

**Senate Steering Committee
Minutes
February 1, 2007
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.
226 Tigert**

Attendees:

Danaya Wright
Rick Yost
Chris Snodgrass
Barbara Wingo
Anita Spring
Mary Ann Burg
Sandra Chance
Kim Tanzer
Peggy Carr
Frank Bova

Rebecca Pauly
Bernie Machen
Pradeep Kumar
Janie Fouke
Amelia Hugus

Guests:

John Boyles
John Leavey
Carol Kem

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM.
The January 4, 2007 minutes were approved.

Reports:

▪ **Chair's Report**

Danaya Wright, Chair

Danaya Wright reported that a request for council and committee reports has been sent to all chairs. Reports are due in March and April. The climate survey should be distributed on February 12th. The BOG is proposing legislation to allow one opportunity to buy back into the Florida State Plan for SUS employees. The April Senate meeting will not be held in the Cultural Plaza but will be held in the Constans Theater.

▪ **President's Report**

Bernie Machen, President

Dr. Machen discussed how the county extension agent issue evolved. Dr. Machen reported that there is opposition to the Academic Enhancement Program from some of the Florida pre-paid recipients.

Information Items:

▪ **Request for Student Participation on Councils**

John Boyles, Student Body President

John Boyles presented a request to include student members on the Senate policy councils. The issue was forwarded to the Committee on Committees. The COC will look also review past committee structures to determine if any students were removed from committees in the process of revising bylaws.

▪ **Resolution on Academic Enhancement Program**

Danaya Wright, Chair

The committee discussed the resolution on the AEP. The steering committee will approve the resolution via e-mail once more suggestions for revisions have been made.

▪ **Open Discussion on Union/Senate relations**

Danaya Wright, Chair

Chris Snodgrass reported that the Board of Trustees filed a petition, in the Summer of 2006 to PERC requesting that the number of people covered by the contract be reduced by removing certain groups of faculty. Among the groups of faculty requested to be removed are Senators. A ruling will be finalized approximately 45 days from the hearing which was held on January 16 and 17, 2007. The Steering committee had concerns with the petition but will await the results of the hearing before taking any official action.

- **County Extension Agents**

Rebecca Pauly, Welfare Council Chair

The Welfare council discussed this issue and feels that the local governance levels understand these groups of faculty better than the APB. Rebecca Pauly presented the council's recommendations to establish a pilot program.

Council Reports:

- **Academic Infrastructure Council 5 min**

Peggy Carr, Chair

The infrastructure council will bring a resolution to support the technology fee forward in March. The Steering committee does not want the technology fee resolution to compete with the AEP resolution.

There were no other council reports.

Information Items:

- **ACFS**

(this item was added to the agenda during the meeting) Dr. Wright suggested to the ACFS that they develop a system to create a statewide Senate, which would need approval of the BOG. The ACFS has not yet decided to have a conversation about this issue. Drs. Wright and Yost will keep the Steering committee posted if this issue develops.

- **Research and Education Subcommittee reports regarding LBR, mini-grants and Focus the Nation project**

Eva Czarnecka-Verner, Chair Sustainability Committee

Eva Czarnecka-Verner presented an information item on the Sustainability sub-committee on research and education. This will be an information item at the February Senate meeting along with a resolution supporting the Focus the Nation project. The Steering committee determined that it was not necessary to seek Senate approval for the legislative budget request.

Action Items:

The February 15, 2007 Senate agenda was approved with the addition of an information item from Rebecca Pauly regarding the County Extension Agents.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM