

ACADEMICS

A Monthly Newsletter for the Faculty of the University of Florida
January 2008

Published by the Faculty Senate

Chair's Message:

Welcome to 2008

By: Rick Yost, *Faculty Senate Chair*



As we head into 2008, we face many budget challenges driven by the slumping economy in Florida and reductions in tax revenues for the state. As detailed in the September issue of *Academics*, we faced a ~4% callback in the fall, and just learned of a further ~4% reduction this spring (nearly an 8% reduction in our budget for this year). And

current economic projections suggest that we could face further budget reductions in the next fiscal year.

At the Faculty Senate meeting on January 17, President Machen shared with the faculty that neither eliminating summer school nor reducing the size of the incoming fall class would help meet these budget shortfalls. Thus, he called on all Deans and Vice Presidents to propose possible programmatic cuts. The Steering Committee of the Senate will be the lead faculty group involved in reviewing these proposals and making recommendations on how to meet these budget cuts while minimizing the impact on academics, scholarship, and teaching at UF. Feel free to email me your concerns at faultysenatechair@ufl.edu

The news is not all bad. The legislature has agreed to support the hiring of additional faculty and advisers to meet our undergraduate teaching and advising needs, funded this year with \$5M in recurring and nonrecurring funds, and in future years with funds from differential tuition for undergraduates at UF. This will fund the hiring of 17 new tenure-track faculty and eight new advisers

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Buzz:

A Bright Spot Amongst the Budget Cuts

By: Janie Fouke, *Provost*



Amidst all the gloom and uncertainty of the budget cuts, there is a bright spot, however modest. The legislature awarded us \$2M in recurring funds and \$3M in non-recurring funds to address issues associated with the access that our students have to undergraduate classes and to advisers.

We are using this money to hire tenure track faculty, to provide for their start-up packages, and to hire advisers. It's small potatoes in the context of everything else that we are experiencing . . . but it is something about which to be pleased!

We used three methods to develop a list of suggestions for the deans with respect to which units' needs were most dire and especially where the impact as experienced by the students would be maximized. First, we reviewed the Annual Program Review developed by the faculty of each college offering an undergraduate curriculum. From this we could determine the college's own assessment of where they wanted to make investments. Then we held a forum with the undergraduates and listened to their suggestions and experiences. It was a colorful evening. Finally, we checked what was reported in the APRs and what was reported from the students against the data at the University of Florida web-site (<http://www.ir.ufl.edu/factbook/enroll.htm>). There was a great degree of convergence. Suggestions were then provided to deans about where the impact could be the greatest. It's no surprise that they frequently have more

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across UF over the next year. For details on the process of selecting the disciplines for those hires, see the Provost's column on page one of this issue of *Academics*,

The only real solution to providing adequate and stable funding for universities in Florida is a substantial increase in undergraduate tuition. A recent survey shows that the state appropriation per student in Florida is on a par with other schools in the SEC and with UF's peers among the AAU public universities. In sharp contrast, in-state undergraduate tuition at Florida's public universities is only half the average tuition at SEC universities, and only a third the average tuition amongst our peer AAU public universities. Let's hope for leadership from the Board of Governors, the legislature, and the Governor to approve significant increases in tuition this year and over the next few years that will raise our tuition to be competitive with our peers and will help move UF towards the top ten in public universities.

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

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information than can be gleaned from the numbers, so a couple of times they proposed changes to the suggestions that we had made.

The first five faculty positions were identified in President Machen's address to CLAS in the early fall. Also at that time, we announced that we would be hiring 8 new academic advisors (one each in Health and Human Performance, Fine Arts, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for biology, and five for the Academic Advising Center which mostly assists students who have not yet declared their major).

A second group of faculty members was announced around Thanksgiving and after we completed a salary analysis, we found that we had resources for still a third group which we are announcing this week.

First five allocated:

Chemistry (Chemical Biology)
Psychology (Behavioral Neuroscience)
Botany (Computational Genomics – maybe joint with Zoology)
English (Rhetoric and Composition)
Applied Physiology and Kinesiology (HHP)

Second Group allocated:

Journalism & Communications
Elementary Education
Microbiology
Chemistry
Biology
Political Science
History
Anthropology

This last group:

Business (50% funding for two positions – Business to fund the other 50% from private sources)
HHP: Tourism
Statistics
Mechanical Engineering

Update on Council Activities:

By: Rick Yost, *Faculty Senate Chair*

As you may be aware, the five Faculty Senate Councils are charged with making policy recommendations to the Senate, facilitating the implementation of policy, and serving as liaisons between the Senate and the administration within their areas. Each policy council oversees, coordinates and facilitates the work of committees which are assigned to that respective council. Details on each Council, including membership, meeting schedule, and minutes, are posted on the Faculty Senate webpage at <http://www.senate.ufl.edu/councils/>

Some of the issues that the Councils are working on this year include:

Academic Policy Council: This Council has invested tremendous effort into exploring UF's policies on faculty-authored course materials and related conflicts of interest. It also recently approved the recommendations of the General Education Committee on evaluating writing in Gordon Rule classes. The APC also is the lead Council in reviewing UF's Strategic Work Plan.

