks by asking the senators to please remember that our retreat is coming. Dr. Reams and Dr. Thornton are the retreat chairpersons. They have already started to plan an agenda for the retreat, which will be that first week in May. Send all ideas about the retreat to Mrs. Bruce in the faculty senate office.

The Parliamentarian, Dr. James Muchovej, announced that a quorum had been reached. Dr. Holder presented one change to be made on the agenda in Item 7, section C – The Professor Emeritus committee has not met to make any deliberations on the three candidates being put forward for Professor Emeritus. We expect that we will ask the vice-chair of the committee, since the chair has been out of the country since January, to look at the professor emeritus or appoint a vice-chairman. Under the Honorary Doctorate, we have 4 candidates we want to present to you that have been approved by the committee. Strike item 7C from the agenda. The chair will entertain a motion to accept the agenda for today. It was so moved and seconded to accept the agenda. The motion was approved. Noting that the President had arrived, Dr. Holder stated that after the President's remarks, we will have the nominations and the election process conducted by the Parliamentarian.

Administration Remarks

The podium was turned over to the President, Dr. James Ammons for his comments. After greeting the senate body, Dr. Ammons began his remarks by stating that he hoped everyone enjoyed spring break. Part of his spring break included going across the state recruiting outstanding talent to the campus.

- Somewhere in the neighborhood of 1.5 million dollars were awarded in scholarships as the group traveled to place such as The Villages, Winter Haven, Naples, Fort Myers, Saint Petersburg, and Miami. The President expressed his hope in seeing the fruit of the group's labor come next fall.
 - Dr. Ammons also mentioned a 10th grader in Leesburg. This student is already working to secure a patent for a strain of staph bacteria that has become resistant to commonly used antibiotics. As we speak, she is on her way to an international science competition having won at all of the lower levels. Although she is in 10th grade, we offered her the Life gets Better Scholarship. We are hoping that when she finishes high school, she will remember who offered her first, Florida A&M University. It was a great experience for us and I think it was a great experience for the students and families we encountered.
 - We are in the final stage of drafting the restructuring and reinvestment report. Thanks to everyone for your participation and input. Having just come in from a visit to the Legislature, I must say that it was not all that encouraging, what we are hearing and what may happen in this session of the legislature. We must continue to be focused on what we do both academically & administratively. I did talk with them about what our top five priorities are here at FAMU.
1. Our number one priority is to continue to be able to address statewide professional health care workforce needs. Through our College of Pharmacy, and Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Institute of Public Health, the School of Nursing, School of Allied Health Sciences, we have been producing healthcare professionals for this state and this nation since

1904. For those of you who may not know it, the FAMU School of Nursing is the oldest school of nursing in the State of Florida, beginning back in 1904. We think that we have a solid foundation upon which to build to continue to produce healthcare professionals who are going to be focused on health care disparities.

2. Our next priority is to increase undergraduate retention. For the first priority, we are asking the legislature for 3.5 million dollars to help us to continue to address healthcare disparities. Secondly, we are asking for 1.3 million dollars to allow FAMU to continue to work to increase undergraduate retention and graduation. The Florida Board of Governors has set increasing the number of bachelor degrees awarded in Florida as a key strategic goal. The first step in increasing degrees is to increase retention. This funding that we are requesting will allow us to boost our retention rate by enhancing student support programs and advising programs that help students choose the right major and ensure courses are available when needed. Many of FAMU students are from disadvantaged backgrounds. Many are the first in their families to attend college and require additional nurturing and support. This funding will give us the ability to implement targeted enhancements that will increase retention and the University's graduation rate.
3. We are asking for funding, \$275,000, to enhance doctoral degree production research. Recently, FAMU was ranked #1 by the National Academies of Science and Engineering in producing graduates who go on to earn PhDs in science and engineering. We are seeking to train and retain more of these PhD recipients here in the state of Florida. We think that by holding on to these graduates, it will help us to expand Florida's knowledge base and make Florida more attractive to employers and bring new jobs to the state of Florida.
4. Next, we are asking for ½ million dollars to increase international opportunities. We are committed to preparing our students to engage in the global community. We recognize that it is important for graduates to have access to practical international experiences that will lead to successful careers, both in the country and abroad. These initiatives will increase the numbers of students and faculty participating in international exchanges, study abroad, etc. Another activity will increase the language offerings for emerging foreign powers. The University will develop international programs in conjunction with USAID. These services will enhance the global perspective of our students as well as the faculty.
5. Our last top priority is to initiate online degree programs. We are asking the legislature to fund this initiative with 1 million dollars. More and more working adults and military personnel, throughout the world, seek to upgrade their skills and achieve their personal goals for advanced training and higher education. FAMU seeks to offer innovative educational options to meet their needs by offering online programs and accelerated academic programs. When we receive this funding, and I

