

Committee on Educational Policy Minutes
University of Florida
Board of Trustees
December 5, 2003
9:00 – 10:00 A.M.
President's Room C, Emerson Alumni Hall

All Committee Members Present: Manny Fernandez, Chair, Tony Brennan, Albert Thweatt, Jr.

Others Present Include: Joelen Merkel, Cynthia O'Connell, David Colburn, Joe Glover, Kyle Jones, Win Phillips, Bill Riffée, and Mike Rollo.

Committee Chair Manny Fernandez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and requested a motion to approve the minutes for the September 6, 2003 committee meeting. Dr. Brennan made the motion to approve and Dr. Thweatt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Fernandez then turned the meeting over to Provost Colburn. Dr. Colburn informed the committee that the College of Health Professions has gotten Senate approval to change their name to the College of Public Health and Health Professions and the new name will be effective immediately.

Dr. Colburn then discussed the next agenda item, UF's Distance Education Programs. Dr. Colburn turned this agenda item over to Dr. Bill Riffée. Dr. Riffée gave an explanation of the notebook the committee members received and highlighted certain aspects of the data included in the notebook such as number of distance, continuing, or executive education programs offered by the various colleges at UF and the locations of the programs. Dr. Riffée clarified that distance education is defined as education delivered to students at a distance, that is, it does not include on-line education offered to students on the UF campus. He also informed the committee that the distance education program has 1303 graduates to date. Dr. Riffée then went on to highlight the degrees offered through distance education.

Dr. Colburn asked to move the agenda items around a bit and turned the meeting over to Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Michael Rollo, to discuss the NSSE Student Study. Dr. Rollo updated the committee on a national survey that UF was involved in last year. The survey measured seniors and first-year students. Dr. Rollo highlighted that UF stands out from the others in the survey in student loyalty. Those surveyed ranked UF higher than other peer institutions. Dr. Rollo commented that overall students feel good about their experience at UF. Dr. Rollo said he plans to share this information with the Deans and Faculty Senate and develop ways to improve and advance the success of this program.

Dr. Colburn then highlighted a couple of items of which he wanted to make the committee aware:

- There is a committee co-chaired by the Rev. Thomas Wright and former dean of the Law School, Jon Mills, that focuses on efforts in east Gainesville, identifies issues that are important to the community and develops ways the university can assist in the community efforts. Student Government and VP Poppells office were instrumental in the clean-up project in November 2003.
- Michael Gale has won the Mitchell Scholarship. There were over 200 applicants, 20 semi-finalists and Michael is one of twelve that were awarded the scholarship nationally.
- The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education identified the top universities for black students to study in America, and UF was ranked 8th.

Dr. Colburn then moved onto the next agenda item, tenure upon appointment cases. Dr. Colburn stated there were 5 cases that needed the committee's approval. Dr. Brennan moved to approve the tenure upon appointment, Dr. Thweatt seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The next agenda item discussed by Dr. Colburn was the proposed UF rules. Dr. Colburn asked Dr. Joe Glover to comment briefly on the modification to each rule – 6C1-1.200, 6C1-3.0422, 6C1-3.045, 6C1-3.037, 6C1-4.004, 6C1-4.007, 6C1-4.019, 6C1-4.026, and 6C1-3.075. Mr. Fernandez asked for a motion to approve the amendments, Dr. Thweatt moved the motion, Dr. Brennan seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Colburn then discussed the faculty salary increases agenda item. Dr. Colburn commented that since Dr. Young has been President of UF, he has put \$3.5 million on a recurring basis and \$3 million on non-recurring basis in support of faculty salaries. He then commented that this is just an informational agenda item. Mr. Fernandez commented that he thinks it is important to keep faculty salaries as a priority and to be very aggressive in keeping this priority.

The next agenda item Dr. Colburn discussed was the faculty senate resolution on shared governance. He pointed out that both the President and Dr. Brennan spoke to this issue at a previous meeting. Dr. Colburn asked Mr. Fernandez if he felt the committee needed to vote on the resolution. Mr. Fernandez suggested the Ed Policy Committee recommend the resolution, Dr. Brennan moved the motion, Dr. Thweatt seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the recommendation.

The delegation to President Machen was the next agenda item Dr. Colburn raised. Dr. Thweatt moved the motion, Dr. Brennan seconded, and the delegation to Dr. Machen was approved unianimously.

Dr. Colburn discussed the next agenda item, local fees. Dr. Colburn asked Dr. Glover to address the modifications to the local student fees. The proposal is a \$0.10 increase per credit hour for activities and service fee and a \$0.23 increase per credit hour for the

student health care fee. Dr. Rollo commented that the students have been engaged in the discussion of the proposed increases, and that the student-chaired committee made the recommendations to increase fees, and all students that they have discussed the change with have been supportive of the fee increase. Dr. Brennan moved to approve the motion, Dr. Thweatt seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Another information item, Dr. Colburn wanted to give the committee was that Student Government has been meeting with him and Drs. Rollo and Bucciarelli to discuss tuition, fee increases and how the money is used to help the students gain a better understanding of the increases.

The final agenda item before the committee was the strategic plan update. Dr. Colburn commented that at the full Board of Trustees meeting each proposal will be discussed in detail. Mr. Fernandez suggested that this agenda item need not go before the committee and could wait until the full Board of Trustees meeting.

Dr. Colburn then updated the committee on the activities of the Board of Governors (BOG). He has been attending the meetings and the BOG is in the process of laying out their strategic plan. It is clear the BOG is looking at strengthening the research universities and identifying mission and goals for the universities in the system. They BOG is also discussing funding formulas and lobbying efforts. Mr. Fernandez asked if UF is involved in helping the BOG develop the strategic plan. Dr. Colburn replied that a work group has been developed, and he is working with John Dasburg, Dr. Glover, Dr. Young. Mr. Dasburg has appointed Jamie Kraft to work with him on the endeavor. Mr. Fernandez asked that the Board of Trustees be well informed with enough reaction time, and Dr. Colburn commented that he would send his BOG notes to Mr. Fernandez.

Dr. Colburn also highlighted that he has launched a committee to address faculty diversity on campus. Trustees Thweatt and Daniels are members of the committee.

Mr. Fernandez asked that at the March 2004 Board of Trustee meeting, the trustees be engaged in the recruitment of students to come to UF, as they had done a few years ago.

Dr. Thweatt congratulated the Provost for his work on the Alliance Program in helping to enroll minority students, and thanked the President for his commitment to diversity.

Ms. Merkel advised the committee that regarding the BOG, she has been designated as the liaison for the strategic planning process.

Mr. Fernandez concluded the meeting at 9:45 a.m.