New College of Florida Faculty Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Sudakoff

Recorded Attendance:

Faculty: Aguila-Ames, Barton, Bauer, Black, Carrasco, Clark, Edidin, Ellis, Fennie, Flakne, Gilchrist, Gorup, Griffin, Harley, Hernandez, Hicks, Hubbard, Jiang, Labrador-Rodriguez, Levell, McDonald, Myhill, Perez, Reid, Rohrbacher, Roy, Ruppeiner, Rycyk, Skripnikov, Shi, Thompson, Toms, Vesperi, Walstrom, Zamsky, Zhang

Staff and Guests: Corcoran, Noss, Rancourt, Thiessen

The meeting was called to order at 12:39 PM, Amy Reid serving as Chair.

The meeting began in executive session.

Rebecca Noss presented a list of students who were candidates for January graduation.

Motion (Rebecca Black for the SASC): To approve the list of graduates conditioned on having received all required materials by posted deadline.

Motion passes.

The meeting began in regular session at 12:48PM

Approval of the Minutes

- Motion to Approve the Minutes (Barbara Hicks)
- Second (Sarah Hernandez)
- Minutes approved

Announcements

- Katie Walstrom announced that UFF was collecting showing of interest cards.

Reports

- President's Report:
    - Campus improvements
        - Robertson Park will soon be complete
        - Road from 58th Street is under construction
        - Greenhous and Landscaping scheduled for February/March
        - Pritzker construction is under way.
    - Campus Masterplan meeting is scheduled

- Pitch packets will be ready by the end of January
- Hiring is going well
- Legislative session
    - Support from executive and House, but less support from Senate
- Message to faculty: Open to ideas for how we grow students, grow revenue, and maintain standards
- Distance learning
    - Programs exist at all other SUS schools, and all have grown students and revenue through distance learning.
    - On all challenges regarding rules, the administration has never lost
    - Reminder: there is a 48-hour rule.
- Questions and comments
    - Pat McDonald: The faculty sent a list of questions concerning the online program on December 18. Why did you not respond or acknowledge receipt? As guardians of the curriculum, the faculty must know the details regarding changes in the curriculum. Do you have answers to the questions submitted on December 18?
    - President: David Harvey has answers.
    - Amy Reid: Will there be an announcement to the College community regarding David Harvey's appointment?
    - President: Yes.
    - Nova Myhill: We have processes which define how we do things and we are asking that those processes be followed. We are asking for shared governance. Why have you not shared with us?
    - President: We are in compliance with all laws.
    - Sandra Gilchrist: Is the Dean of the Western Civilization the same position as the Director of the online program?
    - President: Yes.
    - Nova Myhill: Where we had previous changes (Data Science), the proposed changes went through a process that involved faculty participation. What was the thinking regarding why the approach adopted for the online program was appropriate?
    - President: We are under threat. We acted with expediency in the interest of the faculty. We followed the law. We need more aggressive acts that exploit available resources. We need more money and I need your help.
    - Michelle Barton: We need to hear answers to the December 18 questions.
    - Sonia Labrador-Rodrigues: We have seen many hirings and I am scared that we are reliving the last mass hiring experience. How is your strategy different?
    - President: This is a problem that has been around for ten years. How do you grow real sustainable enrollment? This is why we added sports, which are standard at elite liberal arts institutions. It's a great idea, previously discussed but never acted on. The same is true with the proposed Master's program. We are doing textbook things that everyone concedes work. Hiring is now where we were at last year. We are adding

