

**Senate Meeting
Minutes
August 23, 2007
3:00 -5:00 P.M.
Reitz Union Grand Ballroom**

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM

State of the University Address

Dr. Machen presented the State of the University Address:

Good Afternoon! It is good to begin another academic year and I welcome back those of you who have had opportunities to get away. We ended up experiencing almost all of July and August in Gainesville and I don't really recommend it! It feels good to have the students enrolled and going to class. This year, our enrollment situation is more positive than in past years.

When the data are finalized, we expect the size of the entering class to be about 6,700, which is about the same as last year. It will be another exceptional class with characteristics even more impressive than last year. We project 13% African Americans, 15% Hispanic, and 10% Asian-Americans and 59% Caucasians. Another piece of good news is that our summer credit hour production is 5% ahead of last year. You may recall this is part of the budget cycle for the current year and impacts our state appropriation.

Students

We are fortunate this year to have a first-rate student body president. Ryan Moseley has a serious agenda and has already demonstrated his leadership skill. Student government was and still is very helpful in our push to get tuition increases for academic enhancement.

I will talk more later about differential tuition but it is accurate to say it would not have happened without Ryan and his colleagues. We continue to encourage students to take "full" course loads of at least 15 semester hours per semester. It appears the average undergraduate load this fall will be about 13.5 semester hours. This is up from several years ago but one cannot graduate in 4 years taking this course load.

II. Shared Faculty Governance

Rick Yost and the Senate leadership has been working hard this summer and there are some significant agenda items for the coming year.

I am proud of shared governance at UF. Though I don't always see issues the same as the Senate, I applaud its commitment to making UF better and I am impressed with the effort and dedication of our faculty leaders. It should be an interesting year!

III. Research

The overall productivity of the faculty continues to set records. Last year, our faculty received \$583 M in new Research awards. This is 12.5% over last year.

A few of the many notable achievements are:

1. Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professorship to Dr. Lou Guillette (CLAS-Zoology) for \$1.1 million. This is the first HHMI professorship award at UF.
1. Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate science education grant. Dr. Randy Duran received \$1.1 M. This represents the first programmatic grant received from the HHMI by UF.
2. Florida Center for Excellence grants: Drs. Wachsman/Ingram – FISE: The Energy Technology Incubator; and Drs. Dennis/Moudgil – Center for NanoBio Sensors. The total received was \$8.5M. UF was the only university to receive two centers.
3. State of Florida appropriation for IFAS - \$20M for the construction of a pilot plant for the generation of cellulosic ethanol.
4. Ford Foundation Award: Drs. Vasquez and Williams (CLAS Religion and Political Science). The total received was \$450,000 for the study of Atlanta's Latino Immigrants.
5. The Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) started operations in July 2007.

Our collaborations with the New Florida Research Entities (Scripps, Burnham, Torrey Pines) is increasing as they realize the true quality of our research.

IV. Facilities

Our renovation and construction efforts continued this year. The Nanoscale Research facility will be completed in January 2008.

The Biological Sciences Research facility is under construction. This week we broke ground on the Steinbrenner Music Building which will be finished next March and occupied by the School of Music next summer. Pugh Hall is coming along and will be occupied in December and its classrooms will be used in the Spring 2007 semester.

We expect to obtain full funding this year for the Emerging Pathogens building and, perhaps, the small animal hospital of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Also under construction is the \$400M Cancer Research Hospital. In total, UF has over \$750 million in facilities construction planned and funded.

It is obvious that facilities development continues at a fast pace of UF. There is always a list of future needs but we seem to be able to make progress every year in the area of physical facilities.

V. Fundraising

In the area of fundraising, we have very positive news. The Faculty Challenge Initiative was launched at this faculty meeting three years ago to provide new support for faculty and graduate students.

We have raised \$207 million in new funding. Our original goal was to raise \$150 million in five years. Happily, because of our success, I am folding this initiative into our new capital campaign.

We will continue raising funds for this important program but the specialized focus of reporting results will not continue. I will be announcing some new special initiatives later this fall.

The final figures are not in but our University endowment now stands at \$1.22 billion. That is an increase in the last four years of almost 110%. It is the result of new funds from fundraising, the state matching-gifts program, and the success of our own endowment investment company (UFICO).

This was the second year in a seven-year fundraising effort which will officially kick off September 28th.

By kickoff, we will already have raised \$500M towards the goal of \$1.2 billion. This will help us achieve our academic goals.

VI. Budget

As we look ahead to this academic year, the overriding issue is our budget and the financial picture in general. I will outline where we are today and how we anticipate managing through this year. The state budget approved in May, contained no tuition increase for undergraduates and no funding for faculty and staff raises.

Each faculty and staff member will receive a non-recurring \$1000 payment in November and will see no increase in health care premiums. There was no additional support for Florida Opportunity Scholars or other UF initiatives.