hope we will, it will allow us to upgrade our technology infrastructure and our learning management system so that we can deliver the kinds of online instruction that Floridians demand. Those of you who gave us input into restructuring, these sounds familiar to you. All these issues were a part of the input from the university community. There are others that are not a part of these priorities. We tried to incorporate the needs of the campus based on input we received from our stakeholders to include faculty in this legislative budget request. We are hoping that somehow, the legislature will find the funding to continue to enhance our University system and allow us to reach some of the goals we have set here at Florida A&M University.

At the conclusion of his remarks, President Ammons entertained questions from the senate floor. Addressing the President, Dr. Clyde Ashley asked Dr. Ammons to elaborate on his comment about not being optimistic about the Legislature. The response was that some of what he heard wasn't as good as we would like it to be, but we recognize the state of the economy. Also, theirs is a tough job with all of the competing demands and trying to address a 3.5 billion dollar hole in the budget.

Dr. Ashley asked what can we do as faculty, as Florida A&M to protect education and have them see it as an investment both short term and long term? The President stated that we can write to members of our delegation. Thank them for their support. Second, impress upon them, that FAMU has been helpful in educating citizens in the State of Florida. Relate the priorities we have at FAMU. Stress that FAMU is a place that wants to contribute to the well being of the State of Florida.

Dr. Holder added that we should remember that FAMU is part of a system. Whatever the legislature or the governor does, they generally do it with the belief that they are doing it to the system. So as we make any kind of approaches to the legislature we have to remind them that the educational system of Florida cannot suffer anymore, and that includes Florida A&M University which has suffered longer than most of them.

Next, Dr. Holder asked Dr. Muchovej to come forward to conduct the elections.

Dr. Clyde Ashley stated that he rises to address the email he sent to Dr. Holder on March 9th, indicating that he had concerns about Dr. Muchovej conducting this session because of comments he made. He asked that Dr. Holder give this consideration. Dr. Ashley further stated that he had received an email from Dr. Muchovej indicating that technically speaking you can only be a candidate once you are nominated on Tuesday. Even though he is technically correct, that the email was not sent to other candidates and at our last meeting we were told that those interested in running for an office could make contact with our colleagues and send out information and a number of people did that, but Dr. Muchovej opted to send the email only to Dr. Ashley. Dr. Ashley expressed concerns about Dr. Muchovej's objectivity. He stated that if we are

going to elect candidates we need to insure that the process is fair and objective. Dr. Dr. Holder explained to Dr. Ashley that he believes that Dr. Muchovej was advising him and not performing an official act of the senate. The senate operates according to a constitution. The Parliamentarian's job includes conducting elections and because of Dr. Muchovej's long standing on this campus, as a fair individual in conducting several of our past elections, Dr. Holder ruled that he will continue to do what he has always done to have a fair election under the auspices and guidance of Dr. Muchovej. That does not need to be put to a vote, this is his decision. Dr. Muchovej was called to conduct the election.

Dr. Muchovej stated that we are going to elect a faculty senate president, vice-president and secretary for the next two years. The process is to be done by ballot. Voting is conducted by ballots with offices listed. Voting senators are to write the name of the individual on the ballot. The vote must be 50 % + 1 to elect. Nominations will come from the floor. No second is necessary. If a nominee does not wish to serve, they must withdraw their name immediately. Dr. Mary Diallo volunteered to serve today as a Deputy Parliamentarian. Voting senators were asked to move to the center aisle. The floor was opened for nominations for the office of President of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Persuad, Dr. Gwendolyn Singleton and Dr. Clyde Ashley were nominated. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed on the three said names. The motion carried. The nominees were given 3 minutes each to make a presentation. Dr. Ashley, Dr. Persuad and Dr. Singleton presented in that order. Ballots were circulated and counted.

