

**Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
August 28, 2008
3:00 -5:00 P.M.
Reitz Union Grand Ballroom**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM

State of the University Address

Bernie Machen, President

Dr. Machen delivered the State of the University address.
Transcript is included at the end of this document.

2008-2009 Faculty Senate Agenda

Frank Bova, Faculty Senate Chair

Dr. Bova reviewed last year's accomplishments and the upcoming year's Senate agenda. Bova announced that the Senate will begin to utilize a slide show prior to each senate meeting in order to recognize faculty achievements. Matt Fajack's office is exploring a responsibility center management budget model. The Senate budget council will work with Mr. Fajack to discuss the issue and bring information forward to the Senate. The Senate will review the academic calendar beginning in September. In November Dianna Morgan, BoT chair will speak to the Senate.

Information Items

Agricultural and Life Sciences Graduate Degree Programs

Henry Frierson, Dean Graduate School

- Sunset the Master of Agriculture degree with a major in Botany
- Sunset the Master of Agriculture degree with a major in Soil and Water Science
- Sunset the Master of Agriculture degree with a major in Food and Resource Economics
- Sunset Master of Agriculture Degree with a major in Agricultural Education and Communication

These items will be presented as an action item at the September Senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at:

Attendees:

Chunrong Ai
Wayne Archer
Steve Asare
Lorena Baccaglini
Marylou Behnke

Azra Bihorac
David Bloomquist
Elizabeth Bolton
Jane Brockmann
Regina Bussing
Judy Butterfiled

Louis Cattafesta
Kenny Cheng
Maria Coady
Robert Cook
Elizabeth Creveling
Oscar Crisalle
David Criswell
Jean Crockett
Harry Daniels
Timothy Davis
Bruce Edwards
Lily Elefteriadou
Maria Gallo
George Gerencser
Paul Gibbs
Martin Gold
Kelly Gary-Eurom
Wayne Griffin
Jeffrey Harman
Alice Harmon
Edward Hart
Richard Hill
Shannon Holliday
David Janicke
Henry Jowers
Stan Kaye
James Keesling
William Kem
Kristen Kemple
Saeed Khan
Michael Kladde
James Klausner
Shawn Kneipp
John Leavey
Stephen Lewis
Kathy Light
Jenshan Lin
William Lindberg
Henrietta Logan
William McArthur
Heather McAuslane
Sue McGorray
Jack Mecholsky
Mike meldrom
Jacqueline Miller
Deb Mitra

Martha Monroe
Bill Montgomery
Cynthia Morton
Satya Narayan
Scott Nygren
Mark Orazem
Marc Ottenga
Nancy Poehlmann
Deborah Popovich
Rose Pringle
William Properzio
David Quillen
Tracy Rambo
Ron Randles
David Reed
Marilyn Roberts
Ruth Ron
Victoria Rovine
Sandra Russo
Mary Beth Salisbury
Orit Shechtman
Wolfgang Sigmund
Sharleen Simpson
Susan Sinnott
Daniel Siragusa
Brenda Smith
Clay Smith
David Smith
Craig Stanley
Micahel sweat
Joseph Tepas
Sevan Terzian
Sharon Treen
Jill Varnes
Eric Wachsman
Susan Webb
Henry Wihnyk
Brenda Williams
Sally Williams
Naomi Young
Jennifer Zedalis
Dana Zimmer
Barbara Zsembik

Liaisons:
Jacob Chung

Paul D'Anieri
Teresa Dolan
Henry Frierson
Pramod Khargonekar
Lucinda Lavelli
Bernie Machen
Micahel Perri
Winfred Phillips
Judith Russell
Christopher Silver
Richard Yost

Guests:
Marc Heft
Ellis Greiner
Carol Kem
Jackie Ayers
Daniel Wubah
Christine Winget
Dylan Billiodeaux
Yooni Yi

State of the University - August 28, 2008

Good afternoon.

I am glad to be having the Senate meeting on a Thursday and not tomorrow because two Fridays ago, the state announced a \$1.8 billion deficit and last Friday, we had to close the university because of Tropical Storm Fay. I want to be able to shut the door to my office tomorrow when the swarms of locusts arrive.

OK, so it might be a stretch to use the term “Biblical” for what is happening, but the University of Florida has been through tough times this past year. We had to make hard decisions. Inevitably, some decisions spurred disagreement and protest.

The disagreement over what to cut could be viewed as a weakness of our system. But compared to what’s happening in the public sector of our nation’s economy, I believe we acted responsibly and collegially. Ultimately, no matter the issue at hand, everyone was sincerely interested in pursuing what was best for this university. It has not been personal – it has been about how to shepherd UF through. I was, and still am, impressed by this high sense of purpose throughout the campus and community.