In June we were notified there is a 4% reduction to this already extremely lean budget. Next month the Legislature is meeting to determine what else can or should be done.

To manage this situation we implanted a faculty and staff hiring freeze, have recently established a cost-reduction and efficiency task force and distributed to all units "target" base budget reductions.

The target is to achieve a reduction in our recurring budget of \$30-34 million. Only 25% of the reductions were assigned to the academic units and libraries. 75% was assigned to administrative, academic support and auxiliary units. CLAS received a smaller target than other colleges due to the ongoing effort to balance their budget.

We are looking for additional sources of funds to bridge until the cutbacks take effect. Amidst this bleak scenario, I want you to know about five positive actions we are taking.

1. Faculty promotion raises are funded as well as the SPP awards for this year. These are recurring commitments even though no new funding was available.
2. We are committed to taking a new class of Florida Opportunity Scholars and fully-funding it with University funds. We expect over 400 new students to benefit from this program.

3. We are fully-funding Gator Grad Care, the enhanced graduate student health plan and added \$1M to the Alumni Fellows Program. There are no reductions in graduate student funding.
4. The Legislature gave just UF a \$5 million appropriation to continue funding world-class scholars. If we can identify the remaining needed resources, we will be able to continue this focused, highly successful program.
5. The Legislature gave just UF some funds to begin the academic enhancement program. This is the initiative for which the undergraduate differential tuition is going to be used. However, that program won't start officially until 2008 when we begin charging differential tuition.

This year we have funds to begin immediate recruitment of 5 faculty in high-demand disciplines and we will begin recruitment on an additional 10 faculty after consultation with deans and student government.

The provost has identified the following departments that will immediately receive 1 new tenure/tenure track fte:

Botany, Chemistry, English, Psychology, and Applied Physiology and Kinesiology.

The additional 10 faculty positions will be allocated this semester.

In addition, 8 new academic advisors will be hired. It is a small, but significant beginning to a program to enhance our undergraduate education programs.

Well, that is where we are financially at the University of Florida in 2007.

I think we are positioned to continue moving forward academically but we all recognize these are difficult times. I will be reviewing with the Senate my priorities for the year. Unquestionably, the number one priority is securing base compensation increases for Faculty and Staff.

We have seen the new US News rankings and I have already commented about them in the press. They are what they are. People do look at them but they do not capture the total UF academic experience. It is important for us to focus on the good things happening at UF.

This afternoon we will be posting the results of our third Faculty Survey. The response rate for this year's survey is the highest we have had at 55%. As in past years, the results of the survey reveal areas of progress and other areas needing attention.

The results from this year indicate progress in eight of the 15 categories; Benefits, Working Relationships, University Image, Strategy & Direction, Recognition & Reward, Engagement, Career Development, and Resources and Efficiency.

The most significant area of reported improvement is in the area of Benefits.

The increase in satisfaction with Benefits can be linked to a combination of improved administration and communication regarding our plans as well as new offerings.

Two areas remained at the same reported levels as they did in the last survey: Faculty Administration Relations and Quality of Life.

In addition, the results show a decline in the areas of Diversity, Communication, Empowerment, Leadership and Reaction to the Survey. These areas demand additional attention from me and our entire community.

With the results of three surveys, we have included this year a comparison across all three measurement periods.

I am pleased to report that the survey results indicate improvements in 14 of the 15 categories from the first survey in 2004. Although these results are encouraging, we must recognize that there is much work to do especially as we enter into a most challenging chapter in the life of the university.

I want to encourage all of you to review the results of this year's survey and reflect upon the reported changes over the past several years. We need to celebrate our successes and identify strategies that will allow us to improve in all areas identified in the survey.

Joining UF are three new Senior Administrators:

Ms. Judith Russell

Dean of Libraries

Prof. Hank Frierson

Dean of the Graduate School & Vice Provost for Graduate Education

Prof. Daniel Wubah

Associate Provost, Undergraduate Affairs

I am excited about the year ahead. We have a lot going on. We are doing wonderful things in service to the people of the state & nation, and the world.

We need to keep it up because we are living in very difficult times. The world can use some help right now! Thank you for being a part of the University of Florida.

GO GATORS!!

State of the Faculty Senate Address

Dr. Yost presented the State of the Faculty Senate Address.

The membership of the Senate and definitions of shared governance were reviewed.

Dr. Yost reviewed the Senate's activities during the summer and the 2007-2008 Senate Agenda.

