

Committee on Educational Policy & Strategy Minutes
University of Florida
Board of Trustees
August 16, 2004
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
123 Tigert Hall

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

Others Present Include: David Colburn, Charles Frazier, and J. Michael Rollo.

Committee Chair Dianna Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and explained the purpose of the meeting was a pre-meeting for the September committee meeting to give the university time to provide further information or clarification on agenda items, if needed. The committee also discussed that the committee would go over the agenda items but all formal voting would take place at the September committee meeting. Trustee Morgan also commented that typically the committee agenda is so full that discussions of bigger issues are unable to be addressed at the regular meetings and she is hoping pre-meetings will help alleviate that problem. She then asked Provost David Colburn to address the agenda items.

“Tenure Upon Hire”, the first agenda item, was discussed by Dr. Colburn. He informed the committee that there are five tenure upon appointment cases that he and the President are currently reviewing, and that additional cases are not anticipated. Trustee Morgan asked about a means to avoid the massive amounts of paper generated from the tenure cases. There was discussion about viewing the cases on a secure website in order to prevent generating such a large amount of paper as well as the possibility of putting the cases on their own disk for the committee members to view as a PDF file. Trustee Morgan suggested allowing Pam Bernard (General Counsel) the discretion to divide the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting disk into more manageable sections and offer the trustees multiple disks, perhaps with each BOT committee on its own disk.

Trustee Pierre Ramond asked what the procedure is for tenure upon appointment. Dr. Colburn explained the process. Dr. Ramond followed-up with questions on whether the full Academic Personnel Board (APB) was convened and if all universities offer tenure upon hire. Dr. Colburn clarified that the full APB is not convened, but that a few committee members are asked to review the cases. He further explained that all Association of American Universities (AAU) do offer tenure upon hire, and their process is very similar to UF's.

Trustee Albert Thweatt asked what the timeline was for a hire with tenure. Dr. Colburn explained that there are usually two scenarios: 1) the faculty member is offered a position several months in advance of the effective date and the request to the trustees to approve tenure upon hire is obtained prior to the faculty member's start date or 2) the faculty member

has accepted a position at UF with the understanding that tenure will be awarded pending BOT approval.

The second agenda item discussed was the “Resolution of Support for the Florida LambdaRail.” Vice Provost Charles Frazier gave some background on the state of the Florida LambdaRail (FLR) project up to date and explained that currently the project is in the second part of a two-step resolution. He gave the trustees details on how the FLR would work and what progress has been made and that UF needs to have the BOT recognize UF’s participation in the project and approve UF’s share of the \$22 million project.

Trustee Morgan asked if the Legislature had been approached for a special appropriation. Dr. Frazier replied that the FLR had been put on the Governor’s budget, but was removed at the last minute, but they anticipate FLR will be put on the 2005-2006 budget. Dr. Frazier commented that since this project is a single item across several universities, it is an easy target when it comes time to trim excess from budgets.

Trustee Morgan then asked what UF’s portion of the \$22 million is, and Dr. Frazier responded that it is about \$2.9 million and that the \$22 million is a one time cost. Trustee Albert Thweatt asked if each university had a partnership with the limited liability company (LLC), and Dr. Frazier explained that the LLC was governed by a board that has a representative from each university on the board.

Dr. Ramond asked what role the Department of Defense has in the FLR. Dr. Frazier replied that the Dept. of Defense’s involvement was only indirect, through National Science Foundation grants.

Dr. Colburn commented that the Board of Governors proposed to the Legislature \$2.8 million in support of FLR. Dr. Thweatt stated that perhaps further education of the policy-makers would be a good idea. Dr. Colburn agreed. Trustee Morgan also agreed and commented that she envisions Legislative priorities coming out of this committee.

The third agenda item discussed by Dr. Colburn was “Graduate Enrollment.” He explained that while the undergraduate and graduate enrollment figures were not yet available, he anticipates the figures will be available for the September committee meeting. He also mentioned that students who attended during the Summer B semester are fall students getting an early start on the year, which was not the case in the past. Dr. Colburn then gave the committee the following estimates for undergraduate and minority enrollment:

- Anticipated freshmen class of 6,700 projected from the number of admitted students. The goal was 6,750 so UF is staying on target.
- 2004 Summer B African-American enrollment was 361, which was slightly higher than last year’s Summer B enrollment of 323.
- Projected for the Fall semester, an increase of 60 students for African-Americans.
- 2004 Summer B Hispanic enrollment was 293 compared to last year’s Summer B Hispanic enrollment of 299.
- Hispanic enrollment for the Fall semester is anticipated to be about the same as last year with a decrease of 50 students to about 500 this year from 552 last year.

