

Faculty Senate Meeting  
Tuesday, February 19, 2008  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Lee Hall Auditorium  
Presiding, Dr. Maurice Holder, Faculty Senate President

Faculty Senators present at the meeting were as follows:

**Officers (Present)**

Dr. Maurice Holder, President  
Dr. Dreamal Worthen, Vice President  
Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian  
Dr. Mildred Fennal, Secretary

**Senators (Present)**

Mrs. Ernestine Holmes  
Dr. Charles Ervin  
Dr. Patricia Stampe  
Dr. Robin Kennedy  
Dr. Charles Weatherford  
Mrs. Almeta Washington  
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku  
Ms. Linda Williams  
Mr. Larry Wright  
Dr. Ngozi Ugochukwu  
Dr. Delores Lawson  
Dr. Maurice Edington  
Mr. Sylvester Peck Sr.  
Ms. Raquista Claitt  
Dr. Velma Roberts  
Prof. Rhoda Cato  
Ms. Della Daniels  
Dr. Primus Mtenga  
Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud  
Dr. Franklin Hamilton

Dr. Bidhan Saha  
Dr. Mary Diallo  
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport  
Dr. Raymond Hix  
Dr. Merlin Langley  
Dr. Rufus Ellis  
Dr. Angela Thornton  
Dr. LaRae Donnellan  
Dr. David Jackson  
Prof. Thomas Pugh  
Dr. Lekan Latinwo  
Dr. Gwendolyn Singleton  
Dr. Kyle Eidahl  
Prof. Beth Lewis  
Dr. Charles Wright  
Dr. Deidre Powell  
Dr. Kinfe Redda  
Dr. Matthew Powers  
Dr. Roscoe Hightower

**Ex-Officio (Voting) (Present)**

Dr. Uche Ohia  
Dr. Donald Palm

**Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Present**

Dr. James Ammons  
Dr. Cynthia Hugh-Harris  
Dr. Robert Lemons  
Mr. Rodner Wright

**Ex-Officio (Voting) (Excused)**

Dr. Lauren Sapp

**Senators (Excused)**

Dr. Maurice Edington

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM by Dr. Maurice Holder, President of the Faculty Senate.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda:** It was moved and properly seconded that the Agenda be approved.
- III. **Approval of the minutes:** It was moved and properly seconded that the minutes be approved.
- IV. **Opening Remarks:** The opening remarks were postponed in lieu of the President's presentation.
- V. **President Ammons:** The information shared by the President was as follows: The President announced that it was the first day on the job for the Vice President of Public Relations. At 4:30 p.m. this afternoon, Sen. E. Lynn will present to the senate a plan on the budget for this year. The plea is to recommend a total of 4% cut for universities for the year. This is a presentation to the only one house, so there is no commitment that the above plan will be approved. The original budget cuts are still in effect. At the meeting tonight, the President of the Leon County delegation will present to the delegation the effects of the budget cuts on universities. It is possible that whatever happens this year, the next year cuts will be more severe. The President suggested that students be advised to take a full course load. The rationale is to promote graduation in four years. SACS will meet on March 25-27<sup>th</sup>. FAMU's report is due on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The vote on probation status will take place in June. March 19<sup>th</sup> is FAMU day at the capital, students and faculty are encouraged to attend. Black History Convocation will be held on the 22 of February. Andrew Gilliam will be the Speaker. The Inauguration of the President will take place October 31 and Faculty and Staff will be asked to participate in the activities.
- VI. **Dr. Cynthia Hughes Harris:** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs addressed the results of the emergency response system and the drill that occurred this morning. It did work. It was announced that the Tom Joyner tour would be on campus Thursday. Students will be coming to tour the campus and look at the university. The Provost discussed "who is on the list to be cut". She stated that the list was a plan. The Deans were charged with the directive; how will you cut 4% from your budget? It would appear that it is the intent of the administration to garner savings from multiple sources i.e. positions that are vacant and not being filled. The Provost stated, "At this time the plan is on hold" The Dean vacancies were discussed. Search Committees are in place

and have been notified how to proceed, and deadlines have been given.

Vivian Hobbs is continuing as the Chair of the SACS reaffirmation committee. Leadership however, does have the overall responsibility for directing the project.

**Dr. Holder** asked who had been told about the budget and the plan for cuts. The response was, Dr. Ammons and the Board of Trustees. Dr. Harris announced that until further notice we are proceeding as usual.

