

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

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**Attendees:**

Danaya Wright  
Sandra Chance  
Chris Snodgrass  
Bernie Machen  
Pradeep Kumar  
Rick Yost  
Janie Fouke  
Barbara Wingo

Peggy Carr  
Anita Spring  
Kim Tanzer  
Amelia Hugus

**Guests:**

Carol Kem  
Ken Gerhardt  
Andy McCollough  
Saeed Khan  
John Leavey

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM  
The minutes of the March 1, 2007 minutes were approved.

**Reports:**

▪ **Chair's Report**

**Danaya Wright**, Chair

Dr. Wright reported that the language regarding tenured full professors will be changed in the regulations to reflect the original language that the college Promotion and Tenure committees can consist of at-rank faculty. The regulation currently states tenure committees should be "comprised of tenured faculty members of colleges holding full rank or above". This change will be included in the constitution committee's report on upcoming regulation recommendations. The Honorary Degrees Committee met to discuss the composition of the Honorary Degrees Committee and the process the committee will follow. The Education policy committee received the revised strategic work plan and will review again in June. Dr. Machen will use the SWP as a planning document. Dr. Wright asked the steering committee if they would like to move forward with creating a process for endorsement of student initiatives.

▪ **President's Report**

**Bernie Machen**, President

Dr. Machen reported that Jane Adams is drafting a resolution for Officer Dahlem. Dr. Machen would like the Steering Committee's support of this resolution. The University is working on creating more permanent recognition for the officer. Florida pre-paid students are no longer included in the Academic Enhancement Program proposal. Dr. Machen also noted that the Hough School of Business does not carry an academic function and would not need to be approved by the Senate. This is a naming opportunity for a program only. The name itself will have no academic significance or bring about any curricular change. Dr. Machen also reported that Student Government would like a report on minus grades in a couple of years.

## **Information Items:**

- **Gordon Rule Proposal**                      **Andy McCollough**, Chair General Education Council

Dr. McCollough presented a proposal to change the Gordon rule grading structure. The proposal is to require the instructor to evaluate both the content, by providing a letter grade, and the writing, by providing a S/U.

If a student receives a U, it does not affect their grade; it means the student didn't meet the Gordon rule requirement for general education. The APC had concerns about the process for implementation. John Leavey also noted that the CLAS undergraduate coordinators had opposition to the proposal. The item will be deferred until the Fall and will be presented as information in September. The APC will try to obtain feedback from the faculty before the fall.

- **PhD in Epidemiology**                      **Ken Gerhardt**, Interim Dean Graduate School

Dr. Gerhardt presented a proposal for a PhD in Epidemiology. The item will be an information item in April.

- **Honorary Degrees Committee Recommendation**

**Saeed Khan**, Chair Honorary Degrees

Dr. Khan presented a candidate for an Honorary Degree. Dr. Khan will work on obtaining letters from the Astronomy department and the item will be postponed until the Fall.

- **Student Sustainability Fee Resolution**                      **Danaya Wright**, Chair

Student Government presented a resolution on the creation of a sustainability fee. The steering committee decided that the Senate was not the appropriate place to discuss legislative issues at this time. Rick Yost will determine a process for review of LBRs next year.

- **Textbook Affordability Bill**                      **Danaya Wright**, Chair

Dr. Wright presented a textbook resolution. The Steering committee expressed some concern regarding the resolution. All concerns will be directed to Jane Adams so she can convey those concerns to our lobbyists.

- **Sunshine Laws, e-mails and discussion boards**

**Barbara Wingo**, Deputy General Counsel

Dr. Wingo expressed concern about the listserv becoming a discussion board. Suggestions are to close and monitor the listserv, create a system by which members of the Senate can communicate, in a venue, seen by the public, but that only allows Senators to speak. Any system for discussion would have to be created as a meeting with a specific time and location for the general public to watch. The steering committee will consider this issue over the summer.

## **Council Reports:**

- **Academic Policy Council**                      **Anita Spring**, Chair

Dr. Spring reported that the Academic Policy Council 'cleaned up' the SWP and there were no substantial changes made. There were conversations with Dr. Machen about how to proceed in the future. Currently, the document will be reviewed every 3-5 years and addendums can be made to emphasize priorities. Dr. Spring will send Dr. Wingo an opinion

regarding notes services and the council will also look into current regulations regarding professors receiving money from students for class materials.

▪ **Academic Infrastructure Council**

**Peggy Carr, Chair**

The Infrastructure Council held a joint meeting with the Sustainability Committee. The council is concerned that there is not enough work for them to do because the committees are adequately doing their jobs.

**Action Items:**

**Approval of Senate Agenda for the April 19, 2007 meeting**

The Senate agenda was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM