

**Minutes of College Faculty Senate Meeting
College of Journalism and Communications**

March 3, 2008

Members present: Dave Carlson, Johanna Cleary, Julie Dodd, Bridget Grogan, Belio Martinez, Juan Carlos Molleda, Cynthia Morton, Henri Pensis and Marilyn Roberts. Also attending: Robyn Goodman and Linda Hon.

Senate meeting started at 10:40am Monday March 3, 2008.

The meeting was called to order by Dodd at 10:40am. The minutes from the Feb 25th, 2008 meeting were discussed. Grogan noted two errors that were corrected.

Motion by Roberts to accept minutes as amended and seconded by Molleda. Passed unanimously.

Cynthia Morton was congratulated on her election to the UF Senate.

Dodd said John Wright had contacted her to say he would attend today's meeting today to discuss university budget issues.

Discussion on the constitution:

A revised schedule for meetings for the spring 2008 semester was presented to Senate by Dodd, based on discussion with Grogan, Goodman and Hon. The previous schedule was considered to be too tight. Dodd proposed:

March 26 – Cancel previously announced faculty meeting.

March 31 – Senate meeting with the Constitution Committee to review the draft of the total constitution.

Week of April 7 – Departments meet to discuss constitution.

April 14 – Senate meets to discuss recommendations and concerns from departmental meetings.

April 16 – Faculty meeting. Constitution presented as a discussion item.

April 25 – Faculty meeting following the dean-called faculty meeting. Presentation of constitution for a vote. Hon said that lunch will be provided.

Morton suggested that an email with the new schedule be sent out to faculty ASAP to schedule 4/25 for a meeting on campus.

Goodman recommended having a finished document to the faculty before 4/7 to facilitate department meetings.

Dodd mentioned clarification on key points that would be sought by Hon and Wright. These included seeking clarification about what belongs in the constitution and what belongs in the bylaws. They will also work with the constitution committee on what the definition of “the faculty” is as well as departmental structure for searches and other business.

Dodd offered a list of areas (homework) that need to be addressed by the Senate:

- To draft wording for how to elect people for committees. It is currently in bullet format.
- The issue of voting to elect people to be in committees, specifically what decisions on voting procedures and definition of quorum needs to be discussed or decided.
- Also parameters for minutes.

Cleary asked about having further discussion with the rest of the faculty on some of these issues. Dodd answered that the faculty would provide feedback at the departmental meetings.

Grogan and Morton suggested that faculty be made aware that the university expects decisions about the constitution by the end of the semester. A sense of urgency is important. All agreed.

Homework assignments include:

Roberts will work on the section having to do with minutes.

Pensis and **Martinez** will work on the decision-making process.

Election process will be handled by **Morton** and **Molleda**.

Voting (quorum and process) will be handled by **Dodd** and **Grogan**.

Dodd advised to rely on Robert’s Rules as much as possible. That will add credibility to the process, she added.

Dean Wright on UF and College Budget:

John Wright was welcomed to the meeting.

Wright said 6 percent cut from this year’s budget required from the College by UF Administration. He has asked the Planning and Budget Committee to meet with him to discuss the budget cuts. He said he believes budget cuts can be accomplished without doing permanent damage to the core of the college but that serious steps must be taken, even layoffs. Budget sheets are being prepared with information, he said. He also mentioned that the college had never been through anything like this before. He expressed concern about the cuts. He will send an e-mail to the faculty with more details.

Wright talked about one-time funding of \$1.5 million for digital initiatives and interactive programs. A task force, chaired by Dave Carlson, has been meeting to make plans for the digital direction for the college. He is excited about what this will do for the students at the University of Florida in terms of exposing them to cross-platform education.

Issues discussed:

- How will convergence efforts affect the curriculum and would it be possible to modularize parts of the curriculum. Carlson said curriculum is a faculty matter and would be handled by the faculty. Wright also said that modularizing would have to be considered in terms of the bargaining agreement.
- What is the process for determining where the \$580,000 (6 percent) will be cut from the college budget? Wright will consult at the Deans and Chairs meeting for advice on developing a process as well as with the Planning and Budget Committee.
- Can vacant salary money be used toward the budget callback? Yes.
- What is the deadline for the college to make a proposal for the budget cuts? Wright said that decision would be made over the next three to four weeks. He has asked Ted Spiker, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, to call a committee meeting within the next week.

Dodd called for a motion to adjourn. Carlson moved to adjourn. Molleda seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Belio A. Martinez, Jr.

Minutes approved by the Senate on March 17, 2008