

Committee on Educational Policy & Strategy Minutes
University of Florida Board of Trustees
December 8, 2008
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
President's Room 215C, Emerson Alumni Hall
University of Florida

Committee Members Present: Cynthia O'Connell, Chair; Frank Bova; Mac McGriff; Kevin Reilly; and Steven Scott

Committee Members Absent: Danny Ponce

Others Present: Joe Glover, Patricia Telles-Irvin

Trustee O'Connell called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Trustee O'Connell thanked Trustee McGriff for running the last committee meeting and Trustee Ponce on his work on the Student Conduct Code.

The committee reviewed the Committee on Educational Policy and Strategy minutes from their September 4, 2008 and September 22, 2008 meetings. Trustee McGriff motioned to approve the minutes, Trustee Scott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The committee then reviewed the action items on the agenda.

EP1. Approval of Fees

Dr. Telles-Irvin informed the committee on the yearly exercise of reviewing local fees: Activity and Service Fee, Student Health Fee, Transportation Fee, and the Athletic Fee. After review, only three of the four fees were proposed for increases, the athletic fee would not require an increase.

Activity and Service Fee – \$0.49 per credit hour increase requested

Transportation Fee – \$0.68 per credit hour increase requested

Student Health Fee – \$0.60 per credit hour increase requested of which
\$0.17 would go the UF Counseling Center for additional
counselors.

Trustee McGriff asked if the existing counseling system was used well and Dr. Telles-Irvin responded that it is used very well.

Trustee McGriff motioned to approve the fee increases, Trustee Scott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

EP2. Approval of Mid-Year Housing Rental Rates

Dr. Telles-Irvin described how UF has received an increase in utilities and a clause in the housing rental rates provides for a mid-year increase due to rising

utilities costs. She also explained that if the amount of \$10 per month is approved, it should generate \$300K which should cover utility costs until July.

Both Dr. Telles-Irvin and Trustee Reilly had not heard of any concerns or complaints arising from the proposed rate increase. Dr. Telles-Irvin also stated that if the increase was approved, an additional electronic bill would be sent out immediately for \$40 for the remaining four months and that pre-paid housing students would be covered by their pre-paid agreement for the \$40.

Trustee Scott motioned to approve the mid-year housing rental rates. Trustee McGriff seconded the motion, and the committee passed the \$10 monthly increase unanimously.

EP3. Approval of University Press of Florida Academic Infrastructure Service Organization (AISO) Proposal

Dr. Glover stated that the State University System formerly had a number Type I Centers, and recently the Board of Governors (BOG) decided all Type I Centers would need to be recertified to become an AISO. The University of Florida has two Type I Centers: The University Press of Florida (UPF) and the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA). UPF has completed their AISO and is seeking Board of Trustees approval. FCLA's AISO will be coming up in the future. Dr. Glover explained that the AISO follows the format requested by the BOG and that Meredith Morris Babb, Director of UPF, would address any issues or concerns.

Director Babb gave the committee a quick review of the AISO. She explained the UPF's two-fold mission of academic and scholastic interest as well as to publish books of interest to the taxpayers of the state. The AISO application stays true to both aspects of the mission and will assist with becoming more competitive under the digital arena.

She also explained that a Legislative Budget Request (LBR) has been submitted for additional funding of UPF, and if approved, will help with the Orange Grove repository which is an all-state repository. This project would provide teaching materials to all SUS faculty in digital format with free access. It would cover costs through on-demand versions. The LBR is for \$542K over three years, non-recurring.

Dr. Glover explained the BOT must approve the AISO before UF can submit it to the BOG.

The committee briefly discussed the benefits of electronic availability of text books as a cost-efficiency measure as well as more wide-spread accessibility.

Dr. Glover did state the current economic conditions for UPF are not great. Director Babb added that UPF recently had their worst quarter in the history of the press and took action through personnel to accommodate the loss. Additionally, next year UPF will only publish 80 books; it currently publishes 110 a year. Additional measures could be taken if the current economic trend continues, but it is hoped those measures will not have to be implemented.

Trustee Scott motioned to approve the UPF AISO, Trustee Reilly seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the UPF AISO.

