

Committee on Educational Policy & Strategy Minutes
University of Florida Board of Trustees
May 22, 2008
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
239 Tigert Hall
University of Florida

Committee Members Present: Cynthia O’Connell, Chair (via telephone); Frank Bova; Mac McGriff (joined at 3:30 via telephone); Danny Ponce (via telephone); Kevin Reilly; and Steven Scott (via telephone)

Others Present: Roland Daniels (via telephone), Sheri Austin, Peggy Carr, Zina Evans, Janie Fouke, Joe Glover, Roy Graham, Jamie Lewis Keith, Chris Silver (via telephone), Patricia Telles-Irvin, Rick Yost, and Paul Zwick

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. Trustee O’Connell stated no votes would be taken and the purpose of the pre-meeting conference call was to review any agenda items for consideration. She then asked Dr. Fouke to give an overview of the proposed agenda.

Tenure upon Hire

Dr. Fouke discussed the tenure upon hire cases and that the majority of the cases were for chair positions. Trustee O’Connell asked if all the positions were all existing, not new positions and if there was any fiscal impacts. Dr. Fouke replied that there were no financial impacts and all the positions previously existed.

Regulations

Trustee O’Connell asked Vice President Keith to give an overview of the Regulations:

- Disruptive Behavior – modifying written Regulation to how the university operates. Trustee O’Connell asked if peer institutions have a similar Regulation and VP Keith replied that the proposed Regulation is within the norm of peer institutions.
- Tuition Cost – VP Keith summarized that undergraduate tuition would increase by 6% for everyone. Trustee Ponce asked if the confusion about the tuition increase for graduate tuition was cleared up from the end of the Legislative session. Sheri Austin confirmed that it had.
- Miscellaneous Fees – VP Keith stated that an audit report revealed that the Regulation needed to state that distance learning and off-book fees are deposited in the DOCE Auxiliary fund.
- Student Leader Eligibility – VP Keith stated that the Regulation had inconsistencies that needed to state that non-registered student organizations can use campus facilities in the same way that non-university organizations could use them. She also stated that prior to this proposed change in the Regulation, it was implied that non-registered student organizations could not use campus facilities at all.
- Confidentiality of Student Records – VP Keith summarized that in order to have the Regulation inclusive of all federal and private laws provision, the Regulation needed to be modified to state the ability to opt out of directory information.

Annual Tenure Cases

Dr. Fouke informed the committee that the annual tenure cases would be available in the June Board of Trustees materials.

Degree Updates

B.S. in Sustainability and the Built Environment

Dr. Silver informed the committee that the College of Design, Construction and Planning has three degree concentrations and have been teaching in all the areas required for the degree, but have not offered the degree and would like to take the lead in sustainability. Trustee O'Connell asked about whether or not the program had financial viability. Dr. Silver replied that the proposed degree includes 20 faculty teaching, researching, or some type of involvement in sustainability. The degree would require a couple of new courses to be offered that are not currently, but all the faculty involved are willing to incorporate those courses into the curriculum without requesting additional resources. He further stated that the degree proposal was developed by the college's faculty and pulled the various departments together.

M.S. in Historic Preservation

Professor Roy Graham stated that UF has been teaching historic preservation (HP) and had an HP program for the last 35 years, but UF has no formal degree. Then about five years ago, national org was formed, but without the degree, UF students in the program are not recognized as having HP training. He further commented that the proposal is not for a new degree, but rather a reorganization of the program to meet the requirements of the national organization. There is no other program like it in the state. The University of West Florida has a similar program through their department of archeology, but not through their design school.

Dean Silver stated that the program has been around and was one of the first in the country, and has been a top five program in the field. With the proposed degree, the program could be packaged differently and formalize its legitimacy.

The committee then discussed the HP program's involvement in St. Augustine and that project's funding.

Termination of the Master of Health Science in Physical Therapy

Dr. Fouke stated that the MHS in Physical Therapy has been offered as a doctorate degree and this termination request is to formalize removing it from the university's inventory of degree offerings.

Honorary Degrees

Dr. Rick Yost gave the committee a brief synopsis of each honorary degree candidate: Bo Diddley, Ann Lurie, and Hamilton Smith. Trustee Ponce asked once honorary degrees are approved, do they come to UF to accept the degree? Dr. Fouke responded that once the degrees are approved, then the recipients are contacted to see when their schedules would allow them to come to UF to receive the honorary degree.

BOG Compliance Projects

Dr. Fouke explained that the Board of Governors (BOG) has requested a policy on how new academic programs as well as center and institute proposals are approved. The policy has to be submitted to the BOG with the university's Board of Trustees approval. Next year the university will work on refining the process. She also stated that Interim Associate Provost Angel Kwolek-Folland would be at the June meeting to discuss the policy and its implications.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Dr. Fouke commented that Marie Zeglen and Sheri Austin would demonstrate the Revenue Estimating Model and the Student Flow Model at the June meeting if the committee was interested.

Dr. Telles-Irvin briefly discussed the Renewable Energy Fee proposal. She stated that the initiative was driving by the students with over a year of developing the idea of charging 50 cents per credit hour as an investment in sustainability. Dr. Telles-Irvin stated that other institutions in the state would likely follow UF's lead on this initiative if passed and that two students will attend the June meeting to present the proposal.

Trustee Ponce asked who would decide how to distribute the funds raised by the fee. Dr. Telles-Irvin responded that a committee chaired by students would look at proposals and determine which ideas to fund. The university would manage the funds.

New Business

Dr. Fouke stated that Assistant Provost and Director of Admissions, Zina Evans was present to answer questions on transfer admissions. Dr. Evans briefly gave the overview of transfer students, whether from four-year institutions or community colleges. She also stated that the reduction of the 1,000 transfer students was being managed by each college themselves. Each college was given a target to meet. The committee asked several questions on how many transfer applications are received, any data available on how long the different types of transfer students take to graduate, and other questions. Dr. Fouke asked the committee if they would like this on the discussion agenda for the June meeting. The committee replied that they would and they asked that Dr. Evans prepare a one page document on the transfer process as well as the history of why transfer students with their associates degrees are considered priority over transfer students from a four-year institution.

There was no other new business and the committee adjourned at 3:55 p.m.