

Faculty Senate Minutes
Tuesday, March 20 2012
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
Mr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian
Dr. Cynthia Davis, Secretary

Senators (Present)

Dr. Roscoe Hightower	Dr. Bettye Grable
Dr. Charles Magee	Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Dr. Tshaka Randall	Dr. Cynthia Davis
Dr. Lekan Latinwo	Dr. Frances Stallworth
Dr. David Jackson	Dr. Edward Jones
Dr. Narayan Persaud	Dr. Kyle Eidahl
Dr. Adrian McCollum	Dr. Lewis Johnson
Dr. Angela Thornton	Prof. Beth Lewis
Dr. Adrienne Cooper	Dr. Elijah Johnson
Prof. Kandy Woods	Prof. Aurelia Alexander
Dr. DeEdgra Williams	Ms. Jeneice Smith
Ms. Ernestine Holmes	Dr. Pat Broussard
Dr. NgoziUgochukwu	Mrs. Almeta Washington
Dr. Gervin Robertson	Dr. Renee Reams
Dr. NazariusLamango	Dr. Marcia Owens
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport	Dr. Angela Murphy
Dr. Desmond Stephens	Dr. Rufus Ellis
Dr. Carl Moore	Dr. Hudson Nwakanma

Senators (Absent)

Dr. Gloria Aguilar	Dr. Gary Paul
Dr. Peter Kalu	Lt. Diana Hess
Mrs. Brenda Bryant	Prof. Chao Li
Dr. Christopher Ikediobi	Dr. Uloma Onubogu

Senators (Excused)

Dr. Mary Diallo
Dr. Gwendolyn Singleton
Dr. Lambert Kanga
Prof. Thomas Pugh
Dr. Endya Stewart
Dr. LaRae Donnellan

Ex-Officio (Voting)(Present)

Dr. Uche Ohia
Dr. Lauren Sapp

The Faculty Senate meeting began at 3:25p.m.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Persaud acknowledged the dedication and perseverance of many of the faculty on campus. He called attention to the dedication shown by Drs. Aguilar, Skerritt and Ohia.

- ✓ Dr. Gloria Aguilar has faced several teaching challenges this semester due to the broken elevator in her building. Dr. Aguilar utilized Blackboard to prevent cancelling classes when her request for repairing the elevator went unheeded.
- ✓ Dr. Andrew Skerritt has instilled in his Journalism students the necessity to report on topics that may be provocative and sensitive and to do so with journalistic integrity and commitment to the Truth.
- ✓ Dr. Uche Ohia will soon retire from FAMU, and we should not forget or ignore her contributions to ensure that the University's accreditation was fully restored when we were SACSED five years ago, a term Dr. Persaud made up before the meeting.

Agenda for the day's meeting was approved at 3:30 p.m.

February Minutes were approved with necessary corrections.

Administration Remarks

Dr. Persaud announced that President Ammons would not be at the meeting. However, the new Provost or the old Provost, (depending on how long you've been at FAMU), Dr. Larry Robinson was present to make remarks.

Dr. Robinson stated his pleasure to serve as the new-old Provost. Hopefully, he said, he will get things right. He expressed thanks to Dr. Ammons for having the confidence in him to serve as provost. He also thanked Dr. Hughes-Harris for her work over the last four to five years. He acknowledged budgetary challenges in the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and expressed relief that the \$19.8 million in budgetary reduction does not come from FAMU's base recurring budget. He is working on a plan to stem the fiscal situation. There is an expectation that we are going to have to generate this \$19.8 million from additional student fees which will be hard on our students and parents. "We are working on a plan and will be very transparent as we move forward in this process."

Dr. Robinson commended Dr. Ohia for her services to FAMU. He noted that he hired her and is pleased to see where she has taken the assessment office. Dr. Robinson also recognized the work of Dr. Pitter. There are still things that need to be done, he emphasized. "It is very important to recognize the demand of those positions and the importance of having the people with the expertise to meet the challenges and can help us pull us out of the situation we found ourselves in 2007. Assessment is something that we have to do on a continual basis not just right before a site visit."