Thanks to the souring economy, Florida expects more shortfalls. I am doing what I can to convince Governor Crist to tap his rainy day fund and avoid cuts that will further weaken Florida’s stressed universities. We are also focusing on new revenues for the future. We need to use the next few months to tell the story of what additional reductions would do to the University of Florida. And, we need to consider our options for future budget cuts, should they occur.

A lot of people are trying to do what’s best for the University of Florida. That’s a credit to the members of the Faculty Senate, and to the greater university community.

Our U.S. News ranking remained the same this year. I know that this ranking is important, but it is not all that we are concerned about. In these tough economic times,

my primary interest is to align the university's fiscal and academic priorities in support of the University of Florida's continued status as a national research university and member of the American Association of Universities.

One interesting ranking for UF is the Sierra Club Top-10 "Green" Schools. We are ranked seventh among Middleburg College, Colorado at Boulder and Arizona State. We should recognize and celebrate the work being done by Faculty, Students and Administrators in the area of sustainability. We have approved an academic minor in sustainability and I hope there will be more academic initiatives in this area.

The budget news did cast a dark shadow, but we had some exciting developments on campus last year and expect more this coming year.

Let me begin with new faculty developments.

Faculty

The hiring freeze we announced last summer remains in place, although we are making exceptions as possible. But there is good news. Differential tuition, which adds a surcharge to the statewide tuition hike, begins this year. We anticipate \$1.8 million in new dollars, enough to hire 17 to 22 new faculty members and several academic advisors.

Each new class will pay the differential, eventually adding \$22 million to our hiring budget. We promised we would spend this money on new faculty and advisors in areas of great demand. We will certainly keep that promise. Provost Glover will announce the new areas to be targeted very soon – after getting student input.

The flip side of hiring is departures. Turnover is a natural part of academe. I am concerned that our financial woes will prompt an unusual number of faculty to take jobs at other institutions. It has not happened so far.

Our full-time faculty has declined by a net of 115. That is 2.9%. A larger percentage of retirements contributes to this decline, along with slower hiring practices. Recently we announced three percent merit raises. Three percent is not enough. But I hope the merit raises -- and the two percent across-the-board raises for staff -- convey the message that even when money is short, we recognize hard work and passion.

We are also devoting more resources and consideration to faculty enhancement. As you know, we have a draft proposal for which we are seeking input. It is aimed at expanding traditional sabbaticals and opening development opportunities to more faculty. We have dedicated \$2 million annually for three years toward this initiative. Hopefully, faculty will view the expanded development opportunities as a significant benefit of working at UF.

We are keeping in place all new human relations initiatives launched in recent years, including domestic partner benefits and graduate student health care. In fact, we are

expanding mental health coverage for graduate students. We also do not expect to raise health care insurance premiums for faculty or staff in 2009. This is the third year we have been able to hold premiums steady which is a significant state-supported benefit!

Rick Yost did a terrific job as Faculty Senate Chair, and all signs are that current Chair Frank Bova will continue his legacy, even if he does drive the world's smallest car. I look forward to continuing to support the principles of shared governance in charting this institution's path. The last 5 years have been a time of growth and maturation of shared governance at UF. I met this morning with the new Senators. Welcome, we look forward to your input.

Administrative appointments

To assist with leadership, we have made several important appointments to our administrative ranks.

UF enters the new academic year with a new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Paul D'Anieri, and new dean of the College of Journalism, John Wright. We are also pleased to have Interim Dean of the College of Medicine Michael Good on board. Welcome, Paul, John and Michael.

We also gained Provost Joe Glover, Chief Financial Officer Matt Fajack and Interim CIO Chuck Frazier. We are now much closer to the integrated CIO model that I view as the most effective administrative structure for leading this university.

Also on board are Interim Vice President for Human Resource Services Paula Fussell and Associate Provost Kathleen Long. Welcome to all. I look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Students

Of course most new faces on campus are our incoming students. Although the official number won't be available until after drop-add, our entering class of freshman currently numbers 6,537 -- nearly identical, by design, to the size of last fall's class.

That said, what distinguishes this year's class from those of previous years is that it is drawn from a record 28,121 applications, up over 16 percent from last year. That high number forced us to be even more selective and the quality of our students continues to rise. We accepted only 39 percent of applicants for this year's class, our smallest percentage ever. It appears this year's entering students had an average GPA of 4.18 and SAT of 1293, both up from last year.

