

Minutes (Draft)

College of Journalism and Communications Faculty Senate Meeting
Feb. 13, 2013

In attendance: James Babanikos (senate chair), Dave Carlson, Sandi Chance, Ann Christiano, Amy Jo Coffey, Julie Dodd, Troy Elias, Mary Ann Ferguson, Charles Harris, Linda Hon, Kathy Kelly, Sora Kim, Spiro Kiouisis, Moon Lee, Michael Leslie, Norm Lewis, Mindy McAdams, Diane McFarlin, Juan-Carlos Molleda, Cynthia Morton, Sylvia Chan-Olmsted, David Ostroff, Churchill Roberts, Ron Rodgers, Matt Sheehan, Tim Sorel, Debbie Treise, John Wright, Lu Zheng

1. Meeting started at 3 p.m. Babanikos opened the meeting.
2. Minutes from Nov. 27, 2012, faculty meeting approved unanimously.
3. Babanikos: Items proposed for a vote today—changes to the college constitution.
 - a. Constitution, Article III, 3.3 (page 7): Delete the words “whenever possible” at the end of this item. After a short discussion, this was passed unanimously.
 - b. Bylaws, Article II, 11.1.b.ii (page 16, “Composition of the Faculty Senate”): Language to be changed to read: “The names of all eligible faculty members in the Department will appear on the Department’s ballot.” After a short discussion, this was passed with 5 opposed and no abstentions.
 - c. Reducing the number of college committees: Babanikos summarized that the College Faculty Senate suggested the elimination of both the International Committee and the Undergraduate Affairs Committee. Consideration of merging the Faculty Welfare & Development Committee with the Curriculum and Teaching Committee had been discussed in the Senate. Likewise, consideration of merging the Research Committee with the Graduate Committee had been discussed in the Senate.
4. Elimination of the International Committee. At the close of the discussion, this was passed unanimously.
 - a. Leslie suggested the college needs a conduit for communication about international activities, both within the college and between our college and others, and at the university level.
 - b. Leslie also said international students in our college need representation, which this committee might provide.
 - c. McAdams: When a need arises, the faculty could form an ad hoc committee to address it.
 - d. Kelly: The existing Mass Communication graduate student association would be a more appropriate venue for international student activities.
 - e. Molleda agreed and said internationalization should be part of everything we do in the college, including all teaching and all research.
 - f. Roberts: Most faculty involvement with international programs takes place through the UF International Center, not through the college.

- g. Ferguson asked if the college can help international students who want to form a group, and Molleda suggested there are already many campus organizations for international students.
- 5. Discussion of merging the Research Committee with the Graduate Committee.
No action was taken on this item.
 - a. Treise said the Graduate Committee works hard and meets often, so adding to that committee's portfolio seems ill-advised. In particular, the committee meets weekly every spring to go over all graduate admission applications.
 - b. Treise added that the Research Committee has different members, not the same people as the Graduate Committee.
 - c. Kelly suggested a study of how many times a year each committee meets. Perhaps we could merge two committees that meet infrequently (to reduce the overall number of committees).
 - d. Hon: The eligibility requirements are different on different committees. For example, untenured assistant professors serve on the Research Committee, but they are not eligible for the Tenure and Promotion Committee.
 - e. Certain committees are mandated by the University. These cannot be eliminated. (Not sure who said this.) The college constitution lists these committees in Section 12 of the Bylaws.
- 6. Elimination of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee. At the close of the discussion, this was passed unanimously.
 - a. Harris reported that the primary task performed by the committee is making decisions about student scholarships.
 - b. He asked: If the committee were eliminated, would the committee cease to exist immediately? Babanikos said no, the committee would continue as is until the start of the fall 2013 semester.
- 7. Babanikos reported that the College Faculty Senate had discussed reducing the number of members from each department required to serve on the Senate, from two to one, but no agreement had been reached. No action was taken on this item.
 - a. Carlson reported that the Senate had discussed this six years ago and concluded that two faculty from each department are needed. Someone noted that the college faculty was larger then.
 - b. Ferguson said we gain a lot by having more voices. "Five voices is not a lot."
 - c. Lee asked if we would then vote to increase the number of senators if the faculty increases in size in the future. Would the size of the Senate go up and down?
- 8. Discussion about reducing the size of some committees, other than the Senate.
No action was taken on this item.
 - a. Kelly noted that there were five faculty from the Journalism Department on the Curriculum and Teaching Committee, and asked why. No serious answer was given.

- b. Kiouisis said there is a need for college-level oversight in the committees, and for that reason, we should not eliminate any department from any committee.
 - c. Ostroff said the Curriculum and Teaching Committee is now meeting monthly because of the need to make decisions about assessments and SLOs.
 - d. Leslie: As all the department chairs must serve on the Curriculum and Teaching Committee, could the chairs represent the will of the faculty? Do we really need faculty members from each department, in addition to the chairs? Faculty need to be able to choose which committees they serve on.
 - e. Ferguson: The committee is not only about curriculum but also about teaching. It should not be left to administrators alone.
9. Curriculum standards and evaluation of distance learning/online courses: Ferguson asked what the college should do with regard to oversight of courses that are being taught by grad students or adjuncts. She also asked whether students should have choices in their learning environment (online courses, or classroom courses), and whether we are meeting students' needs. Should we think in terms of modules, and evaluate individual modules instead of whole courses? What do faculty think about adjuncts being in charge of curriculum for online courses? Should we track students' progress in subsequent courses and compare them? There was a discussion; no action was taken.
- a. Molleda asked whether Ferguson spoke about graduate or undergraduate courses. Ferguson said all or any courses; faculty should decide.
 - b. Christiano: Other colleges' faculty have voted that department chairs may see the comments on student evaluations.
 - c. Chan-Olmsted: All online courses have the same evaluations as traditional courses. There was some discussion of this point. Molleda said the director of a program sees the evaluations of all instructors in that program. Kiouisis said evaluations are submitted for adjuncts. Chan-Olmsted said we should not have a different standard for monitoring online teaching.
 - d. Kiouisis: It is not mandated yet that all adjuncts go through the "Faculty Institute" training (<http://teach.ufl.edu/development/faculty-institute/>). We need to think about evaluation and assessment as it relates to all our courses, in the classroom and online.
 - e. Kelly: We don't get the same kind of feedback from distance students as we get from those here on campus. Students on campus share opinions about classes, and faculty, with one another.
 - f. Kiouisis and Chan-Olmsted both said they hear a lot of feedback from distance students, maybe even more than from on-campus students.
 - g. Kelly: We need to make an effort to see whether students are being well prepared for subsequent courses.
10. Babanikos said one faculty member had contacted him privately regarding the new bulletin boards installed outside all faculty offices recently. The faculty member suggested that when there is college money left over, faculty should be

consulted about what to spend it on, before it is spent. There was no discussion of this.

11. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mindy McAdams, Feb. 14, 2013.