The committee then reviewed the discussion/informational items on the agenda.

4.1 Miller Analogies Test as Alternative for Graduate Record Examination – this would serve as a substitute for the admissions requirement for Occupational Therapy which is the norm around the country.

4.2 Jacksonville Department of Otolaryngology as Division of Jacksonville Department of Surgery – the committee had no concerns with this item.

4.3 Update on Administrative Transitions

- Senior VP for Health Science Center – Trustee Scott commented as a search committee member that the committee expects to meet in January to review candidates.
- Interim Deans in Medicine and Public Health and Health Professions – These searches will commence once a Senior VP for Health Science is available to contribute to the searches.
- Dean of Engineering – The search process has begun and Dr. Glover plans to meet with the college council this month to discuss the process and a search committee will be named shortly.
- Senior VP for IFAS – The President plans to appoint an interim senior VP at the end of this month or the beginning of next month. February 1st is Dr. Cheek's last day.

Dr. Glover also stated that Trustee O'Connell asked for an update on the Undergraduate Task Force. Daniel Wubah, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, explained that the task force was named in October and that same month the committee met and were given their charge. Since then the task force has held a retreat and have been working very hard to work within the three month deadline to provide recommendations. The committee has completed its first full draft of the initial report and there are two sub-committees: one to review the current tuition situation, where we are, where we want to go and one to review best practices nationally. The report is expected to be completed by January 30th and then it will be sent out to campus in the Spring. At the June 2009 BOT meeting, Dr. Glover plans to bring the report to this committee.

4.4 Student Conduct Code/Chancellor Update

Dr. Telles-Irvin stated that the revisions were approved at the committee's last meeting and she would give an update on the progress. She was hoping the Chancellor of the Honor Code would be able to attend, but class conflicted with the committee meeting time. The chancellor and Student Government (SG) have been working together to change the SG by-laws to move forward. They are also working on a campaign on the importance of the Honor Code. Dr. Telles-Irvin stated that as much progress is being made as possible given the current by-laws.

Trustee Reilly stated that SG needs to update its statutes and constitution. Several drafts have been reviewed and will likely go up for a vote and pass in January. Trustee O'Connell asked if students understand the changes being made. Trustee Reilly responded that those students involved with it definitely understand the changes and welcome them. The less involved students are not likely to notice a change.

4.5 Strategic Work Plan (SWP) – How will past budget cuts and future ones affect SWP?

Dr. Glover characterizes the SWP as general principles and interests, not prescriptive set of tasks. He also stated that if in the spring UF has to make cuts, the SWP will provide guiding principles and general terms, but it's not specific enough to determine where cuts should be made.

Trustee Bova commented that core elements want to be retained to position UF and prioritize to move forward. Trustee O'Connell stated it needs to be part of the conversation and referred to often. Trustee Bova added that the current plan allows implementation in a global perspective.

4.6 Admissions

Dr. Glover informed the committee that UF was done accepting applications as of November 1st. Applications received after that deadline would be taken under consideration if space is available. Approximately 37 late applications per week are being received. At the end of November, UF had received just under 25,000 applications which closely tracks last year. The SAT/GPAs will not be available until early February. He continued by stating that UF is in a very good position, no erosion of its competitiveness. The economic uncertainty could lead to in-state residents staying closer to home at community colleges and formerly out-of-state students may stay in-state for the cost savings.

Trustee Scott asked because of the economic downturn, how is financial aid affected if a student needs it to finish their academic degree. Dr. Telles-Irvin responded that a student's financial aid situation can be evaluated at any time. While there has not been a significant increase to date, they are anticipating a major increase in aid requests for 2009-2010. Trustee Scott asked if UF has enough emergency funding to respond and Dr. Telles-Irvin replied that UF has some, but probably not enough for everyone. Dr. Glover did state that UF has no issues with its lending.

4.7 Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF) Priority List Update

Dr. Telles-Irvin gave the committee an update on two of the CITEF projects: The expansion of the SW Recreation Center is going well and the design is almost completed. They are expecting to break ground in May or June. The UF band shell should be completed this spring and it is expected to be opened up in time for July 4th festivities.

There was no new business and the committee adjourned at 12:10 p.m.