

**Senate Steering Committee  
Minutes  
October 2, 2008  
3:00-5:00 P.M.  
226 Tigert**

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**Attendees:**

Frank Bova  
Barbara Wingo  
Bernie Machen  
Chris Snodgrass  
David Quillen  
Ellis Greiner  
Jack Mecholsky  
Jacob Chung

Amelia Bell  
Elizabeth Bolton  
Rick Yost  
Sue Percival  
Danaya Wright  
**Guests:**  
Daniel Wubah  
Jill Varnes  
Cathy Martyniak

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM  
The minutes of the September 11 meeting were approved.

**Reports:**

**Chair's Report**

**Frank Bova, Chair**

The College of Medicine in Jacksonville requests to change one division of medicine to a clinical department of dermatology. The issue will be reviewed by the APC. The APC meets before the Senate meeting and if the APC approves the item will be presented to the Senate as information.

Provost Glover distributed a DDD about minus grades. Also, an e-mail was sent to the deans about the textbook adoption compliance issue.

Bova discussed the Research Compliance Initiative Committee which will determine how to deal with compliance issues that were made for industry which don't really apply to higher education. The committee will also look at ways to reduce the impact of compliance on faculty. Jack Mecholsky has been invited to serve on the committee and Jacob Chung has been invited to participate on behalf of SCoRS.

**President's Report**

**Bernie Machen, President**

Machen reported that the university is 1 or 2% below the total SCH of the last academic year. The University endowment appears to be stable so far. Machen also discussed that status of university fundraising. The chancellor of the BOG has announced that he will return to FIU. An interim chancellor will be appointed and a search will begin.

**Council Reports:**

**Academic Policy Council**

**Danaya Wright, Chair**

Wright reported that the APC approved the UCC general request to modify the calendar. The proposal places

spring break after the 8<sup>th</sup> week of classes and also recommends that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving be a holiday. The calendar will be information item at October Senate meeting.

The council will also determine how to present the faculty's position on textbook bill. The APC is also creating a document that will be sent to the Provost for his consideration regarding compliance issues. The council is also discussing procedures for department mergers and organizational changes as they come to the council. The council is not involved in specific college issues but the overall issue of department changes.

### **Budget Council**

**David Quillen**, Chair

The Budget Council will present RCM to Senate when they have enough information to make a presentation. The council met with Machen to discuss budget processes in the event of another budget reduction and the budget council is developing draft principles.

### **Research and Scholarship Council**

**Jacob Chung**, Chair

The council discussed plans for the coming year and priorities. The council will discuss how to simplify conflict of interest policies and provide more standardized procedures for encouraging entrepreneurial approach to research. Additionally the council will follow up on the new sabbatical policies. The council discussed the FEO document. The council would like to discuss information technology policies including those that are helping and those that are inhibiting research activities. The council noted that some IT policies make it difficult to share data within units. The council will also discuss how the university can enhance research productivity and scholarship by enhancing interdisciplinary research.

### **Welfare Council**

**Susan Percival**, Chair

The council prioritized council issues for the year. The council will focus on the FEO, the salary pay plan program, and the role of the teaching evaluation in tenure and promotion. Additionally, the council will discuss merit pay plans for merit recognition for senate work. The council may create a group to look at role of teaching evaluations in tenure and promotion in various fields.

### **Infrastructure Council**

**Jane Brockmann**, Chair

No report.

### **Information Items:**

#### **The Road to Excellence**

**Daniel Wubah**, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs

Wubah gave road to excellence presentation. The item will be presented to the Senate in November.

There is also a task force on undergraduate education that will discussed strategic aspirations and long term plans.

#### **Intercollegiate Athletics Update**

**Jill Varnes**, Faculty Athletics representative

Varnes presented the intercollegiate athletics update. The item will be an information item at October senate meeting.

#### **Faculty Enhancement Opportunity**

**Kathy Long**, Associate Provost

Long presented the faculty enhancement opportunity draft. This item will be an information item at the October Senate meeting. Elizabeth Bolton recommended assigning different percentages for awards in each unit.

#### **Proposed Constitution Changes**

**Cathy Martyniak**, Constitution Committee Chair

Martyniak presented some proposed constitution changes. This item will be an information item at October senate meeting.

The October Senate agenda was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10