

ACADEMICS

A Monthly Newsletter for the Faculty of the University of Florida
October 2007

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Chair's Message:

Update on Shared Governance at UF

By: Rick Yost, Faculty Senate Chair



I believe we had make tremendous progress in implementing shared governance at UF over the past few years, and I predict continued progress this year. We have made a significant effort to extend shared governance in all units, including colleges and departments. As I said in last month's column, this extension is critical for creating both a structure and a culture of meaningful

faculty participation. A year ago, we requested that every college and academic unit turn in a shared governance task force report by April, and I'm pleased to report that nearly every college (and even one department!) turned in a report! A number of colleges drafted new constitutions and others have significantly revised theirs. These reports are summarized on the Faculty Senate's web page – check out <http://www.senate.ufl.edu/facultyinformation/UFFacultySenate-SharedGovernance.htm> for the status of shared governance in your own college!

If you'd like more information on how to further shared governance at the unit level, look over the report of the Task Force on Implementation of Shared Governance Structure, also available on the Faculty Senate web page. The report includes lots of useful information on the principles of shared governance, outlines best practices, and provides tools to help you assess your unit's level of shared governance.

One critical area for faculty input at the unit level is budget planning and review.

see Yost, pg. 2

Buzz:

By: Janie Fouke, Provost



Once again, the University of Florida has attracted one of the strongest freshman classes of any public school in the nation. One metric that is frequently used to tout a group of students is their weighted high school grade point average. The weighted GPA of the middle fifty percent of this class is 4.0 to 4.44.

That means that a quarter of the class has GPA's higher than 4.44! Add to that the size of the class (6600!) and we have an intellectual powerhouse. My question to us is this: four years later, have we kept them challenged and provided them with the opportunities to develop themselves to their fullest potential?

There are several signs that indicate we could do better (note that this is the "royal we," encompassing faculty, students and staff!). One example is the number of credit hours that the students take. While it has climbed for each of the last four years, the campus average is still quite a bit lower than typically found at peer institutions. Some of our policies, for example, our policies on withdrawing from classes, may not send a message of high academic expectations. Another sign that concerns me is our students' response to questions about their academic engagement as recorded in the National Survey of Student Engagement. They report much, lower levels of involvement than students at other AAU public institutions. One oft-cited "culprit" is the Bright Futures Scholarship program paired

see Fouke, pg. 2

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As President Machen discussed in last month's *Academics*, the state budget situation this year will mean budget reductions at all state universities.

Although the reductions recommended by the state legislature in its special session (wrapping up as you read this) are not as dire as predicted, they nevertheless will affect all of us at UF. The resolution adopted by the Faculty Senate at its April meeting encourages faculty to get involved in setting budget priorities at the unit level and to expect greater budget transparency. There's a lot of information to help you play a role on the Senate's Budget Council Web site, <http://www.senate.ufl.edu/councils/planning/>

We will continue to hold conversations this year on shared governance. Please join me in furthering shared governance at UF, as we refine our culture in which faculty participate in important governance decisions. I welcome your thoughts and comments – feel free to e-mail me at faculty senate chair@ufl.edu

Rick Yost is Professor and Head of Analytical Chemistry and Chair of the Faculty Senate.

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with the State of Florida's extraordinarily generous program for awarding college credit

to high school students for their Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate test scores.

The former assures that the students will be at UF for four years (96% of our freshmen arrive with the Bright Futures Scholarship) and the latter assures that many of them will bring up to 30 student credit hours so they can take light course load and still graduate in four years.

But should they? A large number of our students aspire to continue their education to graduate and professional schools. Many of them will go straight into the work-force. Most of them will be in national competitions for these positions and they will be competing against students who, in large measure, had to keep challenging themselves at a high level all through their college years. How can we set an environment that encourages our undergraduate students to work to achieve their greatest potential? I will be interested in discussion on this topic through the coming year.

Go Gators!

President Machen Announces the Humanities and Social Sciences Challenge

At the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Convocation on October 4, President Machen announced the Humanities and Social Sciences Challenge as a new point of emphasis in the Florida Tomorrow Campaign. The goal is for \$30 million in new endowment resources for these disciplines in CLAS. To get the challenge started, he announced two \$1 million allocations to endow a new professorship in English literature and to endow new graduate fellowships in Psychology. For the full text of his speech, see <http://www.president.ufl.edu/speeches/2007/10/clas-Convocation.html>

Ad Hoc Committee on a Civil, Safe and Civil Environment

The committee's charge is to develop recommendations on how the University of Florida can best ensure a civil and secure environment at public and UF community events, conducive to a full, free, diverse and lively discourse in the tradition of great academic institutions. The need to review our existing protocols for the conduct and security of events arises in the wake of an incident at Senator John Kerry's talk at UF on September 17th that resulted in the tasing and arrest of a student, as well as a heightened awareness of the importance of security on university campuses.