Summer activities:

- Academic Policy Council examined policies on faculty-authored course materials
- Honorary Degree Committee examined honorary degree criteria and procedures
- Worked with President on creation of Cost Reduction and Efficiency Task Force
- Senate Workday – August 21
 - New Senator Orientation
 - Chair Training
 - Annual Council Planning Meetings

2007-2008 Senate Agenda:

- Continue to implement shared governance at college and department levels
- Assure faculty participation in budget planning and review
- Adopt procedures for review and revisions to the Strategic Work Plan
- Connect Academic Program Reviews and LBRs to the Strategic Work Plan
- Examine and revise honorary degree procedures
- Examine and revise policies on faculty-authored course materials
- Renewed focus on undergraduate education:
 - Evaluate and revise the University Curriculum Committee
 - Evaluate and revise the General Education Committee
 - Evaluate and revise the UF Honors program
 - Reprise the Student/Faculty Academic Summit
- Work to improve child care facilities on campus
- Analyze and respond to faculty surveys on climate and on T&P

The minutes of the April 2007 meeting were approved.

Information Items

- **Graduate Council Items** **Henry Frierson**, Dean Graduate School
 - [LL.M in Environmental & Land Use Law](#)
 - [Eliminate the graduate degrees in Engineering Mechanics and Engineering Science](#)

Dr. Frierson presented two information items from the Graduate council.

These items will be action items at the September meeting.

- **Curriculum Committee** **Daniel Wubah**, Associate Provost, Undergraduate Affairs
 - [Elimination of BS in Engineering Science](#)

Dr. Wubah presented one information item from the Curriculum Committee. This item will be an action item at the September meeting.

Open Discussion from Senate Floor

There were no speakers for the open discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 PM

Attendees:

Chunrong Ai
Alex Albero
Nora Alter
Sammy Barkin
Marylou Behnke
Azra Bihorac
Linda Bloom
David Bloomquist
Elizabeth Bolton
Frank Bova
Eve Brank
Pamela Brown
William Buhi
Regina Bussing
Judy Butterfield
Kenny Cheng
Jacob Chung
Chris Cogle
Donald Cohen
Elizabeth Creveling
Jean Crockett
Harry Daniels
Lawrence Datnoff
Timothy Davis
Lori Deitte
Joseph Delfino
Julie Dodd
Bruce Edwards
Mary Ann Ferguson
Joanne Foss
Thomas Foster
Elizabeth Frazier
George Gerencser
Malay Ghosh
Paul Goldstein
Ellis Greiner
Dave Hackett
Jeffrey Harman
Alice Harmon
Christy Harris Lemak
Edward Hart
Kirk Hartfield
John Haydu
Marc Heft

Shannon Holliday
David Janicke
Rebecca Jordi
Stan Kaye
James Keesling
William Kem
James Klausner
Shawn Kneipp
Pradeep Kumar
Gail Kunkle
Tony Ladd
Jodi Lane
John Leavey
Jenshan Lin
William Lindberg
Joseph Little
Henrietta Logan
Joseli Macedo
William McArthur
Heather McAuslane
Sue McGorray
Bayard Miller
Gloria Miller
Jacqueline Miller
Deb Mitra
Marjorie Moore
Stephen Mulkey
Satya Narayan
Ranga Narayana
Sven Norman
Scott Nygren
Anthony Offerle
Dan O'Neill
Mark Orazem
Joe Pergola
Edil Torres- Rivera
Deborah Popovich
David Quillen
Ron Randles
Eileen Raynor
Patrick Reakes
Roger Reep
Jaquelyn Resnick
Marilyn Roberts
Leah Rosenberg
Victoria Rovine
Mary Beth Salisbury
Miren Schino

Richard Segal
James Selph
Orit Shechtman
Wolfgang Sigmund
Susan Sinnott
David Smith
Clay Smith
Stephen Smith
Chris Snodgrass
Craig Stanley
Taylor Stein
Michael Sweat
Michele Tennant
Joseph Tepas
Robert Thomas
Pham Tiep
Sharon Treen
Bryan Unruh
Jill Varnes
Thomas Vickroy
Susan Webb
Brenda Williams
Sally Williams
Naomi Young
Barbara Zsembik

Ex officio:

Kirby Barrick
Teresa Dolan
Henry Frierson
Joe Glover
Glen Hoffsis
Robert Jerry
Carol Kem
Bruce Kone
Lucinda Lavelli
Kathleen Long
Ruth Lowery
Carol Murphy
Rebecca Pauly
William Riffie
Judith Russell
Christopher Silver
Danaya Wright
John Wright
Allen Wysocki
Michael Perri

Student Senators

Robert Agrusa
Paul Drayton
Ryan Moseley
Yooni Yi
EJ Walicki
Vanessa Goodwin
David Drescher

Guests:

Pierre Sikivie
Kim Wilmath
Alisa Guthrie
Lois Ivanko
David Micha
Daniel Wubah
Debra W. King
Ken Gerhardt
Zina Evans
Marie Zeglen
Dennis Jett
Karen Bjorndal
Amy Deehow
Margat Field
John Ingram
John Yleton
Paul Sideler
Aaron Daye
Christie Klein