

Senate Steering Committee
Minutes
January 10, 2008
3:00-5:00 P.M.
226 Tigert

Attendees:
Rick Yost
Saeed Khan
Chris Snodgrass
Rebecca Pauly
Ellis Greiner
Jerry Cutler
Barbara Wingo
Carol Murphy
Danaya Wright

Frank Bova
Bernie Machen
Amelia Bell

Guests:
John Leavey
Jill Varnes
Andy McCollough
Daniel Wubah
Cathy Martyniak

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM

The minutes of the December 6, 2007 meeting were approved.

Reports:

▪ **Chair's Report**

Rick Yost, Chair

Rick Yost reported that the call for nominations for University committees was sent out. Yost also encouraged members of the Steering committee to share their thoughts on the budget.

▪ **President's Report**

Bernie Machen, President

President Machen updated the Steering committee on state budget allocations and projected budget shortfalls. The University will avoid making cuts to student programs and will look for areas in the budget that do not involve student credits when making decisions about areas in which to reduce spending. The Steering committee agreed with the principal of protecting the academic quality of the University. Machen asked the Steering committee to think about ways the faculty can give input to this process and develop principals to drive decisions on budget cutbacks as well as where money should be spent when the University receives additional funds.

Information Items:

Healthy Gators 2010

Jill Varnes, Healthy Gators 2010 steering committee vice chair

Jill Varnes updated the Steering committee on the Healthy Gators 2010 program. This presentation will be given as an information item at the January Senate meeting.

Gordon Rule Proposal

Andy McCollough, General Education Committee Chair

Andy McCollough presented the revised Gordon Rule proposal and discussed the modifications to the proposal. The revised document will be reviewed by the Academic Policy Council and the item will be presented as information at the February Senate meeting.

Report from the Ad-hoc Committee on a Civil, Safe and Open Environment

Rick Yost reported that Kim Tanzer will update the Senate on the actions of the Ad-hoc Committee on a Civil, Safe and Open Environment at the January Senate meeting.

Policy Council Regular Membership and college assemblies **Saeed Khan**, member
The Steering committee discussed the relationships between the Senate and the college assemblies. Rick Yost will talk to Barbara Wingo and Danaya Wright regarding the Senate's interaction with College Councils in order to clarify the roles of the two groups in shared governance. The consensus of the Steering committee is that the Senate should not be restricted to whom it can solicit information.

Council Reports:

▪ **Academic Policy Council** **Carol Murphy**, Chair

The council will review the emended general education committee's proposal. The council is also reviewing the faculty authored course materials and conflict of interest charges. The general counsel's office sent a response to the UFF president on the council's behalf addressing concerns the UFF raised regarding the proposals.

▪ **Academic Infrastructure Council** **Jerry Cutler**, Chair

The council is considering a proposal to change Tuesday/Thursday classes to 75 minute blocks. The council will discuss Information Technology governance in March. The council met with representatives of the vehicle management plan. The February meeting will be devoted to vetting the plan.

▪ **Research and Scholarship Council** **Saeed Khan**, Chair

The council is creating a proposal for a central policy on sabbaticals. The policy will include language in support of granting sabbaticals to roughly 10 percent of the faculty and transparency. The policy would be created to enhance the existing sabbatical program.

▪ **Welfare Council** **Rebecca Pauly**, Chair

The council is reviewing data from the faculty climate survey. The council is also pursuing the child care issue.

▪ **Budget Council** **Allen Wysocki**, Chair

No report

Action Item

▪ **Approve Senate Agenda for January 17, 2008** **Rick Yost**, Chair

The agenda for the January 17, 2008 Senate meeting was approved with the addition of an information item from the Constitution committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM