

ACADEMICS

A Monthly Newsletter for the Faculty of the University of Florida

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Chair's Message:

Welcome

By: Rick Yost, Faculty Senate Chair



Rick Yost

As the fall semester approached, I was thinking of all the great things here at UF: National basketball and football championships! A record \$583M in research awards! Perhaps most importantly, approval by the legislature and Governor of differential tuition, which for the first time means that UF's tuition won't be the same as every other university in Florida,

and that it will be decoupled from the limits imposed by the Bright Futures program. Even though it won't mean any new funds until next fall, it provides the basis for initiating the academic enhancement program (hiring new faculty in areas with significant undergraduate instructional needs, as well as more academic advisors). We also appreciate the \$6M contribution from the University Athletic Association to help support academic programs on campus, including continuation of Florida Opportunity Scholars Program.

Clearly, it's not all good news as we start the new academic year. We face budget woes including potential callbacks of 4 percent, a hiring freeze and no raises from the legislature. Nevertheless, let's not forget all the good news above.

As we start the year, we need to recall the substantial advances that have been made in shared governance here at UF over the past few years.

see Chair, pg. 2

Buzz:

The University Budget

By: Bernie Machen, President



Bernie Machen

The University of Florida is facing an extremely lean budget year, but I am working hard to shelter our core academic enterprise, and I am optimistic we will continue to grow and move forward academically.

The state budget approved this spring contained no tuition increases for undergraduates, and no funding for faculty and staff raises. Instead, faculty and staff will receive one-time \$1,000 payments in November. The budget also did not provide any added support for Florida Opportunity Scholars or other UF initiatives. Not only that, but in June, we learned there would be a four percent cuts to this already lean budget – and the Legislature will meet next month to determine if still more cuts are needed.

We have responded to these evolving circumstances as quickly and comprehensively as possible, implementing a hiring freeze, establishing a cost-reduction and efficiency task force and distributing target base budget reductions to all units.

Our goal is to reduce our recurring budget by \$30 to \$34 million. We are assigning the bulk of these reductions — 75 percent— to administrative, academic support and auxiliary units, with the remaining 25 percent assigned to academic units and libraries.

see Budget, pg. 2

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Chair from, pg. 1

As the 2003 Presidential - Faculty Senate Joint Task Force on Shared Governance Report reminds us

- Shared Governance between faculty and administration is a reality at leading research universities. It is essential to the quality and the value of the education of the students, as well as the excellence and importance of the research conducted by all members of the University.

- To work effectively, Shared Governance must extend to all academic units within the University to create both a structure and a culture of meaningful Faculty participation.

During the past academic year, the Senate amended

the University Strategic Work Plan, approved a budget resolution to increase faculty input on budget planning and review at the unit level, implemented electronic voting for senators, and approved minus grades.

The summer has been busy, with the Academic Policy Council examining policies on faculty-authored course materials and the Honorary Degree Committee revising honorary degree criteria and procedures. The Senate Workday on August 21, 2007 was a success, with the new senator orientation (moved out of the first Senate meeting of the year) in addition to Committee and Council Chair training and the annual planning meetings of our Policy Councils.

I offer the following agenda for this Senate year:

- 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 and connect Academic Program Reviews and LBRs to the Strategic Work Plan
- Examine and revise honorary degree procedures and policies on faculty-authored course materials
- Renewed focus on undergraduate education:
- Evaluate and revise the University Curriculum Committee, General Education Committee and the UF Honors program
- Work to improve child care facilities on campus
- Analyze and respond to faculty surveys on climate and on T&P

On behalf of the entire UF community, I'd like to thank our faculty for investing their time and energy in shared governance at UF. I welcome your thoughts and comments as the academic year begins. Feel free to e-mail me at faultysenatechair@ufl.edu

Go Gators!

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

Budget from, pg. 1

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences received fewer cuts than other colleges because of our continuing efforts to balance the CLAS budget. We are looking for additional sources of funds to bridge the cutbacks, but we remain committed to several current programs. We will:

- Fund all faculty promotion raises as well as SPP awards for this year (these are recurring commitments, with no new outside funding).

- Fully fund a new class of Florida Opportunity Scholars. This year, we expect over 400 new students in the program.

- Fully fund GatorGradCare graduate health insurance, maintain graduate student funding at current rates, and add \$1 million to the Alumni Fellows Program.

- Seek to continue the World Class Scholars program. The Legislature has appropriated \$5 million for this program, and we are working to identify the remaining needed resources.

Despite the hiring freeze, we also plan to grow our faculty ranks where most needed. We have funds in place to begin recruiting five faculty in high-demand disciplines immediately, and we will begin recruiting an additional 10 faculty after consulting with deans and student government. The departments of botany, chemistry, English, psychology and applied physiology and kinesiology will each receive one new tenure or tenure track position, with the 10 additional positions to be allocated this semester.

Also, we plan to hire eight new academic advisors. This is a small, but significant step to enhance our undergraduate education programs.

We all recognize these are difficult times, but the Legislature's decision this spring to allow us to begin charging differential tuition in 2008-2009 at least points us in the right direction for the future. We will be most effective if we work together to meet the challenges ahead. With that in mind I plan to begin reviewing my priorities with the Faculty Senate soon. Unquestionably, my number one goal is to secure base compensation raises for faculty and staff.

Sincerely,

J. Bernard Machen

Announcements:

Faculty Fellow in Sustainability

Deadline: October 1, 2007

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce that the Provost Faculty Fellow Program will host a Faculty Fellow in Sustainability beginning in the Spring 2008 semester. The fellowship awardee will pursue a one to two year project to develop an interdisciplinary certificate/minor in sustainability and will be responsible for the following:

Researching best practices at universities for integrating sustainability into academics, which may include the existing frameworks for certificates and minor and major courses of study; -Collaborating with UF faculty on incorporation of sustainability into academics at UF and promoting such incorporation; -Working with the Sustainability Committee to develop the best model (including structure and format) for academic offerings in sustainability at UF; -Developing an implementation plan for adaptation of the best model.

During his/her anticipated one to two year team, the Faculty Fellow in Sustainability will stimulate initiatives in teaching, research, and outreach, and work in concert with the Director of the Office of Sustainability. Release time from teaching is negotiable. The Fellow in Sustainability will have access to up to \$50,000 in funding per year for seed grants and other program initiatives. Applicants are encouraged to submit a two-page, double-spaced proposal for the interdisciplinary certificate/minor in sustainability and a brief curriculum vita by October 1, 2007 to Cheryl Gater, Office of the Provost, PO Box 113175, 235 Tigert Hall or by email at <mailto:ccll@ufl.edu>.

Call for Nominations for University Awards

Submission Deadline: October 1, 2007

One of the traditional components of our commencement ceremonies is honoring individuals who have been selected to receive a university designated award (these include the honorary degree, the distinguished alumnus award, the distinguished achievement award, and the distinguished service award). We count on you and your colleagues to identify and nominate individuals who, through their accomplishments and service, are deserving of the university's highest honors.

Nominations submitted by the **October 1, 2007 deadline** will be considered at the October 2007 meeting of the university's Honorary Degrees, Distinguished Alumnus Awards and Memorials Committee. Given the review process cycle and the challenges of scheduling the honoree's visit to campus, we encourage you to submit nominations as early as the academic year prior to when you would like the honoree to receive her/his award. This allows us and the honoree sufficient time to schedule and plan accordingly. For your information, the next opportunity for nominations will not be until Spring 2008—nomination deadline March 1, 2008.

The nomination package consists of the following:

A nomination letter that includes background information on the nominee including the nominee's *curriculum vitae* and three or more letters of recommendation in support of the nomination.

The nomination package should be mailed to the committee, in care of Robin Frey, President's Office, P.O. Box 113150. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Robin via e-mail: rfrey@ufl.edu or by phone at 392-3117.

Education Celebration

Education Celebration honors University of Florida's faculty for their outstanding commitment to their students and their fields throughout the year. This luncheon also recognizes the recipients of the Florida Blue Key Distinguished Faculty Award. Faculty are encouraged to nominate their colleagues for this prestigious award. Nomination forms are available online at www.uflhomecoming.org. Education Celebration is a great way to give back to our hard-working professors and to involve the entire UF community in the Homecoming celebration. This free event will be held on October 24, 2007 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Keene Faculty Center at Dauer Hall.

Council in Review: Budget

This council's area encompasses budget and fiscal matters as they involve the academic mission of the University, including the recommendation of budget priorities involving academics and research, the fiscal implications of the creation, modification, or deletion of academic programs, the collection and dissemination of information about University budgeting and planning; and monitoring whether the allocation of resources is consistent with Faculty Senate actions and the University's long-term and short-term strategic plans.

Key Points Regarding Budgeting at the University of Florida

There are a number of points that should be made regarding the budgeting process at the University of Florida:

- Budgeting is a complex process.
- The role of the Budget Council is to "consult" in matters regarding the budget. University administration determines the budget and this council consults on the budgeting process (e.g., is a sounding board for administration) and the dissemination of information relating to the budget. This is different than other Faculty Senate councils and committees that may determine policy (e.g., Senate Curriculum Committee that determines policy and then consults with administration).

Goals of the Budget Council

The goals of the Budget Council are based on its consultative role and include:

- Encouraging faculty involvement in the budgeting process at all levels of the University.
- Collecting and disseminating information about University budgeting and planning.
- Keeping track of how the budget is shaping up each year, with an emphasis on transparency.
- Monitoring decisions about planning and budgeting to ensure that allocation of resources conforms to expectations of Faculty, Faculty Senate, and University in long-term and short-term strategic plans.
- Advocating with Administration for faculty concerns about academic priorities, budgeting and resource allocation.

- Serving as faculty liaison with Board of Trustees in matters pertaining to budgeting and academic priorities.

Recent Budget Council Accomplishments

The primary mechanism for communicating the work of the Budget Council is the webpage (<http://www.senate.ufl.edu/councils/planning/>). Accomplishments from last year include:

Budget Council resolution concerning faculty participation in budget priorities which was passed by the Faculty Senate in April 2007. Key points of the resolution include: (1) that each college, department, institute, center, and academic unit shall establish a procedure for providing meaningful faculty review of the budget and resource allocation, (2) that any entity created by, or empowered by, a college, department, institute, center, or academic unit to fulfill this function shall be comprised of a majority of faculty elected by the unit, (3) the procedure established shall insure that the Dean, Chair, or Director of the College, Department, Center or other academic unit shall regularly provide the requisite budget and resource allocation information to allow faculty meaningful review, (4) the procedure established in each college, department, institute, center, and academic unit shall insure the dissemination of this information to the faculty of the college, department, institute, center or other academic unit, and (5) that the Budget Council survey each College, Institute and Center and provide the Senate with an annual evaluation of the University's Faculty Budget and Resource Allocation Review activities.

Members of the Budget Council served on the Provost Budget Allocation Committee. The committee's initial efforts focused on articulating a set of guiding principles and assumptions to which the budget model ultimately adopted and implemented at UF should conform. On November 19, 2006, the committee released a first draft of a set of guiding principles and assumptions, titled "Principles for the University of Florida Budget Allocation Model" (draft is available at the Council's webpage).

Student Credit Hour data search tool that allows you to search data related to student credit hours by college and department.

Budget information PowerPoint presentation. This is an excellent overview of the budgeting process used at the top levels at the University of Florida. This presentation was given in October, 2006.

2006 program reviews/budget reviews. This is a link to program review and budget document submitted to University Administration by each college and the University Libraries for 2006.

Merit pay plans. This is a link to the eligibility requirements and the structure of merit pay plans by college at the University of Florida.

Explanation of unrestricted funds YTD in 2006. This is a document that details the potential use of funds, from the current Faculty Challenge, that could supplement the funding of college programs. Such funds are categorized as unrestricted, i.e. funds designated to a college or unit but undesignated as to purpose. Such funds are usually received through telephone solicitations. An accounting of these funds by college is provided in this document.

Enrollment and FTEs by college (2004-2006). This is a document that outlines the fundable student credit hours from 2004-2006 by college.

Budget Council Priorities for 2007-2008

The Budget Council's top priority for 2007-2008 is to closely monitor the process of implementing the legislative call backs and to disseminate relevant information to the faculty in a timely fashion. The Budget Council website will feature budget-related items such as how the current call back or cut back of \$34.0 million (as of August 29, 2007) was calculated and how it will be allocated across major units (colleges), and updates will be provided as they become available.

The Budget Council is in the process of creating and maintaining a "Frequently Asked Questions" section on the Web site to address faculty and staff concerns regarding the budgeting process at the University of Florida. The Budget Council will solicit questions from Faculty Senators at the September Faculty Senate meeting as a way to jump start this process and also welcomes inquiries directly from faculty members at any time.

As the University community deals with the impact of the cutbacks, the Budget Council will continue to push for faculty involvement in the budgeting process at all levels in the university (University, College, and Unit), in the spirit of shared governance and consistent with the Budget Council resolution. Council activities will include a survey of participatory budgeting practices at the level of College, Institute and Center and a report to the senate.

The Budget Council welcomes input from any member of the University and we look forward to serving you in 2007-2008.