While the counting was taking place, Dr. Donnellan asked if all faculty, not just tenured faculty, were eligible to vote in April for faculty senators from the departments and units. Dr. Holder confirmed that this is correct. All faculty are eligible to vote for senators from the departments. Dr. Donnellan, advisor for the FAMU Green Coalition and the chair of the Faculty Senate Green Committee, announced that the FAMU Green Committee is hoping to take a bus load of students to Washington on April 15th -18th. They will be joining more than 10,000 students at the 2011 Power Shift Conference. Students interested in going can come to the FAMU Green Coalition meeting on Thursday at 6:00 pm in School of Journalism & Graphic Communication Lecture hall. The trip will be paid for in advance, so the students will have to do some volunteer work and be committed to bring back what they learned. In the interest of time, Dr. McCollum asked if we can go through the other items on the agenda. Dr. Holder conferred with the Parliamentarian to see if we could move through the agenda while waiting on the election results. Also, Dr. McCollum reminded the body that we had not approved the minutes and that is on the agenda before the elections. The chair stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes. It was so moved and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Under Continuing Business, Dr. Edington was not present to make a report from the Curriculum committee. Dr. Latinwo was not ready to make a report. Dr. Perry Brown did not make a report on the Teacher of the Year. Dr. Stallworth stated there was one

candidate for Advanced Teacher of the Year, Dr. Gokhan Hacisalihoglu and the name has been sent to the provost office.

The results from the elections were announced as Dr. Ashley – 7; Dr. Persaud – 21; Dr. Singleton – 15. We will have a run-off between Dr. Persaud and Dr. Singleton. The ballots were distributed for the run-off.

In Dr. Langley's absence, for the Honorary Doctorate Committee, Dr. Holder stated that this requires a vote by the senate. There were 5 candidates for the Honorary Doctorate Degree. One name was withdrawn. The 4 names recommended are President Obama, Lisa Jackson, Mr. Melvin Triplett and T'Keyah Crystal Keymah. Dr. Holder said that after the reading of the results, he would ask for a motion to approve these 4 candidates separately or collectively. It was so moved by Dr. Ashley and seconded by Dr. Palm to accept all four of the candidates. The motion carried. The names will be sent forward.

The results of the 42 ballots casted, with 26 votes, Dr. Persaud is elected as the next Faculty Senate President. Dr. Persaud was invited to make a thank you speech.

Next, the floor was opened for nominations for Vice-President of the faculty senate. Nominated were Dr. Carl Moore and Dr. Dreamal Worthen. There was a motion to close nominations. This was declined by the Parliamentarian and Dr. Gwendolyn Singleton was nominated. There was a motion and a second to close nominations. The motion carried. In alphabetical order, the nominees made 3 minute presentations to the senate. The ballots were distributed.

Under the heading of New Business, Dr. Davenport was asked to make a presentation from the Union. She stated that we need to be at 50% by July 1. Your rights for tenure, your rights for due process and grievances all come from collective bargaining and if you don't think they are important then don't join the union. She said that she lives in the real world, and you must join the union.

Of the 43 votes casted, 22 votes are needed to elect. The results of the vice-presidential elections were 8 votes for Dr. Carl Moore, 15 votes for Dr. Gwendolyn Singleton and 20 votes for Dr. Dreamal Worthen. There will be a run-off between Dr. Singleton and Dr. Worthen. The results of the run-off are 20 votes for Dr. Singleton and 22 votes for Dr. Worthen. Dr. Dreamal Worthen is elected as the next Vice-President of the Faculty Senate.

The floor was opened for nominations for secretary of the faculty senate. Nominated were Mrs. Jeneice Smith, who respectfully declined and Dr. Cynthia Davis. No other nominations were made. There was a motion to close nominations on the said name. With only one name, Dr. Cynthia Davis is the next secretary of the faculty senate.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the faculty senate, the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Submitted by,

Jeneice Smith, Faculty Senate Secretary
Rebecca Bruce, Office Manager