Faculty Welfare Council: The Welfare Council has been working with the data from the 2007 Faculty Climate Survey, as well as exploring ways to improve childcare on campus. It is also looking into options for a virtual "Faculty Club" on campus, and is currently making recommendations for increasing recognition of faculty contributions to shared governance.

Budget Council: This council focuses on budget matters as they impact the academic mission of the University, and is carefully reviewing recommendations from the Cost Reduction and Efficiency Task Force. As we face further budget callbacks, the Council will serve an important role in facilitating faculty input into the budgeting process. The Council posts lots of data on budget issues on its website at <http://www.senate.ufl.edu/councils/planning/>

Research and Scholarship Council: SCoRS has focused its efforts this year on enhancements to sabbatical and professional development leaves across campus. They are working with the President and with the individual colleges to develop policies that would improve this important part of academics and faculty development.

Academic Infrastructure Council: This council has a busy agenda, including surveying faculty about a pos-

sible switch to 75-minute class periods on Tuesdays and Thursday, reviewing the impact of potential changes to our vehicle management policies, and considering a new plan that would replace faculty computers on a regular basis.

At Faculty Senate meetings over the next few months, the Councils will be reporting on these and other issues. Watch *Academics* for summaries of these reports.

Faculty Senate News: Meeting Outcomes

November 2007

Chair's Report

Rick Yost reported that the Senate Council on Research and Scholarship is surveying colleges in order to get input about sabbaticals from the faculty. Dr. Yost also announced that Student Government has arranged for discounts at the University bookstore later this month.

President's Report

President Machen reported on the undergraduate application process and the process for collecting emergency contact information for students. The University is moving forward with the cost containment efficiency task force recommendations for new revenues and cost reductions. The recommendations will be discussed at the Board of Trustees meeting at the end of the month and a letter will be sent to faculty after the BOT discussion.

Action Items

Department Name Change from Pharmacy Health Care Administration to Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy. The proposal was approved.

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

The proposals were approved.

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
Master of Arts in Teaching	Geography
Master of Arts in Teaching	Philosophy
Master of Arts in Teaching	Political Science
Master of Arts in Teaching	Linguistics

The proposals were approved.

Resolution on the Student Conduct Code Review Committee The resolution was approved unanimously.

December 2007

Chair's Report

Rick Yost announced that the deadline for call for nominations for University committees is January 18, 2008. The Reitz Union master plan committee is looking for Senate representatives to serve on the committee. The Traffic and Parking appeals committee is also looking for volunteers to make decisions on traffic and parking appeals. Yost also gave an update on the November Board of Trustees meeting.

Provost's Report

The Provost reported that the University has received roughly 26,000 applications and that the application process has been automated with the exception of a few low income schools where admissions staff assisted with a paper application process. The Provost also asked faculty to become involved in the admissions process by reading admissions essays. The University is reviewing recommendations to reduce costs and increase revenues. The BOT discussed increasing fees for items permitted by statute. The financial unit of PeopleSoft will be introduced during the summer. Additionally, the University catalogue will be an online publication soon.

Faculty Senate News: Meeting Outcomes

January 2008

Chair's Report

Rick Yost announced that an article on differential tuition, written by the Provost, will be in the January issue of Academics. The call for nominations for committees deadline has been extended by one week.

President's Report

President Machen reported on the University budget and possible budget cuts by the legislature. The administration is asking deans to make proposals of possibilities of programs to reduce. The vice presidents are also creating proposals of possible programs to reduce. President Machen will try to find programs that have a minimal impact on the strategic plan. The package will be presented to the Board of Trustees after it is vetted on campus.

Action Items:

Curriculum Committee Items

Request to change degree name from Turfgrass Science to Golf and Sports Turf Management
The motion was approved.

Sustainability Resolution

The resolution was approved with one opposed.

Constitution committee Changes to the Constitution

The recommendations were approved.

January -February 2008 Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Jan 24	Jan 25
Jan. 28	Jan. 29	Jan. 30	Jan. 31 Senate Chair meeting with the President 226 Tigert 9:15 AM	Feb. 1
Feb. 4 Senate Nominating Committee 12 PM in 202 Tigert	Feb. 5 Constitution Committee 8:30- 10 AM in 354 Tigert Senate Council on Research and Scholarship Policy 2-4 PM in B60 Reitz Union	Feb. 6	Feb. 7 Senate Chair with President at 9:15 AM in 226 Tigert Steering Committee at 3 PM in 226 Tigert	Feb. 8
Feb. 11 Lakes, Vegetation and Land- scaping Committee 8:30 AM in 226 Stadium Academic Policy Council meet- ing at 3 PM in 143 Hub	Feb. 12	Budget Council meeting 3 PM in 202 Tigert	Infrastructure Council Meeting 9 AM in 355 Reitz Union Senate Chair meeting with President 2 PM in 226 Tigert	Feb. 13

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

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