

College of Journalism and Communications
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes for March 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Mary Ann Ferguson.

Members present were: Johanna Cleary, Julie Dodd, Mary Ann Ferguson, Robyn Goodman, Bridget Grogan, Mike Mitrook, Henri Pensis, Kim Walsh-Childers, and Mike Weigold.

Others in attendance: Linda Hon, Susan Luther, Jon Morris, John Sutherland,

Minutes of Feb. 25, 2009 meeting—Motion by Walsh-Childers, seconded by Mitrook. Approved.

Update on Constitution Committee

Goodman reported that ballots were in faculty mailboxes, and the deadline is March 20 by 5 p.m.

Review of Departmental Meetings on the Sense of the Faculty Concerning Alternatives to Layoffs:

Public Relations. Mitrook reported that the PR department discussed the resolution from telecommunication and they did not support it.

Unaffiliated. Pensis reported the unaffiliated members hadn't had a chance to meet yet to discuss the telecommunication resolution.

Journalism. Walsh-Childers reported that the journalism faculty felt strongly they wanted to make a statement to the UF administration that more thought on faculty layoffs needs to be done because it will affect students' abilities to get into courses and negatively affect student-faculty ratios. Dodd suggested that the Senate form a small group to communicate with Steve Orlando and Joe Hice the faculty's concerns, particularly regarding how faculty layoffs will influence curriculum. She added her department supported a Town Hall meeting.

Telecommunication. Cleary moved to withdraw the telecommunication department's resolution. Dodd seconded the withdrawal. The motion was passed.

Budget Report

Hon distributed a spread sheet and explained the College's current budget. Although there is \$393,216 in vacant line money, \$291,987 goes to graduate alumni stipends and is therefore non-discretionary. Additional money is used for operating expenses and fall 08 semester OPS/GA/Adjunct funding, leaving the College with only \$40,923 in discretionary vacant line income. She explained that additional discretionary money could be found in salary savings from faculty who are on leave or sabbatical, but most of this will be used for funding OPS/GA/Adjunct funding for spring 09 semester. Grogan suggested that Hon share this information with the entire faculty to help them better understand the budget. Hon also announced that Dean Wright will be meeting with faculty and students after Spring Break.

Activism Regarding Budget Cuts and Layoffs

Senators suggested ways in which the faculty could influence the State Legislature and/or University regarding the budget crisis. Machen has set up a website (gatorfunds) for faculty to influence the legislature. Ferguson mentioned getting the advisory councils involved. Walsh-Childers suggested making the budget crisis more concrete for legislators, students, and the public as a whole by showing how loss of faculty will increase time to graduation. Weigold proposed a motion to send a statement to the University, which was postponed to the next meeting. Ferguson is appointing a Senate Task Force for Proactive Responses to Budget Reductions.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Goodman