

Committee on Educational Policy & Strategy Minutes
University of Florida Board of Trustees
March 13, 2008
3:45 – 5:00 p.m.
Emerson Alumni Hall
President’s Room 215C
University of Florida

Committee Members Present: Cindy O’Connell, Chair; Mac McGriff; Ryan Moseley; Danny Ponce; Steven Scott; and Rick Yost

Others Present: Janie Fouke, Patricia Telles-Irvin, and Jamie Lewis Keith

Trustee O’Connell called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. and welcomed new trustees Ponce and Scott to the committee and thanked Trustee McGriff for chairing the February 22nd conference call.

Trustee Moseley moved to approve the committee minutes from November 14, November 29, and December 14. Trustee Scott seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Regulations

The committee discussed the following UF Regulations:

- 6C1-1.012 University of Florida; Tuition-Free Courses
- 6C1-1.200 Benefits, Retirement Programs, Employment Services and Holidays
- 6C1-2.012 University of Florida; Use of University Facilities and Services; Charges for Use and Admissions Charges
- 6C1-2.019 Alcoholic Beverages
- 6C1-3.009 Traffic & Parking; Bus System
- 6C1-3.0372 Student Health, Athletic, and Activity and Service Fees
- 6C1-4.007 Confidentiality of Student Records

Vice President Keith removed Regulation 6C1-4.007 Confidentiality of Student Records from the agenda. Trustee McGriff motioned to approve the remaining Regulations: 6C1-1.012, 6C1-1.200, 6C1-2.012, 6C1-2.019, 6C1-3.009, and 6C1-3.0372. Trustee Moseley seconded the motion, and the Regulations passed unanimously.

Degree Updates

Trustee Fouke informed the committee of six degrees being sunsetted:

- Master of Arts in Teaching in Geography
- Master of Arts in Teaching in Linguistics
- Master of Arts in Teaching in Philosophy
- Master of Arts in Teaching in Political Science
- Master of Arts in Teaching in Psychology
- Master of Science in Teaching in Psychology

She explained that these degrees have not been used in years and there are no students currently enrolled in any of the programs, so the university is requesting these degrees be removed from its degree inventory.

Also, the B.S. in Nuclear Engineering was requested to be approved to change its total number of degree credits from 126 to 129 credits.

Trustee McGriff made the motion to approve sunsetting the six degrees. Trustee Yost seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Ponce motioned to approve the three additional credits to the B.S. in Nuclear Engineering degree. Trustee Moseley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Housing Rental Rates

Vice President Telles-Irvin informed the committee of the following proposed increases for housing rental rates:

- Graduate and Family Housing – average 4.3% increase

- Single Student Housing - \$65 across the board (average 3.4% increase for double air-conditioned rooms)

Dr. Telles-Irvin briefed the committee on the process for developing new rates and that the funding goes to continuing operations and facilities improvements. Additionally she provided the committee with five years of rate increases as well as proposed rates for selected universities in the south.

Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF)

Dr. Telles-Irvin explained how the CITF is accrued and that its purpose is to provide opportunities to building non-academic facilities on campus. Generally, an appropriation is requested every three years based on availability of funds. The current submission includes the following projects:

- Expansion of the SW Recreation Center (expand weight room, cardio room, and track)
- Student Health Care Center – expansion to allow for more staff in the facility instead of in the infirmary

- J. Wayne Reitz Union – Renovations to Rion Ballroom and to second floor restrooms

- Campus Security System Enhancement – investment in speakers in classrooms or software for text messaging system to UF from students

- Flavet Band Shell renovation – it is currently condemned

- Stephen C. O'Connell Center weight room renovation

Trustee Moseley highlighted the projects and gave his support of the listing for funding.

The committee discussed whether or not the funding existed or if UF was requesting funding. Both Trustee Moseley and Dr. Telles-Irvin responded that the state issues bonds and those bonds are managed by the Board of Governors.

Honorary Degree

Dr. Fouke briefed the committee on Dr. Francisco Sanchez, the proposed honorary degree recipient. Trustee McGriff motioned to approve awarding the honorary degree to Dr. Sanchez, Trustee Ponce seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Trustee Ponce made a motion to approve the housing rental rates and the CITF. Trustee Moseley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The committee received a presentation by Dr. Marie Zeglen on Student Enrollment Analytical Tools. Following the presentation, the committee briefly discussed the proposal from the Warrington College of Business Administration to establish the School of Business. Additionally, the committee touched on the name change from the B.S. in Business Administration with a major in Decision and Information Science to the B.S. in Business Administration with a major in Information Science.

Mandated Student Health Insurance

Dr. Telles-Irvin informed the committee on the mandated student health insurance issue and how it is being considered throughout the country to have students without health insurance to purchase insurance before matriculating. She also stated that the Board of Governors is considering the mandate and only FSU has mandated it to date. UF has about 70% of its students with insurance.

Admissions Update and Appeals Process

Assistant Provost and Director of Admissions, Dr. Zina Evans briefed the committee on admissions and that the first experience with the single decision date went relatively well. She also mentioned the information the trustees received at the retreat was still accurate.

Dr. Evans commented on the appeal process and most of the appeals were being reviewed but due to space limitations, there is not much that can be changed. She also stated to the committee that the application process is completely online now and is working well. Each counselor can access applications from their own desk instead of having part of the information online and part of it on paper.

Merit Scholars Update

Dr. Fouke updated the committee on the savings earned from the change in the Merit Scholar program. \$1.5M was saved and moved into Alumni Fellowships, and this year \$1.1M was saved and returned to the state. Trustee O'Connell commented how there has not been any image concerns. The committee further discussed benefits of the change in the program.

E-Learning Initiative

Dr. Fedro Zazueta, Director of the Office of Academic Technology, gave the committee a presentation on the E-Learning Initiative which was designed to produce 20 exemplary online courses by Spring 2009 to provide high quality courses at a lower cost. The pilot will last one semester and then the program will be evaluated to see if it should continue.

Trustee Moseley praised the cost reduction effort as well as the thought given to providing courses to meet registration needs, but the costs to students to deliver the courses needs to be monitored closely to prevent students from being overcharged or completely funding the program.

Emergency Text Message Report

Dr. Bill Properzio, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, gave the committee a report on how the mobile campus text messaging system test went and how it is just one of several communication methods for emergency situations.

LL.M. in Environmental and Land Use Law

Professor Alyson Flournoy from the Levin College of Law addressed the committee in response to their question from the November meeting on how to evaluate the degree in terms of excellence. Professor Flournoy gave the committee the following qualitative assessment measures:

- Quality of applicant pool
- Ability to recruit students
- Placement of graduates
- Intellectual quality of the program
- Reputational measures

B.S. in Computer Science

Dr. Fouke explained to the committee that the BOG was asking for clarification on why UF's B.S. in Computer Science exceeded 120 credit hours when other programs in the state did not exceed 120. The committee had asked for follow-up from the November meeting on this issue.

Trustee O'Connell asked if there were any items for new business, there were none, and the committee adjourned at 5:25 p.m.