With that level of achievement, it's obvious to me that this entering class -- and indeed all of our undergraduates -- have the academic strength and the study skills to tackle a much more ambitious course load than they do. We continue to seek ways to encourage students to take more credits, with the goal of each student averaging 15 credit hours per

semester. If we could achieve that, it would allow the university to admit more students and benefit from the tuition and state support that comes with them.

Last year, budget cuts forced UF to reduce the number of transfer admissions for this year's class. Because of that, the university's total enrollment is about 800 fewer than last year, at around 49,752.

Among this year's entering students are 375 Florida Opportunity Scholars, bringing participants in this three-year-old program to 1,050. We view this program as key to holding open our door to academically qualified students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our belief when we launched this program was that these students can succeed at UF if given proper support. The evidence bears us out. Pending drop-add, the retention rate for last year's class topped 96 percent, with 60 percent of scholars completing their first year with GPAs of 3.0 or better.

For the first two years of Florida Opportunity Scholars, African-American enrollment in our overall freshmen class stood at about 13 percent. Unfortunately, that percentage fell to about 10 percent in this year's class. One problem appears to be that other state universities, located in their home city or much closer to where these students live, have begun offering very competitive scholarship packages. We are working on strategies to overcome our geographic disadvantage. As for Hispanic enrollment, it remained steady, at 15 percent of the entering class.

In other student news, summer credit hour production is up to par this year, an important contributor to our state appropriations.

Fundraising

While state budgets are suffering, we have made good progress on fundraising despite the gloomy economy and unsteady stock market.

We launched the public phase of Florida Tomorrow last September with about \$500 million already committed, and last year we raised over \$200 million, for a campaign total of over \$700 million. Our endowment as of June 30 was \$1.25 billion, up 2.6 percent from the previous fiscal year. We have raised nearly \$300 million for the Faculty Challenge Initiative, including the state match, before folding it into Florida Tomorrow. The Humanities/Social Sciences Challenge has raised over 2 million dollars.

Research

Another important source of funding is research. Research awards were down 3.7 percent, with contracts and grants totaling \$562 million. Several developments demonstrate the quality of our current research efforts and bode well for future growth. Last year we broke ground on the Emerging Pathogens Institute and initiated a collaboration with the Moffitt Cancer Center. Also...

- We received \$15 million in state dollars to create the Florida Energy Systems Consortium to bring together Florida's universities on renewable energy.
- Our Ordway-Swisher Biological Station was designated a future site in the National Science Foundation-sponsored National Ecological Observatory Network, or NEON. It is a real feather in our cap to have a national NSF laboratory and to be part of this 30-year project.
- Faculty received several major grant awards, including \$3 million from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for a pancreas bank and research center.
- Math professor John Thompson shared the Abel Award, the highest award in mathematics, with a professor in France.

Let me add that our technology transfer efforts are really coming into their own. We licensed or optioned a record 75 faculty developed technologies this year. UF spinoff companies received a record \$100 million-plus in venture capital. With royalty income from licensed UF technologies added to contracts and grants, UF received over \$600 million in research funding last year.

Facilities

We completed the Nanoscale Research Facility and Southwest Stadium Expansion this month. That followed Steinbrennar Band Hall and Pugh Hall earlier this year. Over the next year, we expect to finish and occupy the Shands at UF Cancer Center, the Biomedical Sciences Building and the Pathogens Research Facility.

This coming year, we expect to break ground on the Business Graduate Studies Building, otherwise known as Hough Hall. We will also begin the Harn Museum Asian Art Wing. Much to commuters' relief, we will add the 950-space Southwest Parking Garage. Also, among other projects, we will start work on the office building at our Eastside Campus on Waldo Road.

Due to a change in the state funding formula, the PECO funding that has supported so much construction on campus in recent years will plunge next fiscal year. So, I don't expect this boom to continue, but I am pleased we were able to do so much in the past few years.

That said, both Hough Hall and the Harn addition are donor funded. We anticipate privately funded construction to continue at a good pace.

Conclusion

I have said very little in this speech about future budget cuts and their impact because we know so little at this point. Eighteen months ago, I could have never predicted that this university would face what amounts to a \$100 million shortfall.

Certainly, however, there is a good possibility there will be further cuts. But even if we do have to make more hard decisions, we will continue to invest in areas that support the core academic and research enterprise.

Based on last year's experience, I also have faith in the leadership, faculty, staff and students here, in their love for this university, and in the notion that any future differences of opinion or conflict will be a sign not of division, but of progress.