**Dr. Eddington** expressed concerns that the faculty and the university was in dire danger, and asked about the status of summer school. The Provost stated that the courses that had to be offered in the summer would be offered. There will however be fewer courses and fewer classes offered in the summer school.

- VII.** **Dr. Holder's** report consisted of the following information. Dr. Holder thanked Dr. Donnellan for doing such a good job with the Green Coalition. **Dr. Donnellan's report will be sent to the secretary.** A resolution will be sent to the President whereby the Faculty Senate will be advising the President that the body agrees with the resolution sent to the Faculty Senate by the Green Coalition. It was moved by Dr. Kyle Edahl and properly seconded that the resolution be passed to the President for his use in formulating a resolution to be added to the Governor's Green Initiative.
- VIII.** **Curriculum:** Dr. Edington reported that four new courses for the College of Engineering were approved by the Curriculum Committee. It was move and properly seconded that the courses be approved.
- IX.** **Constitution:** Dr. Holder and Dr. Muchovej reported the status of the constitution. This project is a carry over from last year. The Constitution has been revised and circulated. During the process of the readings and preparation for the vote to approve the constitution, President Ammons asked that the vote be postponed until further notice. The General Counsel has asked for time to study the document. Dr. Holder will meet with the General Counsel next week to find out the status of the document.
- X.** **Assessment:** The Faculty Senate expressed sympathy to Dr. Ohia who lost her father. A power point presentation was presented on the state of assessment. The report request that students be encouraged to use the FAMU e-mail address because this is an item

necessary in the evaluation plan. A report of the instruments used in assessment was also presented along with a handout.

Dr. Williams presented information on GEAC. The student evaluation of teachers form has been revised, the original eight questions remained, however seven new areas have been added. The new questions have been added to deal with the mandates of the state of Florida. The Faculty Senate will need to give input into the new questions. There are now forty-five questions instead of eight. There is a policy from NSSE where FAMU is participating in the initiative, which gives feedback to students about the evaluation. There was a request to put on the table “an assessment day” to be built into the culture. The Committee is asking the Faculty Senate to approve the evaluation. Dr. Kyle Eidahl questioned data being gathered on students without knowing why. It would appear that there were no directions given in regards to data being gathered. Dr. Langley questioned how will data gathered help a program. Will it enhance the program? How does the information help with funding? The response was “it could lead to funding” Dr. Donnellan asked about the new questions and if the process had changed. The response was that the process has not change about evaluation of a program. Dr. Muchovej reminded the senate that the old eight questions were part of the collective bargaining unit. A question of how the eight questions would be separated from the new thirty seven questions which is not part of the agreement, or how the legal part could be separated from the information part. Dr. Holder appointed Dr. Langley to the GEAC committee and Dr. Muchovej to the ILAC committee to ensure faculty senate involvement in both areas.

**XI. FAMU Safety Unit, Dr. Charles Wright:** The effort centers around safety based on the incidence of having so many students lost to car crashes. The focus is on African American males, but the project has transitioned to other groups. The project encourages the wearing of seat belts and discourages drinking and driving. A video titled “Safety Ride or Die” was presented to the Senate. It depicted the possible complications of drinking and driving. March 5<sup>th</sup> will be FAMU safety day. The Safety Committee then shared items with the audience and each senator was given a T-Shirt. Dr. Holder thanked Dr. Wright and wished the Committee well in their efforts.

**XII. Library:** Mrs. Ruth Swan reported on the efforts of the library in the past year based on the survey that was completed by faculty and students. She reported that the third floor of the library was now and area for quiet study. The second floor has been overhauled, the staff has been crossed trained, and there is an effort to ensure access to data bases. Mrs. Swan asked that students and faculty be encouraged to

participate in the survey again this year. The survey is completed on line.

**XIII. Dr. Holder** reported the results of the Board of Trustees meeting. A communication policy has been published. Information on separation and return (from administration to teaching) has also been established. Other minutes from the Executive Council were circulated by Dr. Redda. A suggestion was made that the Faculty Senate endorse a letter to the legislature and the Board of Governors regarding the budget cuts. The Senate was reminded that it had been asked to hold off activities that addressed budget cuts until more was known about the cuts.

**XIV.** Dr. Gragg acknowledged the Faculty Senate for the work and its cooperation with the Dr. Donnellan and the Green Coalition. Continued support was solicited.

**XV.** Adjournment: 5:17 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mildred D. Fennal  
Faculty Senate Secretary

Rebecca Bruce  
Office Manager