

Committee on Educational Policy & Strategy Minutes
University of Florida
Board of Trustees
September 10, 2004
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Emerson Alumni Hall
Presidents Room 215C

All Committee Members Present: Dianna Morgan, Chair; Pierre Ramond; Jamal Sowell; and Albert Thweatt, Jr.

Others Present Include: David Colburn, Manny Fernandez, Charles Frazier, Joseph Glover, and J. Michael Rollo.

Committee Chair Dianna Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and asked that the minutes from the August 16th meeting be distributed electronically since they were not available for this meeting. She then asked for a motion to approve the June meeting minutes, Trustee Thweatt made the motion, Trustee Ramond seconded, and the June minutes were approved unanimously.

Trustee Morgan then explained that many of the agenda items had been discussed at the August 16th meeting, but there was no formal voting. She asked Provost Colburn to address the tenure upon hire cases. Dr. Colburn gave the faculty vote for each of the cases: Bayliss, Gi, Portillo, Srivastava, and Werch. He also stated that each case had the approval of the faculty, Dean, Provost, and President. The committee then discussed the option of providing the tenure upon hire cases on a secure website to cut down on the amount of copying and paperwork, but stated they would still like to see the coversheets and grid of the cases. Dr. Colburn stated that he would work on developing a secure website so the tenure upon hire cases would not have to be copied and carried around by each Trustee. Trustee Sowell made a motion to approve the five tenure upon hire cases, Trustee Thweatt seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Trustee Morgan then asked Vice Provost Frazier to discuss the support for the Florida LambdaRail (FLR). Dr. Frazier explained that UF needs to show approval for its portion of the financial commitment. The total commitment is \$22 million over 5 years, and UF's portion is \$2.9 million over 5 years. Trustee Morgan again stated that the committee would like to see this project added to the Legislative Priorities. Dr. Frazier elaborated on how other states have had state funding such as Louisiana and Texas. The committee discussed various details of the project such as end-users, "construction costs", and fiber optics. Trustee Thweatt moved to approve UF's \$2.9 million commitment, Trustee Ramond seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Morgan asked Dr. Colburn to discuss the Revised 2004-05 Student Tuition and Fee Schedule. Dr. Colburn explained tuition as defined by the Legislature and that their change in separating in-state and out-of-state tuition was not clear to anyone until the Board of

Governors asked for university response in about ten days. Previously, both in-state and out-of-state students paid the same amount for tuition. Now the universities will charge out-of-state students tuition and a fee which reflects the true cost of their tuition. The President and Provost discussed with Chairman Fernandez and the Chairman agreed with UF going forward with the change. This item is also on the Finance Committee meeting agenda also. This is a fundamental change to the definition of tuition as it applies to in-state and out-of-state students. The university's understanding is there will be in addition to tuition, a slight additional charge at the tuition level for out-of-state students.

Dr. Colburn also discussed another decision by the university to waive in-state and out-of-state tuition for teaching or research assistantships. This has been a historical policy. The Board of Governors (BOG) had this issue on the agenda but then withdrew it at the last minute, but stated that the university had statutory approval for another year. UF decided to continue the waiver, and the BOG should review the issue next year for a system-wide rule.

Trustee Morgan went back to the out-of-state fee change and asked if the increase was mandatory, and Dr. Colburn explained that it was required. She commented that the overall \$300,000 net affect seems small, and UF needs to be careful that it does not exceed the national average for out-of-state students. Dr. Colburn commented that the AAU public universities had tuition increases of 25-35%. He also commented that UF has very little recruitment out of state and the higher tuition might cause students to hesitate to apply. He concluded by stating that Chairman Fernandez asked him to inform the committee of the change. Trustee Morgan commented that no vote was needed. Trustee Sowell stated that he would not approve the increase if given the opportunity to vote.

Trustee Morgan stated that she would like to see AAU peer institutions comparison on combined tuition and fees for in-state and out-of-state again and on a regular basis. Dr. Colburn agreed and commented that they would like to have UF's tuition more consistent over a four-year period.

Chairman Fernandez addressed the committee on the decision he discussed with the President and Provost, which they approved and submitted to the Governor. He gave a copy of an article from USA Today comparing in- and out-of-state tuition. Trustee Morgan asked that the committee members be given a copy of the USA Today article.

