

Faculty Senate Meeting
September 16, 2008
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Lee Hall Auditorium

Dr. Maurice Holder, Faculty Senate President, presiding

Officers (Present)

Dr. Maurice Holder, President
Dr. Dreamal Worthen, Vice President
Mrs. Jeneice Williams, Secretary
Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian

Senators (Present)

Dr. Edward Jones
Dr. Kyle Eidahl
Dr. Raymond Hix
Dr. Joseph Johnson
Dr. Almeta Washington
Dr. Velma Roberts
Dr. Bidhan Saha
Dr. Angela Thornton
Ms. Raquista Claitt
Dr. Deidre Powell
Dr. Charles Ervin
Dr. Kinfe Redda
Dr. Michael Abrams
Dr. Kandy Woods
Dr. Gwendolyn Singleton
Dr. Matthew Powers
Dr. Roscoe Hightower
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Dr. Janet Marshall

Dr. Frances Stallworth
Dr. Arthur Washington
Dr. Christopher Ikediobi
Dr. Mary Diallo
Dr. Charles Magee
Professor Rhoda Cato
Dr. LaRae Donnellan
Mr. Sylvester Peck
Dr. Maurice Edington
Dr. Rufus Ellis
Dr. Della Daniels
Professor Beth Lewis
Dr. Ngozi Ugochukwu
Dr. Ashvini Chauhan
Dr. Primus Mtenga
Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud
Mr. Andrew Collins
Dr. Janelle Baker

Ex-Officio (Voting) (Present)

Dr. Lauren Sapp
Dr. Uche Ohia
Dr. Donald Palm
Dr. Roland Gaines

Senators (Excused)

Mr. Ernestine Holmes
Ms. Linda Williams
Professor Crisarla Houston

Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
Dr. Lawrence Carter
Dr. Alice Rozier

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:20 by the Faculty Senate President, Dr. Maurice Holder.

Opening Remarks: Dr. Holder welcomed the faculty back. In his remarks he stated that the Faculty Senate is working on an interactive webpage to improve communication. Until this is up, please continue to use the contact information for the officers listed.

Installation of New Senators: Mr. Self, from the General Counsel's office was asked to come forward for the installation of the new senators. He, in turn, called all newly elected Senators forward to be sworn in.

Next, Dr. Holder recognized all returning Senators and thanked the Deans present for coming to the Faculty Senate Meeting. Past Faculty Senate President, Dr. Mary Diallo was also recognized.

Approval of September 16, 2008 meeting agenda: President Holder asked the Senate to approve the September 16, 2008 meeting agenda. It was moved and properly seconded that the agenda be approved. The agenda was approved.

Approval of April 15, 2008 and April 29, 2008 minutes: President Holder stated that the minutes from the April 15th Faculty Senate Meeting and the April 29th Faculty Senate Retreat and Meeting were given out in the information packets received today. Time was given to review the minutes. Dr. Holder asked for approval of the minutes. It was moved and properly seconded that the minutes of April 15th and April 29th be approved. Questions: There was one name correction requested.

Dr. Holder stated that the minutes had been sent to senators. Dr. Diallo said that she had not received them. Dr. Holder conferred with Mrs. Bruce and it was determined that the minutes were not sent electronically.

Dr. Johnson asked where in the minutes is the discussion on the constitution.

Dr. Abrams asked for clarification on the plural of Professor Emeritus found on page 3 of the April 15th minutes. The correction is "two Professors Emeriti"

Dr. Sapp asked if the corrections concerning the spelling out of the Librarian's ranks and the gender specifics of the Director of Libraries were changed in the constitution. Dr. Holder assured her that the changes had been made.

Dr. Worthen asked that in the April 29th minutes, on the second page, first paragraph, line six, the words "Quality Improvement Plan" be changed to read "Quality Enhancement Plan"

Dr. Johnson questioned there being two versions of the constitution and wanted to know which version would be voted on at the September 23rd meeting. Dr. Holder responded with a brief history of the changes made to the constitution and assured everyone that the correct version will be voted on at the meeting on September 23rd. The motion to accept the April 15, 2008 and the April 29, 2008 minutes, with the necessary corrections, were approved.

President's Remarks: Dr. Holder asked President Ammons to come forward and give his remarks.

President Ammons began with a welcome and by acknowledging members of the Deans council and the Diplomat in Residence. Comments were made concerning adjustments in teaching assignments due to budget cuts. The President thanked everyone for supporting the Faculty/Staff Scholarship Endowment. He stated that we have a new record this year. Some highlights presented by the President included: Update on the budget – The governor has decided to dip into the rainy day budget for 672 million dollars – the 4% being held back will stay with the governor and the state (that's 4.5 million dollars we won't get this year)

The President proudly announced that every student got the courses they needed to graduate or stay on track.

There are 8 goals that the Board of Trustees and the President identified. Five of the goals directly impact the faculty:

- 1) Updating the Strategic plan-We are now in the process of updating the strategic plan. Schools and colleges were asked to stay engaged in conversation on the strategic plan.
- 2) Increasing enrollment-We are working to increase enrollment. The Provost has put together data on students who did not come back to the University. We must all be involved in retention. Presently we have an 82% freshmen retention rate.
- 3) Reaffirmation from SACS-We must secure reaffirmation from SACS. We have a hard working SACS team. The University community must be informed- this is the lifeblood of the University. 2009 will be huge with reviews by SACS for the reaffirmation and the American Bar Association's accreditation review of the Law School.
- 4) Budget shortage - our utility bill is up 20% higher this year. There is a 4 million dollar short fall in utilities. We must be mindful of the need to conserve energy at the university. The President urged the faculty to turn off lights, computers, etc, replace light bulbs with energy efficient blubs. He mentioned that a performance contract is being worked on. The President also, asked that we support our student athletes-support all sports, football, volleyball, track and others.
- 5) Salary increases-The President stated that his office has not given up on salary increases. At the October 7th BOT meeting, he will present a salary increase for faculty, not to the base salary however, but a one-time salary adjustment.

The President concluded his remarks by stating that increases in enrollment will generate additional dollars to the campus.

Q&A session for the President

Dr. Diallo commented on the majority of her students not having text books due to not receiving their net checks. The President asked Mr. Roland Gaines to respond. Mr. Gaines stated that once a week financial aid is released and to date 6,600 net checks have been processed, so students are getting their

money. Brief comments on the financial aid process were given by Mr. Gaines including that the book voucher is still "in play", so perhaps some students were late getting their financial aid paper work in.

Another comment was made concerning conserving energy. It was noted that lights are on in SBI continuously. Perhaps the SBI lights could be placed on a timer.

Ms. Clayton from the FAMU DRS asked if the DRS teachers were included in the salary adjustment being presented to the BOT by the President. The President's response was that the DRS has a bargaining team and when they reach an agreement and ratify their proposal, the president will then present the proposal to the BOT.

Mrs. Kelly from the College of Education questioned the state of the technology available at FAMU, is there an IT plan and how are we progressing with that? The Provost responded that the budget has affected some of the plans for Technology advances, i.e. purchasing new hardware. She also stated that there is a search going on for an Assistant Vice-President for IT. This should be closing in the near future. The Provost stated that she is not saying we are there yet, but we are working on it. Dr. Holder said that we might invite EIT to come and give us an update on the EIT plan.

There was a discussion on Title III funding smart classrooms and having technology at our finger tips.

Next, Dr. Holder asked Dr. Hughes-Harris to give a short address to the Faculty Senate. The Provost stated that she was pleased with the start of the New Year. She also made comments on class sizes and echoed the President's comment that we did not cut any courses or people. She emphasized SACS, stressing that faculty credentials are very important to the process and urged everyone to comply when asked for this information.

She ended her comments by asking for faculty cooperation with the Strategic Planning Committee, support of athletics, and support of students at commencement ceremonies. The Provost also reminded everyone about the fall semester General Faculty Meeting scheduled for September 23, 2008 to vote on the constitution.

Unfinished Business

- A. Green Coalition-** Dr. Donnellan presented a report on the Green Coalition. A copy of the report was given to all in attendance. The report included the following motion in item #4 "The FAMU Green Coalition will no longer function as a committee of the FAMU Faculty Senate but rather as a student-run organization. The Faculty Senate will keep its original 'Green Campus Committee,' which we formed in October 2006, to serve as the liaison to various campus sustainability organizations."

The motion was presented by Dr. Donnellan and properly seconded, followed by discussion on the Green Coalition as an Ad Hoc committee of the Faculty Senate and on item #5 on the fact sheet handed out. Dr. Diallo called for a point of order to complete the motion on the Senate floor. President Holder addressed the motion again, and the motion carried. Dr. Donnellan then responded to follow-up questions concerning ongoing collaboration by the Environmental Committee and recycle bins. Upcoming activities and events as listed in the report were highlighted. The last comment noted was that the website listed is no longer active. To find out more about the FGC, please contact Dr. Donnellan at larae.donnellan@famuedu.

- B. Curriculum Committee** - Dr. Maurice Edington presented the Senate with the following updates from the Curriculum Committee.

October 14th has been established as the deadline for all requests to be in the faculty Senate office for spring.

Biweekly meetings of the Curriculum Committee will be held this year to address all requests coming in to the committee.

Please rely more on the website for distribution of information.

October 2nd is the date scheduled for the first Curriculum Committee meeting.

The Curriculum Committee was able to incorporate all suggestions given them.

A question on the date for online submittals was raised. Dr. Edington replied that the deadline for submittal of online course material is November 1, 2008. This date will be posted.