faculty where people want degrees. No one is suggesting that bringing in more faculty will solve our problems.
        - Barbara Hicks: Maintaining elite outcomes is what drives concerns about the online program. The concern is the quality of the proposed program. Because we share the goal of maintaining elite outcomes, we need information about the program.
        - President: We will get you information as soon as possible.
        - Amy Reid: Thank you for your report.
- Provost's report
    - Questions and comments concerning an online program with a pilot scheduled to begin the Spring.
        - Provost Thiessen: We are not offering a new program. We are offering a Liberal Arts concentration and we are offering it online.
        - Katie Walstrom: Is admissions selling the program differently? Based on the news release, it appears there is no ISP or thesis requirements.
        - Provost Thiessen: Students can't be admitted without meeting the usual admissions standards. Students admitted to the online program must have the same graduation standards as those admitted to the on-campus program.
        - Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez: Can students just sign up and take classes? Are there any other honors programs with an online program? Does UF have an online honors program?
        - Provost Thiessen: I don't know if other honors programs have an online program. We need to figure out the details concerning part time students, AAs, etc. For BA degrees, we must have the same graduation standards.
        - Nova Myhill: We can't advertise what we cannot offer. How do you reconcile our program with Ricketts Great Books program?
        - Provost Thiessen: What we must do for any program we offer is to map it to BOG requirements, civic literacy requirements, general education requirements, etc.
        - Heidi Harley: Can we change what has been started as we move forward?
        - Provost Thiessen: Right now, the easiest path forward is to advertise the program as an online version of General Studies. We need this program to succeed.
        - David Rohrbacher: Our system is not an online system, so it is difficult to reconcile with an online system that must succeed.
        - Melanie Hubbard: Why do we need Ricketts? What is Ricketts' involvement?
        - Provost Thiessen: I can't speak to intellectual property or related details. Ricketts is providing scholarships to students. There was some original interest in developing video material. We have the right to use their videos; they are providing content.
        - Michelle Barton: Are classes open to current students? Has the online program been advertised elsewhere?
        - Rebecca Noss: Current students can register.

        - David Rancourt: We are using the same admission standards for the online program as we are using for the traditional program. Long-term decisions are up to us in the future. We are in this together. We can disagree, but we sink or swim together. We need to work collaboratively. We don't know the answers, but we must move forward.
        - Aron Edidin: We have a program beginning in Spring in the only form available, but we will make it better, or we are starting something that might be a springboard to something else. I return to: had this been discussed, we could have done better.
        - Sarah Hernandez: There are two ways to create children: force or cooperation. I am concerned with process. We don't understand what the program is because we there has been no collaboration.
        - David Rancourt: We must start somewhere. We are getting lots of money from someone to make students successful. We need to be on the same page to be successful.
        - Barbara Hicks: When will there be division budgets? We are running out of money for searches, etc.
        - Provost Thiessen: I don't know. I have asked.
        - Barbara Hicks: It's an institutional breakdown. We have responsibilities to the legislature that involve being able to plan on a budget.
        - Sandra Gilchrist: I echo the concerns regarding budget. I understand the need to bring in more students. What about dorms? Hotels are a problem for some of the students. We should focus on our mission as a residential college. When are dorms going up?
        - Provost Thiessen: Dorms get built when there is money to build them. I don't know when that will be. We are thinking about mixed use space.
        - Amy Reid: The BOT recently approved 8.4M for hotels for the current year. Quality aside, can we use emergency exception to use E&G?
        - Provost Thiessen: I am not sure. I can report that inconsistencies in the academic calendar are being addressed. Student contract pass rate has improved (tying best for previous decade). Rob Zamsky is working on a process for post-tenure review. Searches are going forward.
- Chair of the Faculty Report
    - Amy Reid:
        - Dedicating efforts towards previously initiated work of the faculty.
        - There will be an ad hoc committee concerned with formalizing details associated to ISPs. See Alberto Portugal and Pat McDonald if you are interested in contributing.
- EPC Report
    - Nova Myhill: The EPC continues its discussion on the curriculum. We are collecting comments (everyone is encouraged to send comments to the committee) and there will be a survey. The committee needs a new member from Social Science.
    - Nova Myhill: The committee continues discussions involving General Education courses and statute.

        - Nova Myhill: What is the process for approval of a General Education course?
        - Provost: Thiessen: In conversations with the BOG, courses should align with the general course descriptions. Outside of that, we should develop our own process and then apply for BOG approval.
        - Nova Myhill: It is possible to have a new set of classes each year.
        - Provost Thiessen: Yes. It would be better to use an umbrella program.
        - Nova Myhill: Do you have a sense of how many courses are on the list?
        - Provost Thiessen: A request has been sent and I will update. Please keep things as simple as possible.
        - Heidi Harley: Intro Psych is under an umbrella.
    - Nova Myhill: On the proposed resolution from the EPC:
        - The online program as currently conceived looks like a bad idea we can fix. The EPC feels there is an important principle at stake.

New business

Motion to wave the 48-hour rule to discuss the EPC Resolution concerning the online program

- Moved by Barbra Hicks
- Seconded by Sarah Hernandez
- Motion carries

Resolution concerning the online program

- Moved by Nova Myhill on behalf of the EPC
- The resolution was projected for all to read
- Amy Reid read the Faculty Handbook rules regarding voting
- Paper ballots were distributed to voting members
- Ballot carries: 26-1.

Move to Adjourn (Maribeth Clark, second Barbara Hicks)

Meeting ended at 2:00PM