Dr. Colburn also commented that the minority enrollment figures should be the highest they have been in the past four years.

Trustee Morgan asked how many alliance programs UF has currently. Dr. Colburn replied that there are currently 6 with the possibility of adding a 7th one this year. He also commented that there are preliminary discussions of offering out-of-state alliance programs such as in D.C. or Atlanta.

Then Dr. Colburn went on to discuss the graduate enrollment. He commented that the entering graduate class should be large but there is about a 45% decrease in international graduate students. The decrease is not unique to UF, but has become a national issue due to more stringent regulations of international student visas in both the U.S. and the student's home country. Dr. Ramond commented that UF can not be a top level research university without the top graduate students and UF must pay careful attention to the number of graduate students as well as the quality of the Ph.D. students and programs. He suggested developing some type of graduate fellowship to gain national spotlight so UF would be more highly sought after by graduate students. Trustee Morgan suggested that there has been a discussion that if block tuition is approved, reinvesting the incremental revenue into graduate education is a possibility.

Dr. Colburn concluded by stating the anticipated entering graduate class should be about 800 – 1000, and that the undergraduate national merits and achievement scholars will be higher than last year.

The next agenda item discussed was the Academic Learning Compact (ALC). Dr. Colburn explained that UF is being proactive in the development of the compact in order to make it work for UF and to have it consistent with UF's accrediting body (SACS). He stated that Drs. Jane Luzar, Andy McCollough, and Joe Glover are the people most involved in the strategy and approach to the Department of Education.

Trustee Morgan asked if the ALC really changed anything or was it just a report. Dr. Colburn replied that the idea behind the ALC is already being done to a certain extent, but not done very well, and the idea needs to be developed more so the issues are being discussed, evaluated, and re-evaluated by the chairs, faculty and others. Trustee Morgan asked what the timeline was for implementation and Dr. Colburn said it would be 2005-2006 academic year and possibly not until mid-year.

Dr. Colburn stated the challenge is to have the ALC taken seriously including the idea of accountability. Trustee Jamal Sowell asked what would be the repercussion to the student for not meeting the standards. Dr. Colburn clarified that the ALC is more of an institutional evaluation and accountability tool rather than a standardized test taken by the students.

The committee also discussed various surveys done by UF and Dr. Colburn stated that he would provide the committee with the student satisfaction survey.

Vice President Mike Rollo then discussed the next agenda item, “Student Judicial Review Committee Report.” Dr. Rollo explained that the Legislature requires a periodic review by the BOT of the student judicial system. The committee reviewed the system and noted a concern with the student honor court and has recommended that process be reviewed further. Dr. Rollo explained that a committee has been established to review the honor court and the process for handling academic dishonesty.

Trustee Morgan asked if formal action was needed by the trustees, and Dr. Rollo replied that they do need to show that the BOT has reviewed the committee report so it will need to appear on the September agenda.

The next agenda item was “Block Tuition.” Trustee Morgan commented that block tuition will be a Legislative priority. Trustee Sowell asked where the credit hour threshold was set. Dr. Colburn responded that at 9 credits or above, the student would be billed for 15 credits and it is projected that about 1/3 of the students will register for 15 credits. Trustee Morgan also pointed out that while there is a large span between 9 and 15 credit hours, UF will cover Bright Futures. Trustee Sowell commented that 9 credits is usually considered a part-time student and 12 is considered full-time. If a student is registered for 9 credits, there typically is a reason such as being a non-traditional student. Dr. Colburn responded that if the minimum was set at 12 credits, the credits can be easily manipulated to 11.

Trustee Thweatt asked if there was any room for exceptions in the proposal. Dr. Rollo responded that the Dean of Students Office is prepared to handle exceptions needed by students with disabilities. Dr. Thweatt asked that exception options be reviewed by the board before implementation.

Dr. Colburn added that block tuition was not designed to be a detriment to students and it will be reviewed often. Dr. Ramond asked that a current analysis be provided to the trustees that summarizes how many students would be affected by block tuition. Trustee Morgan stated that she would like to have the President give an assessment of the proposal.

Dr. Rollo asked about the effect from block tuition on student fees. Dr. Colburn replied there is a set rate for those students receiving block tuition.

Trustee Morgan concluded with the last agenda item, “University Legislative Priorities.” She commented that she would recommend full devolution of graduate education and FLR as priorities.

She then asked the committee for their input as to whether or not they found this pre-meeting helpful. It was the consensus of the members that the meeting was helpful and will most likely be continued in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.