New Business

- A. Report to the Faculty Senate** - Dr. Holder explained that two members of the Board of Trustees could not attend the President's Leadership Team meetings, so Dr. Redda would be attending and making the reports. Dr. Kinte Redda informed the Senate that his report was presented in the handouts today. He briefly commented on the process of the President's Leadership Team Meeting. These are once a month meetings with the President. Dr. Redda was very impressed with the open discussion. He stated that the meetings are open and transparent and the Faculty Senate is included in the discussions. Dr. Redda highlighted some issues of the SACS reaffirmation efforts, such as the importance of giving the committee our cooperation concerning faculty credentials and Assessment and the culture of assessment.
- B. Concerns for 2008-2009**- Dr. Holder presented 12 items of concern for the Faculty Senate during the 2008-2009 academic year. These will be sent out electronically when finalized. The 12 items included:
- Attendance
 - Policy on zero credit hours
 - Commitment to accrediting body, promises by the university
 - Energy Saving-renegotiating the Embarq contract
 - Proposal for establishing standards for Faculty Teacher/Advisor of the year
 - Two General Faculty Meetings in the Fall and the Spring
 - Inauguration of the 10th President
 - Supporting Athletics
 - Generating Honor/Awards Program
 - Change in accrediting status for SACS-Faculty Handbook
 - Items for reviewing Faculty Evaluation forms
 - Faculty Salary increases

President Holder hopes that this year, we can have a travel award coming out of the Faculty Senate. There is a 6,000.00 budget, another 6,000.00 has been added and the President has

added 6,000.00. So we are working with \$18,000.00. 1 or 2 awards per college of perhaps at a maximum of \$1,000.00 may be awarded by the Senate.

Dr. Diallo asked for a report on the Professor Emeritus status for Dr. Bill Tucker. Dr. Holder announced that the status of the applications for Professor Emeritus will be reported at the next meeting. After discussing the process for awarding Professor Emeritus status, Dr. Holder explained the situation with Professor Don Hill. An application for Prof. Emeritus was received, the committee reviewed it and made a recommendation, however the process did not move very fast and Dr. Hill withdrew the request. His application was approved, however. The Provost wrote to explain the process, but he still turned down the status.

- C. Employment of Foreign Nationals-**Mr. Joseph V. Jones spoke concerning the employment of foreign nationals stating that if departments are considering offering employment to individuals who are foreign nationals, they must come to The Office of International Education and Development. Next, Mr. Roberto Powers, our 5th in a series of Diplomats in Residence, were introduced.

Mr. Powers spoke briefly on careers in Foreign Service and what the program offers. He also announced that he is available to speak to students or classes. Summer Internships are available to students; however, the deadline to apply is November 1st. Mr. Powers asked the faculty to help identify top students and offered to help anyone interested in applying for an internship. He can be reached at roberto.powers@famu.edu.

- D. Voter Registration Drive-**SGA president, Andrew Collins addressed the Senate concerning encouraging everyone to register and vote. He presented the SGA Registration Initiative to the Faculty Senate. Three initiatives were presented.

Initiative 1: "SGA's Rattler Registration Day" Faculty members were asked to allot five minutes prior to the start of or end of a class to pass out voter registration cards to willing students, allow them to complete the cards, and collect them.

Initiative 2: "Credit to their Futures" Professors were urged to consider offering credit to students for voting before and/or on Election Day as a way of increasing voter turnout.

Initiative 3: "Early Vote Day" At some point in October, it is being contemplated to suspend classes in order to encourage student to engage in early voting. SGA will, on the chosen day, conduct shuttles between the Set and Courthouse to allow student to vote early. This possibility is still being discussed with Dr. Ammons and Dr. Hughes-Harris, and will be heavily dependent on reaction by faculty and deans.

At the close of the presentation, comments and concerns were voiced by various Faculty Senate members. Dr. Diallo asked if the General Council had approved the initiatives. Mr. Hightower from SBI asked how would this play out, what's next, and given the short time frame, he asked Mr. Collins for his suggestion for moving forward? The reply was that SGA is ready to move forward within the next two weeks. Other questions and concerns mentioned were on whether or not to award extra credit as an incentive and if faculty presence might be perceived as influencing the students to register? Mr. Collins was cautioned that the voter registration drive could be conceived as a conflict of interest since his father works for Obama and if so, this might have a negative effect on FAMU. Solutions to some of the

concerns included simply having the voter registration cards available for students to pick up in the classrooms and trying to encourage students to do their civic duty instead of giving out extra credit. Dr. Holder suggested that Mr. Collins go forward with his plans to address the Deans and the President, however, the Faculty Senate could not take a vote due to not having a quorum and due to the concerns stated.

Announcements- No announcements

Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 5:20

Submitted by,

Ms. Jeneice Williams
Faculty Senate Secretary

Ms. Rebecca Bruce
Office Manager

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