In particular, the President asked the Committee to review the University's police protocols, university and ACCENT events management practices, and community conduct policies to come up with a series of recommendations for the conduct and security of events at the University in the future.

In addition to any issues the Committee may identify, please consider:

Existing University policies on conduct of members of the UF community at events, including the code of student conduct.

Existing UF Police events security protocols, including those relating to the use of tasers.

Best practices for events conduct and security at peer institutions, including the role and training of moderators and the choice and set up of venue.

The size of the UF community and the options for security at campus venues of different types and in a variety of circumstances.

The Committee is comprised entirely of faculty and students. Please feel free to call upon others to assist you in fact gathering and for expert consultation. Vice President and General Counsel, Jamie Lewis Keith, is available to provide legal advice and other Vice Presidents and administrators are also available to assist you. Administrative support will be provided for the Committee.

The committee will provide an initial report to the President by the end of December 2007.

Draft Work Plan

October 9, 10:30-12:30 in 284 Reitz Union
Committee charge and organization

October 16, 10:30-12:30 in 346 Reitz Union
Nested legal parameters-US Constitution, federal law, Florida Constitution, Florida law, UF regulations, UF policies, commonly understood behavior norms

October 23, 10:30-12:30 in 276 Reitz Union
Existing UF events policies (Accent, but also other campus operations); best practices from peer institutions

November 13, 10:30-12:30 in 276 Reitz Union
Existing conduct codes relating to students, faculty, staff, UF visitors; parallel codes at peers institutions

November 20, 10:30-12:30 in 276 Reitz Union
Issues, as reflected in policies, laws, and best practices, related to health, security and safety, including the use of force, particularly tasers.

November 27, 10:30-12:30 in 284 Reitz Union
Discussion, evaluation of need for further research

December 4, 10:30-12:30 in 276 Reitz Union
Discussion of draft recommendations

December 11, 10:30-12:30

December 18, 10:30-12:30
Update or recommendations prepared for submittal to President Machen by December 31.

More information about the committee can be found by visiting: <http://www.president.ufl.edu/committees/civil/>

Announcements:

Fall 2007 Commencement Information

Ceremonies: An Advanced Degree Ceremony (all colleges; all masters and doctoral candidates) will be held at 4:00pm on Friday, December 14, 2007 in the O'Connell Center. On Saturday, December 15, 2007, two undergraduate degree ceremonies, at 10:00am and 2:00pm, will also be held in the O'Connell Center. Please refer to the fall commencement schedule at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/commencement/> for the college assignments. Please note that separate ceremonies will be hosted by the College of Pharmacy on Saturday, December 15, 2007 at 10:00am at the HPNP Auditorium, and the College of Law will have their ceremony on Friday, December 21, 2007 at 2:00pm at the Phillips Center for Performing Arts.

Ordering Regalia: The deadline for ordering academic regalia is Wednesday, October 24, 2007. Information on ordering regalia is available from the UF Bookstore (392-0194). Faculty regalia order forms are available on-line at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/commencement/faculty.html>.

Payment is required when placing an order; this payment is refundable until Thursday, December 13, 2007. Formal academic regalia is required for all faculty members attending commencement.

Faculty Escorts: Candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Education degrees will be assigned an official commencement escort. Faculty designated as escorts will receive a letter from the Office of the Provost with details about responsibilities and assembly times. This letter is generally sent two weeks prior to commencement. However, if you have a graduate student scheduled to graduate during the fall semester, please order your regalia on or before the October 24, 2007 deadline.

Spring Semester Textbook Adoptions

Faculty and departments are asked to submit their Spring term textbook adoptions at <http://www.textadoption.ufl.edu> through October 26, 2007. Once submitted, this information is available on-line to all bookstores, providing both students and bookstores timely and correct information about textbook requirements. With your textbook adoption information, bookstores can begin the ordering process to ensure timely arrival of texts for Spring term. By knowing what texts are required, bookstores can provide students with better prices on book buybacks.