Faculty Senate Agenda:

September 20, 2007

3:00 -5:00 P.M.

Reitz Union Auditorium

Approval of the minutes of the August 23, 2007 meeting

Reports

Chair's Report

Rick Yost, Chair

Provost's Report

Janie Fouke, Provost

Information Items

Board of Trustees Meeting Report

Rick Yost, Chair

Budget Update

Al Wysocki, Chair Budget Council

Action Items

Graduate Council Items

Henry Frierson, Dean Graduate School

- o LLM in Environmental & Land Use Law
- o Eliminate the graduate degrees in Engineering Mechanics and Engineering Science

Curriculum Committee

Daniel Wubah, Associate Provost, Undergraduate Affairs

- o Elimination of BS in Engineering Science

Open Discussion from Senate Floor

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

Faculty Senate News: Meeting Outcomes

April 19, 2007

Chair's Report

Danaya Wright reported that the Honorary Degrees Committee met with the President, Provost, General Counsel and the Chair of the Committee on Committees to look at ways to maintain faculty participation, improve the process and maintain confidentiality. No decisions have been made yet. The Senate will be consulted once a proposal has been finalized. The Steering Committee is discussing ways to allow for better communication of ideas between meetings. The Student Senate passed a referendum favoring a fifty cent per credit hour energy efficiency fee. The Senate was asked to endorse this fee, but the Steering Committee felt that this issue was not up to the Senate to decide. There is language in the current proposed regulations to change the college promotion and tenure. The current language states that the committees must be composed of tenured full professors.

President's Report

Dr. Machen reported that the University will look for a way to recognize Lt. Dahlem's service. Dr. Machen also reported on various legislative issues and stated that concerns about the textbook bill should be sent to president@ufl.edu or Jane Adams.

Chair Elect Election

Frank Bova was elected the Senate chair elect.

Information Items:

Regulations Report Tim Taylor, Constitution Committee Chair, presented the constitution committees recommendations on the proposed regulations.

Nominating Committee Report Carol Kem, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate of candidates for the available council and committee positions.

Announcement of New Senators Danaya Wright announced the recently elected Senators.

Strategic Work Plan Anita Spring, Academic Policy Council Chair, updated the Senate on the state of the Strategic Work Plan.

Graduate council item Laurence Alexander, Interim Associate Dean Graduate School, presented the following information item.

PhD in Epidemiology, College of Public Health and Health Professions

This item was moved to an action item and approved.

Action Items:

Graduate council item Laurence Alexander, Interim Associate Dean Graduate School, presented the following action item. The item was approved.

PhD in Biostatistics

University Curriculum Committee Danaya Wright presented the following action item. The item was approved.

Discontinuation of the CIS Major within the BSBA Program, College of Business

Faculty Budget Resolution Frank Bova, Budget Council Chair, presented the budget resolution. The resolution was approved.

Committee on Committees Recommendations

John Leavey, COC chair, presented recommendations on the membership of the University Curriculum Committee and General Education Committee. There was also a recommendation to add student members to the policy councils. The recommendations were approved.

September 2007 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August 27 Constitution Committee 10 AM- 12 PM 354 Tigert Budget Council 1-3 PM 202 Tigert	August 28 Committee on Committees 2-4 PM 429 Library West	August 29	August 30	August 31 Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards Committee 11 AM-1 PM 278 Reitz Union
Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5	Sept. 6 Steering Committee 3-5 PM 226 Tigert	Sept. 7
Sept. 10 Budget Council 1-3 PM 202 Tigert	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13 Welfare Council 2-4 PM 226 Tigert	Sept. 14
Sept. 17	Sept. 18 Senate Council on Research and Scholarship 9-11 AM 346 Reitz Union	Sept. 19	Sept. 20 Senate Meeting 3-5 PM Reitz Union Auditorium Academic Policy Council 10 AM- 12 PM 471 Grinter	Sept. 21 Infrastructure Council 8-10 AM 283 Reitz Union
Sept. 24 Constitution Committee 10 AM- 12 PM 354 Tigert	Sept. 25 Committee on Committees 2-4 PM 429 Library West	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28
Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4 Steering Committee 3-5 PM 226 Tigert	Oct. 5

University of Florida Faculty Senate Office

134 Tigert Hall ♦ P.O. Box 113185

Gainesville, FL 32611

Office: 352-392-9019 ♦ Fax: 352-392-8735

www.senate.ufl.edu

E-mail: facultysenatechair@ufl.edu