

Minutes

College of Journalism and Communications Faculty Senate Meeting
Nov. 27, 2012

In attendance: James Babanikos (senate chair), Amy Jo Coffey, Julie Dodd, Mary Ann Ferguson, Mike Foley, Robyn Goodman, Charles Harris, Linda Hon, Spiro Kiouisis, Moon Lee, Norm Lewis, Mindy McAdams, Juan-Carlos Molleda, Deanna Pelfrey, Churchill Roberts, Ron Rodgers, Matt Sheehan, Tim Sorel, Kim Walsh-Childers, Wayne Wanta, John Wright

1. Meeting started at 9:35 a.m. Babanikos opened meeting.
 - a. Thanked McAdams for being vice chair.
 - b. Noted that first senate meeting of fall semester did not take place until October.
 - c. Problem: Many faculty members unwilling to serve on our college senate.
 - d. Discussions in senate this semester: Role of senate should not be to micromanage everything in the college. Should be selective with its attention.
 - e. Need to select college senators in the spring semester. Our college constitution mandates this. It was not done last year.
2. Information items (Babanikos):
 - a. UF president search: Babanikos and other colleges' senate chairs met with Cheri Brodeur, chair of UF Faculty Senate about the search. All faculty received email from Brodeur on Nov. 20, about the dates for faculty forums with the candidates for president (Dec. 7, 8, 9, or Jan. 10, 11, 12). Process will happen very quickly. Babanikos encouraged all to attend the forums. UF senate received 130 questions from faculty and condensed them to 10, which will be asked of candidates. Foley asked why the process must be so fast. Babanikos said because of sunshine laws, and revealing the names of the candidates.
 - b. Faculty ombudsman: Brodeur also told college senate chairs UF will hire an ombudsman to represent rights of faculty.
 - c. College faculty senate has been discussing our college constitution and possible needs for revision.
3. Action items:
 - a. Salary equity. Ferguson represented the college's salary equity committee and presented a document for approval: College of Journalism and Communications Salary Equity Review Procedures & Criteria. Walsh-Childers: Is this meant to replace the SPP (Salary Pay Plan)? Ferguson: No, this comes from the UFF contract. Three-fourths of 1 percent of salary money in college must be set aside for salary equity. College's salary equity committee looked at policies from elsewhere and adapted those the committee thought best. Wright: It covers all who are "in unit." Ferguson: Same definition of faculty as in UF constitution. Wright says there might be a problem with item VIII.d, on page 7, because some years the money might not be available. After a short discussion, the words

“which shall be set aside for such requests each fiscal year in the budget of the College of Journalism and Communications and” were deleted from item VIII.d, by unanimous vote. The salary equity document, as amended, was then approved by unanimous vote.

- b. Computer technology for faculty: Sorel, chair of college technology committee, advised that the committee can give advice to faculty, chairs and deans on hardware or software decisions.
 - i. In a recent case, he said, a department wanted to make a \$25,000 purchase; the committee determined that the college already had the technology; \$25,000 was saved.
 - ii. Sorel summarized a report of the committee regarding “computer standards” for faculty in the college. The report is a one-page document that recommends a policy for faculty technology purchases and faculty requests for same. In discussion, it was clarified that extraordinary software costs can be included in the policy, but college-licensed software is outside the \$2,500 cap (everyone gets college-licensed software). Wright: Will department chairs make too many requests to the committee if this policy is approved? Sorel: Approval of faculty technology requests is still at discretion of the chair, who is not required to consult the technology committee. The intent is to help get a handle on technology costs in the college. Kiouisis: What about small requests, e.g. \$100 webcams? Sorel: At discretion of the chair. Hon: Maintenance issues for new technologies such as tablets may add to costs. McAdams: Head of ITS will be able to determine impacts of such costs as they arise. Ferguson suggests amendment to last bullet point in document so that it reads: “Dean makes final decision on computer purchases *in consultation with head of ITS.*” Mollada suggests amendment to first sentence in first bullet point in document so that it reads: “That a cap of \$2,500.00 (USD) for *computer technology* requests be put in place.” Both amendments were approved by unanimous vote. The amended document was approved by unanimous vote.
4. Future business:
- a. Babanikos noted four items in the college constitution that will likely come up for a vote:
 - i. Bylaws, Article II, 11.1.b.ii (page 16): Faculty members requesting to have their name removed from consideration for the college faculty senate. The senate suggested that this makes it too easy to decline to serve.
 - ii. Constitution, Article III, 3.3 (page 7): The words “whenever possible” at the end of this item. The senate suggested that this is too vague and creates a loophole.
 - iii. College committees, as defined in the constitution bylaws, Article II, Section 11 (pages 16–22): The senate suggested that the

number of committees be reduced, and the international committee was suggested for elimination.

- iv. The required number of senators from each department, currently two, might be reduced to one.
 - b. Discussion about senators in college senate: Kiouisis said one senator per department makes sense because of the small size of our departments; suggested departments may have a second “at large” senator if they so desire. Roberts: The college senate has also discussed the definition of “member of the faculty” and looked at the university’s definition of same. Hon: Her understanding from the university senate is that to be considered “a member of the faculty,” one must have a significant teaching or research assignment. Babanikos: Our college has three people who do not fit that definition (Richard Drake, Charles Harris, Titus Rush).
 - c. Discussion about international committee: Molleda said international matters should be a concern of every committee in our college, so there is no need for a separate committee. Babanikos: Senate discussed changing the name of two committees—curriculum and teaching, and research—to include the word “international.” Molleda: Stated disagreement. Not only those two committees; every one of the college’s committees should concern itself with international/global matters that have impact on its mission area.
 - d. New online-only bachelor’s degree program in mass communication: Babanikos added this for future consideration by the faculty. The senate agrees that this is a direction in which the college should go. The senate expressed concern that the new program maintain the same standards and rigor as the on-campus bachelor’s degree programs in our college. Department chairs should get together and ensure that the program includes sufficient upper-level courses and not only intro-type courses. Pelfrey: The UF faculty welfare council (one of the five policy councils elected by the UF Faculty Senate) is looking at that question now, and a recommendation may come in the spring semester.
5. Babanikos asked if there were any other matters to discuss. Ferguson said we should thank James for the great job he has done as college senate chair this semester, followed by applause.
 6. Pelfrey: The faculty ombudsman (mentioned earlier in this meeting) might not be a done deal. It is still under discussion. Babanikos: Brodeur, UF Faculty Senate chair, told college senate chairs that provost Joe Glover gave a green light.
 7. There was no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mindy McAdams, Nov. 27, 2012.