Students can view Spring course textbook requirements on ISIS during registration, which begins October 29, 2007. This information helps students balance their course loads based on reading requirements and plan for their financial needs, including the purchasing of books. Timely entry of this information also provides students their best opportunity to sell books back at higher prices. Bookstores typically will not offer to buy back texts unless the text is listed as being used the next semester.

Timely posting of textbook requirements has the strong support of the student body. UF students have overwhelmingly endorsed the availability of textbook information on-line and have indicated it aids in course selection. In December 2005, Student Government passed a resolution requesting higher participation in online textbook adoptions.

Efforts are underway to improve the textbook adoption process at UF. With your support of these efforts, UF can offer a straightforward process for faculty as well as provide timely access to required textbooks for our students.

If you have any questions about the textbook adoption process, please contact the textbook adoption services manager at 392-0306.

If you would like to receive the Deans, Directors, and Department head memos please visit: <http://www.admin.ufl.edu/ddd/>

Faculty Senate Agenda:

October 18, 2007

3:00 -5:00 P.M.

Phillips Center for Performing Arts

Approval of the minutes of the September 20, 2007 meeting

Reports

Chair's Report
President's Report

Rick Yost, Chair
Bernie Machen, President

Information Items

Cultural Plaza Presentation

Michael Blachly, UF Performing Arts Director, Douglas Jones, Florida Museum of Natural History Director
Rebecca Nagy, Harn Museum of Art Director

Curriculum Committee

Ken Gerhardt, Associate Dean Graduate School

- College of Business

Change in name of the undergraduate major from the Decision and Information Sciences Department to Information Systems and Operations Management Department.

College of Engineering

- Proposed change in degree requirement for Bachelor in Materials Science and Engineering
- Proposed change for a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science offered through the College of Engineering
- Proposed increase in credits in Nuclear Engineering from 126 to 129

College of Public Health and Health Professions

- Proposed revision to the Bachelor of Health Science Program

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

- Proposed changes to the Agricultural Education and Communication Specializations
- Proposed changes to the Soil and Water major and minor
- Proposed changes to the Entomology and Nematology minor

School of Business Proposal for Creation

Department Name Change

- From Pharmacy Health Care Administration to Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy

Graduate Council Items

Ken Gerhardt, Associate Dean Graduate School

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Request to Sunset degrees:

Degree Name:	Degree Major
Master of Science in Teaching	Psychology
Master of Arts in Teaching	Psychology, Geography, Philosophy, Political Science, Linguistics

Report from Student Conduct Code Review Committee

Gene Zdziarski, Dean of Students

Report on Libraries Strategic Planning Process

Judith Russell, Dean of University Libraries

Open Discussion from Senate Floor

Three minute limit per speaker, floor will be open to Senators first

Faculty Senate News: Meeting Outcomes

August 23, 2007

State of the University Address

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.

Dr. Machen presented the State of the University Address. The address is located online at:
<http://www.president.ufl.edu/speeches/2007/08/stateOfUniversity.html>

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 Item

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.

October 2007 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4 9:15 AM Senate Chair meeting with President 226 Tigert 3:00 PM Steering Committee 226 Tigert	Oct. 5
Oct. 8 8:30 AM Lakes Vegetation and Landscaping Committee 226 Stadium 11:00 AM Senate Chair meeting with SG President 134 Tigert 1:00 PM Budget Council 202 Tigert	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11 9:15 AM Senate Chair meeting with President 226 Tigert	Oct. 12
Oct. 15 8:30 AM Infrastructure Council B60 Reitz Union 2:00 PM Academic Policy Council 471 Grinter	Oct. 16 9:00 AM Senate Council on Research and Scholarship 272 Reitz Union	Oct. 17	Oct. 18 9:00 AM Honorary Degrees Committee 283 Reitz Union 9:15 AM Senate Chair meeting with President 226 Tigert 3:00 Senate Meeting Phillips Center	Oct. 19 2:00 PM Welfare Council Meeting 226 Tigert
Oct. 22	Oct. 23 10:30 AM Ad Hoc Committee on a Civil, Safe and Open Environment 276 Reitz Union 1:30 PM Curriculum Committee meeting 226 Tigert	Oct. 24	Oct. 25 9:15 AM Senate Chair meeting with the President 226 Tigert	Oct. 26 2:00 PM Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards Committee 226 Tigert
Oct. 29 10:00 Constitution Committee 354 Tigert	Oct. 30 2:00 PM Committee on Committees 429 Library West	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2

The most recent version of the calendar can be found at: <http://www.senate.ufl.edu/Calendar/>

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