Provost Robinson also noted that he and President Ammons will be spending days in Orlando at the Law School to meet with the accreditation team, noting the critical importance of the visit. "We know how critical these visits are. Tomorrow the President and many members of the Leadership team are headed to Jacksonville for the Board of Governors meeting where they will be developing a new set of metrics. They are looking at new metrics, such as community service, to see what we

are doing with our students outside the classroom. We will be planning how to be compliant with these new criteria that the Board will impose over the next year. We also have some FAMU specific items to address at the Board of Governors' meeting. There are two fee increases that will be presented to the Board of Governors as well; one at the Law School and one in PT to be used to better prepare students for licensure exams."

Dr. Robinson informed the faculty senate that last Friday was the first meeting of the FAMU Anti-hazing Committee via telephone conference. The committee discussed some of the constraints of having to complete its work in the short time frame given. Members hope to call a meeting with the Board to discuss their deliberations and the need for additional considerations to accomplish their task.

Dr. Robinson reminded all that there is an active solicitation for the Anti-hazing Research Initiative; the closing deadline is on April 16th. Attendance at the two information sessions on the initiative was not overwhelming but it did demonstrate that there are some very committed people with creative ideas about helping the faculty to become major players in the scholarly discussions about hazing across the country. Many people will be looking at FAMU as a testing ground for their own work. We want to make sure that we are part of the intellectual solution to this fairly persistent problem of hazing.

Dr. Robinson pledged to work with the Faculty Senate as he did when he served previously as Provost. He remarked on the irony that the first body he spoke to in 2003 was at the Faculty Senate Retreat in the Teleconference Center, and his first public presentation of his second time around as the Provost is before the Faculty Senate. He stated that we cannot get anything done without a high quality faculty who provides the essence of what we are about, - providing world class educational experiences for our students. He thanked the faculty and then opened the floor for questions. No one had questions at that time.

Dr. Persaud reminded Faculty Senators that when Dr. Robinson served as Provost before he was always willing to listen to faculty concerns.

Continuing Business

Curriculum Committee (see handout)

There were eight course requests:

- ✓ School of Journalism new course request PUR 3401 Critical Issues in Public Relations
- ✓ Two new course requests from COPPS/Institute of Public Health PHC 6XXX Public Health Seminar for the Health Professional and PHC 6XXX Foundations of Public Health Ethics and Social Justice
- ✓ Agriculture and Food Sciences/Agribusiness new course request AEB 5645 Economic Development and Agriculture; and,
- ✓ Four courses requests from the College of Engineering/Civil and Environmental Engineering:
 - ✓ Two new course requests CGN 3501L Civil and Engineering Materials Laboratory, CGN 3XXXL Environmental and Hydraulics Engineering Laboratory;
 - ✓ New course prerequisites for EES 3040 Introduction to Environmental Engineering; and,
 - ✓ A course name change from CGN 2022C Site Investigation to CGN 2022C Introduction to Geometrics

After a number of questions from faculty regarding the similarity of the CGN3501L and CGN 3XXXL to existing courses (one being a Hydraulics course and Hydraulics and Engineering Lab) on campus the course request was tabled until April so that the two units will work together to identify any differences in the course descriptions and if there was a need to create two new courses. The remaining six course requests were approved.

There were four program requests:

School of Allied Health/Division of Physical Therapy has two program requests

- The creation of two eight week terms during the spring semester so that students can take the didactic lecture-based course before they take the clinical course. Currently they are registering for both the clinical and didactic courses for the same semester. The didactic lecture is taught in the first 8 weeks and then the clinical in the second 8 weeks. The didactic lecture should be a prerequisite for the clinical. It really is not appropriate to have the students register for a course that they have not completed the prerequisites. Due to the number of courses in the program's curriculum it was easier to make the structural change so that there were be two mini-terms, similar to the way we do the summer semester. This allows control of who is taking the clinical course based on who has met the prerequisite and skill competencies. This request was approved
- School of Allied Health/Division of Occupational Therapy wants to convert the 3 +3 Bachelors/Master Program back to the traditional undergrad and graduate(4 + 2.5) sequence. The request was approved
- CAS and College of Law with the creation of an Accelerated (3+3)Legal Scholars Program. Certain students will be able to start LawSchool after the end of their third year in the undergrad program and then apply to graduate from undergrad after their first year in the Law School. This request includes many programs including the School of the Environment. The accepted majors at this time are the BS in Political Science, the B.S. in History, the B.S. in AfricanAmericanStudies, the B.S.in Sociology, and the B.S. in Criminal Justice. Dr. Owens from the School of the Environment asked for clarification regarding the curriculums submitted. There is still work to be done to with theEnvironmental Sciences curriculum that did not meet the required 90 credit hours. Therefore the proposal as presented doesinclude the Environmental Sciences which will need to submit a revised curriculum. The requestfor the new program was approved
- Pharmacy to offer a new B.S.degree in the Pharmaceutical Sciences. There was a subcommittee that looked at the impact on other units on campus that would be impacted by the change to get their input. There was a lot of feedback on an earlier version and the College went back and revised their proposal based on the input. The request was approved.

Senate Council Updates

Dr. Persaud stated that he is very proud of the six Councils' progress in getting input from others to refine the Senate's decisions.

Faculty Welfare and Relations --Dr. Grable reported that the Council will meet again this month, and that the research award committee reviews is in progress

IT Council --Dr. Eidahl announced that the Council had a very busy month. The members met with President Ammons on the 22nd and then met with VP Hardee and Robert Seniors. The meeting went well and the Council was able to solicit faculty input in the technology decisions that will be made in the future. EIT was very enthusiastic about working with the faculty in identifying technology that will be helpful in the classroom and having input on what would be important investments. Council members also had a discussion about the technology related to Distance Learning? A committee has been formed. Dr. Eidahl asked faculty to let him or Dr. Lewis Johnson know if they are interested in being members of that committee. It is important to have faculty input in the decisions being put in place He also asked that we let them know about concerns or questions that faculty would like to have addressed. The Council does not want to limit the input to just the committee but to include other faculty that have an interest in the technology.

Shared Governance Council—Dr. Angela Thornton reported that the Council met on March fifth in the faculty senate office. She hopes to get a list of all on-going search committees to ensure that Faculty Senate input is present for each committee, especially the Dean searches. They are working on a survey and a SWAT analysis on the Faculty Senate level regarding issues with faculty participation on committees.

Institutional Policies Council—the new Incomplete-Grade policies was discussed. The previous version looked good but one part regarding that the fact that the student must have an agreement in writing of what they need to complete to remove the incomplete was questioned. Dr. Edington explained that providing the documentation is required but that the necessary documentation handout does not need to be that detailed. He will work with individual units to ensure that each unit has a satisfactory process.

Dr. Hightower asked about the last day of attendance also being applied to the "I" as well as the "F" grade. Dr. Edington explained that the "WF" policy is not being voted on today. There are some other changes coming up so that we can track when a student stops coming to class. This information is needed to comply with federal financial aid guidelines. We need to implement some internal measures to keep track of students that fall into the different categories. Dr. Adrienne Cooper questioned the use of the "PN" ('passing but not proficient') designation (see handout) as a result of a review of our internal policies and what was going on in the physical therapy program. The student can get a C but not be proficient enough to go out and do clinical. The "PN" grade allows the faculty to make this distinction and to address the needs of those students that need additional time. What had been occurring was that the students were given an "I" when they need to address specific deficiencies? This however is not an appropriate use of the "I" grade.

Dr. Pitter clarified that other units outside of physical therapy will not be able to use this grade. There are some limitations in setting up a grading system. Dr. Friday Stroud clarified that this designation will only be allowed for clinical courses in physical therapy. The Register will further clarify this issue. This is a temporary grade like the "I". There was a question on what happens to the PN grade when a student transfers to another program on campus. Linda Barge Miles further clarified that the "I" should only be used when the student experiences something beyond their control. Dr. Friday Stroud emphasized that the crux of the issue was that the student completed the

course but did not have the 100% proficiency needed to go out to in the field to complete the clinical sequence.

Dr. Worthen suggested that there needs to be a notation on the transcript regarding proficiency. For instance, what if the student leaves and then comes back and the temporary grade changes to the passing grade of C. How will the lack of proficiency be recognized? Dr. Edington clarified that the proficiency needs to be demonstrated prior to taking additional coursework. It will be up to the student to demonstrate that they have attained that proficiency. Dr. Muchovej asked about how the grade reverts to a letter grade.

Students must complete all courses and some courses are offered only once a year. The accrediting body requires that the program give the student remediation within a reasonable time. Physical therapy has been trying to get the university to have grading guidelines that are consistent with their discipline instead of making themselves fit into the traditional grading procedures. This issue is unique to us at the university, but not unique to the field at other universities across the country.

A faculty member asked why the handout reads that the "PN" grade would revert to an "F" if the student was passing the class. Correction will be made to the policy to reflect that the grade will revert to the grade that the student has earned. A new section "C" was added to the policy. If approved today the Board of Trustees will take this up in their April meeting and will have it on record when SACS comes in April. Dr. Worthen moved that the policy be accepted pending necessary modifications to the language regarding the reversion of the "PN" grade to the earned grade. This motion was approved.

There were several questions from Faculty regarding the academic freedom and the role of the Chairs or Deans in relation to not signing off on grade change. When grade changes were not honored, grievances have been filed, with some students complaining to SACS or other entities.

Dr. Edington says that this new policy gives Chairs some written/published policy that they can use when asked to sign off on grade changes and to ensure that higher administration supports the Chairs' decisions.

Student Relations Council--Dr. Persaud explained that FAMU students are competing against other HBCUs to win money from Home Depot through their Retool Your School Competition and requested that faculty go to the Home Depot site and vote.

Budget Council--Dr. Hightower said his Budget Council has been in a holding pattern pending the completion of the legislative session and the passage of the budget. The legislative session ended around March ninth, and the budget should be rolling down in the next few weeks. The Council will have something valuable to report soon. Dr. Persaud said that VP Hardee has expressed her willingness to meet with the Budget Council and to address their questions and concerns.

Professor Emeritus Committee--Dr. Hines, chair of the committee was absent. Five professors were identified for Professor Emeritus status. All identified were approved except the librarian who would be reviewed at a later date pending policy revisions. Dr. Worthen said that we need approval from the Senate in order to recognize the selected individuals during the April Commencement.

The individuals being considered are Dr. Joseph Johnson (Arts & Sciences--Physics), Dr. Manuel Pascador (Agriculture), Dr. Ralph Flowers (Agriculture), Dr. Charles Coultus, Mr. Vincent Blyden (Journalism) and the one from the library is pending. This motion for the five Professor Emeritus recognitions was approved.

Research Awards-- Drs. Latinwo and Perryman have been working on the researchers' awards. They met on Monday and will meet with four others that have been accepted for interviews tomorrow (March 21, 2012).

Teacher of the Year award – Dr. Grable stated that she had spoken with Dr. Perry Brown who cannot be here today. The Council has received ten applications and will report at the next faculty senate meeting and will have completed their charge. The Council looks forward to giving their report at the next meeting.

Dr. Persaud emphasized the importance of faculty participation on committees. Membership is not limited to Faculty Senate members only, he noted.

New Business

The Faculty Senate Retreat will take place on April 23, 2012. Dr. Persaud is hoping to invite some of the Trustees and provide their vision on how we can work to build a better FAMU. The Councils will talk about some of their challenges during the year and we can engage in discussion about our visions.

Announcements

Professor Beth Lewis from the School of Architecture wanted to remind faculty of an email that was sent through FAMU Info. The AIA (American Institute of Architects of Florida) is selecting 100 buildings in Florida to celebrate their 100th Anniversary. They are trying to determine the top 10 and the top one building in Florida. There are 4 buildings being considered in Tallahassee, Dodd Hall at FSU, the Historic Renovation of the Capital, The Lewis Springs House supposedly from the Frank Lloyd Wright Studio and Lee Hall at FAMU. You can go to their website and vote as frequently as you want.

Dr. Persaud again extended a hearty welcome to Dr. Larry Robinson and that the Senate looks forward to working with him. He emphasized that Provost Robinson can call on any one of the Councils to get their feedback or input into any issues with which he is wrestling so as to build a better institution.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dr. Cynthia Davis
Faculty Senate Secretary

Mrs. Rebecca Bruce
Faculty Senate Office Manager