

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Lee Hall Auditorium
Dr. Bettye A. Grable, Presiding

Officers (Present)

Dr. Bettye Grable, President
Dr. Joe Ann Houston, Secretary
Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian

Senators (Present)

Dr. William Guzman
Dr. Kyle Eidahl
Dr. David Jackson
Dr. Huberta Jackson-Lowman
Dr. Merlin Langley
Dr. Jermaine Robertson
Dr. Paulette Reneau
Dr. James Strohaber
Dr. Lekan Latinwo
Dr. Lavetta Henderson
Dr. Rufus Ellis
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
Dr. Raymond Hix
Dr. Keawin Sarjeant
Dr. Margaret Gitau
Dr. Joseph Grant
Dr. John Cooperwood
Dr. Maurice Holder
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Dr. Perry Brown
Dr. Angela Thornton
Mr. Sylvester Peck
Dr. Carl Moore
Dr. Aurelia Alexander
Dr. Clyde Ashley
Dr. Roscoe Hightower
Dr. Aretha Hill
Dr. David Guthrie
Dr. Elijah Johnson
Ms. Jeneice Smith
Mrs. Ernestine Holmes

Senators (Excused)

Dr. Ann Marie Cavazos
Dr. Nise Nekheba
Dr. Primus Mtenga
Dr. Sevilla Bronson

Senators (Absent)

Mrs. Marci Duncan
Dr. Na’Imah Ford
Dr. Desmond Stephens
Dr. Jesse Edwards
Dr. Violetka Tsolova
Ms. Raquista Claitt
Dr. Dawn Brown-Cross
Dr. Ronald Lumpkin
Dr. Chao Li
Dr. Olivier Chamel
Dr. Robert Richardson

EX-Officio (Voting) (Present)

Dr. Donald Palm
Mrs. Faye Watkins

SGA (Voting) (Present)

Mr. Ronnie Mackey, II

The meeting was opened at 3 p.m. by President/Senator Grable. She began by reviewing the documents in our senate folder. Among those documents were Notes from the University

President. President/Senator Grable reminded the Senate that the Faculty Senate Travel Grant no longer exists.

President Grable asked Senator Guzman to provide up-dates about the councils. He reported he'd heard from several faculty members, but he is still looking for faculty members willing to serve on the various councils.

Senator Latinwo reported the "Researcher Award of the Year" had received only two applications, and "Teacher of the Year" had received no applications. Senator Guthrie had a question about the declining enrollment in Nursing. He indicated Nursing had not had a decline at the upper level.

It was moved and seconded the agenda be adopted. The motion carried. It was moved and seconded the minutes from the last meeting be approved. The motion carried.

University Administration Reports

President Mangum was introduced. She explained the newly-established "Weekly Notes" are notes and not reports, which she sends to the members of the Board of Trustees. In addition, she also discussed the following items:

1. Increasing the University's endowment;
2. The Legislative Budget Requests and Priorities;
3. Inviting public officials to visit the campus.

Interim Provost Wright was then introduced. He began by thanking the Senate for expediting information that required the attention of the Senate. Mr. Wright reviewed data on fall enrollment. He provided the following information.

1. Graduation rate had improved from 39% to 41%. This is the second year of increase.
2. While there is a decrease in enrollment, the gpa's of entering students are higher.
3. The University has improved in the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded without excess credit hours.
4. The Accountability Report had been submitted to the Board of Governors.
5. This is his last Senate meeting as the Interim Provost.

The House was then opened for questions and answers.

- Senator Holder asked what structural changes he would leave for the in-coming provost. He replied there was no need to change the structure.
- Senator Latinwo thanked Interim Provost Wright for coming and taking the tough questions.
- Senator Davenport asked about a reported amount of money that was supposed to be used as bridge money. Mr. Wright indicated he was not aware of this. She then asked what the administration is doing to make FAMU the school of choice. Mr. Wright said there would be incremental changes, including changes in the quality of students who

are accepted into the University. Senator Grable said environment is important; she stressed the millennials want an up-to-date environment.

The Senate gave Mr. Wright a standing ovation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It has been recommended by the Steering Committee to have announcements at the beginning of the meeting.

New Business

Senator/Associate VP Donald Palm came to discuss the Faculty Travel Grants. He gave a brief history of the travel grants. He informed the Senate there are true deadlines for applying.

1. For travel between July 1 and December 22, the deadline is September 1.
 2. For travel between January 1 and June 30, the deadline is November 1.
 3. The late application deadline is March 1.
- In response to a question from Senator Hightower about the frequency of applying for a travel grant, Senator Palm informed the Senate a faculty member may apply once every other year for a travel grant.
 - Senator Hightower also asked if any consideration is being given to increasing the dollar amount for international travel. The response was the budget will drive the amount of grants.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the travel grants. There were suggestions from Senator Ashley about allowing people who'd received the grants to be awarded the grant again rather than allowing monies to be returned. Senator Grant inquired about the revision of the guidelines.

Finally, Senator Palm mentioned student success in relation to performance-based funding.

Dr. Pitter, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, came to discuss the definition of a credit hour. The definition she provided captured current practice. It was moved the definition be accepted. The motion passed. There was one abstention.

Old Business

Dr. Muchovej presented the Standing Rules. There was a question about written motions and motions that were made from the floor. It was moved and seconded to approve. The motion passed.

The Curriculum Committee Report was presented by Dr. Neil James. Senator Holder asked about the zero (0) credit for the two courses in the College of Science and Technology. A lengthy discussion followed. Senator Holder recommend including the content of these courses

in other courses. A very lengthy discussion continued. Two specific questions were left unresolved:

1. How do you require a student to take a course and there is no credit?
2. How do you require a teacher to teach a class for which there is no credit?

At the conclusion of this discussion, a quorum of the Senate was not present; therefore, a vote could not be taken. Another discussion followed, and it was suggested we take an electronic vote on this report.

The Senate adjourned.

Joe A. Houston, Recorder