Trustees Thweatt and Sowell again commented that the committee should have been given an opportunity to vote on the issue. Trustee Morgan explained that UF was given a very short time for Legislative action to resolve and support.

Trustee Morgan then went onto discuss Freshmen Enrollment. Dr. Glover stated that the goal was 6,750, and UF had actual enrollment of 6,785. He further explained that it was a good freshmen class, with good diversity, only a few minor percentage changes. Trustee Morgan asked for their academic record. Dr. Colburn stated they had a 4.0 G.P.A. and about 1300 S.A.T. scores, and that they will get the National Achievement and Merit numbers in December or January.

Dr. Colburn commented on the diversity of the freshmen class and that there was only a small decline in Hispanic enrollment, so small in fact it is hard to determine the cause, but they will work harder this year. Of the 25,000 that applied, about 50% were rejected.

Trustee Sowell commended the university on their minority recruitment. Dr. Colburn responded that much of the credit needs to go to the admissions office and BOT members.

Trustee Thweatt asked for the minority percentages at UF. Dr. Colburn gave the following figures:

7.9% of the student body at UF is African-American as compared to the African-American population of 14.4% in the state.

9.7 – 9.8% Hispanic compared to the Hispanic population of the state of 16.6%

And he commented that UF is still working to reflect diversity of the state, but UF is the second most diverse in the AAU with Texas being first.

Chairman Fernandez stated that they need to think broadly and far-reaching on attracting the best and this will cost money so they must find some financial aid above Bright Futures. Dr. Colburn elaborated the for minorities the issue is full cost, just providing aid for tuition is not enough and because of the Office of Civil Rights scholarships can not be based on race or ethnicity.

The committee discussed the success of the Alliance Program and to keep expanding it. Dr. Colburn informed the committee that they have added an Alliance partnership with Carol City and are working on a second one in Palm Beach County. Trustee Sowell suggested the Alliance Program keep looking at other areas. Dr. Colburn commented that at the December meeting they will lay out more fully to see what UF is doing to further the Alliance Program and to get Trustee comments.

Trustee Morgan asked Dr. Colburn to give an update on Graduate Enrollment. Dr. Colburn stated that new graduate increase 150 FTE from last fall which is about 225-230 graduate students. UF is down in the number of new international students from about 487 to 407, and there is a decrease particularly in the number of Indian and Korean students. On first look, it appears the much of the decline is in the College of Engineering for two principle reasons:

1. Graduate program in Engineering graduated a substantial number of graduate students this past year both at Masters and Ph.D. levels.
2. They stop funding Masters students to teach and have moved away from offering teaching assistantships at the Masters level.

Trustee Ramond asked if the college still uses Ph.D. students to teach, and asked for Dr. Colburn to provide the number of entering graduate students (non-international students). Dr. Ramond also asked for the ratio of incoming graduate to undergraduate students and how that compares to UF's peer institutions. Dr. Colburn stated that the university is capped at the undergraduate level at 6,750 and will be there for the next two years, but that there has been a steady increase in in-coming graduate students for about a decade and is about 20% of the student body. Most programs are at 25%.

Trustee Morgan asked that the committee review at some future meeting the measurable steps for educational policy goals – faculty hires, growing graduate education for example.

Trustee Morgan then moved onto the Academic Learning Compacts, the work of the BOG to establish accountability across university systems to measure learning outcomes. At the August meeting, the committee was comfortable that UF could meet the requirements they were putting forth. Dr. Glover stated that UF is no longer comfortable. At a BOG meeting, they seemed to absorb then reject UF's principles. BOG is still developing language. The Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP) is trying to develop a unified front to give the State University Presidents Association (SUPA) to forward to the BOG. Even though the BOG has not laid the groundwork they would like to see the university's plan by December. Dr. Glover commented that UF would be much more comfortable certifying that the program is working correctly. For example, having a certain percentage of students pass the professional licensure examination would indicate the program is teaching all that it needs to be. The BOG is not in agreement with this idea.

Trustee Morgan discussed the Block Tuition revision. It was 9-18 credits would be charged for 15 credits, but the President set it at 11-18 credits charging the students for 15 credits.

Trustee Morgan stated that the Legislative Priority agenda item would be discussed at the Government Relations Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.