



Item: AS: A-M

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19, 2011 MINUTES

PROPOSED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Initiate roll call to document member participation, ensure quorum, and approve the Minutes of October 19, 2011.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. Sherry Plymale, Chair _____

Mr. Robert Rubin, Vice-Chair _____

Mr. Robert Stilley (*ex officio*) _____

Mr. Anthony Barbar (*ex officio*) _____

Dr. Jeffrey Feingold _____

Dr. Angela Graham-West _____

Mr. Ayden Maher _____

Dr. William McDaniel _____

Dr. Julius "Butch" Teske _____

PARTICIPATING BOT MEMBERS

Mr. David Feder _____

Mr. Abdol Moabery _____

Mr. Paul Tanner _____

Mr. Thomas Workman _____



Committee on Academic and Student Affairs Meeting
Draft Minutes
October 19, 2011

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs Chair Sherry Plymale called the meeting to order and requested a roll call to confirm a quorum. The following committee members were present: Trustee Robert Rubin; Trustee Anthony Barbar (ex-officio); Trustee Jeffrey Feingold; Trustee Angela Graham-West; Student Government Association President and Trustee Ayden Maher, University Faculty Senate President and Trustee William McDaniel and Trustee Robert Stilley (ex-officio).

FAU participants in the meeting included: Dr. Mary Jane Saunders, President; Mr. David Kian, Senior Vice President for Strategic Relations and General Counsel; Dr. Brenda Claiborne, Provost and Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Charles Brown, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Dennis Crudele, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration; Dr. Michael Friedland, Dean of the Charles E Schmidt College of Medicine; Dr. Mohammad Ilyas, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science; Dr. Michael Armstrong, Director of Special Projects for the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine; Dr. Edward Pratt, Dean of Undergraduate Studies; and Dr. Gitanjali Kaul, Vice President for Strategic Planning and Information Technology.

AS: A-M Approval of Minutes

Chair Plymale, thanked Vice Chairman Robert Rubin for chairing the June 15, 2011 meeting. She noted that the minutes from the June 15, 2011 meeting listed her as both absent and present and requested that an appropriate edit be made to the document to accurately reflect that she was not in attendance at the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with the requested edit. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

AS: A-1 Request for Approval of Program Review – Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine – Master of Science in Biomedical Science

Provost Claiborne referenced the rolling review policy that requires a review be conducted on each academic program every seven years and then presented a summary of the program review for the Master of Science in Biomedical Science. The materials presented at the meeting represented statistics from the period of years 2007-2010 and a request was made to receive data from the 2010-11 academic year.

It was noted that there has been a decline in the number of submitted research proposals over the last few years. Dr. Claiborne noted that she and Dr. Barry Rosson, Dean of the Graduate College

and Vice President for Research, are developing strategies and working with the College to address this issue.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the continuation of the Master of Science in Biomedical Science program. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

AS: A-2 Request for Approval of Program Review – College of Engineering & Computer Science

Provost Claiborne presented a summary of the review of 21 degree programs within the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The reviews included the following departments: Computer and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Civil, Environmental and Geomatics Engineering; and Ocean and Mechanical Engineering. Statistics reveal that enrollment is steadily increasing in the College.

A review of survey data regarding graduates of the program revealed that 60 percent of the graduates remain within the state of Florida for employment or further academic pursuit, with most of them remaining in the southern part of the state, a point which is important for alumni support.

It was noted that graduate level and doctoral level headcount are low; however, the Ph.D. graduate headcount increased for the 2010-11 academic year. The college has set the goal of 20 doctoral degrees per year within the next three years. In addition, Board of Trustees Chairman Robert Stilley stressed the need for a plan to address funding issues more proactively.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the program review of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

AS: A-3 Request for Approval of the Honorary Doctorate Nominations

Provost Claiborne presented the names of Mr. Ralph de la Vega and Mr. Marvin Weiner and indicated the nominees have been recommended by the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee, the Provost and the President to receive honorary doctorates.

Mr. Ralph de la Vega is an FAU graduate ('74) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also received an MBA from Northern Illinois University and completed the Executive Program at the University of Virginia. He is President and CEO of AT&T Mobility and Consumer Markets.

Mr. Martin Weiner is a candidate for a posthumous honorary doctorate in recognition of his contributions both to scholarship and to FAU. Over a period of fifty years, he and his wife Sybil donated thousands of 18th and 19th century books, p to FAU Libraries. Mr. Weiner was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School ('38).

A motion was made and seconded to approve both nominations. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

AS: A-4 Request for Approval of Amendments to FAU-Regulation 4.005-University Housing

Dr. Charles Brown, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs presented the request regarding proposed edits to the FAU-Regulation 4.005-University Housing. There was a call for discussion or questions with no response. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

AS: A-4 Request for Approval of Amendments to FAU-Regulation 4.006-Student Government and Student Organizations

Dr. Brown presented the materials reflecting the proposed edits to FAU-Regulation 4.006-Student Government and Student Organizations. Student Government Association President and Trustee Ayden Maher cautioned against raising the grade point average (GPA) too high which might exclude some students' eligibility to participate in organizations. He also noted that requiring the student body president to hold junior classification would prohibit freshmen and sophomores from being able to compete for the role. Finally, he noted that the edits would give authority for the Vice President for Student Affairs to review organizations' constitutions prior to approval. In response, Dr. Brown observed that the increase in the GPA requirement is reflective of the Board of Trustees' intention to promote academic achievement and incremental increases will accomplish that goal. As well, he noted that organizations documents are reviewed every two years. At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

AS: A-4 Request for Approval of Amendments to FAU-Regulation 4.007-Student Code of Conduct

Dr. Brown presented the material reflecting the proposed amendments to FAU-Regulation 4.007-Student Code of Conduct. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

AS: I-1 Provost's Report

Provost Claiborne presented a PowerPoint slideshow providing enrollment data and retention rates, as well as an update on several academic affairs initiatives. She reported that overall headcount is up and statistics show a clear increase in grade point average (GPA) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for freshmen. In addition, she reported the fall to fall retention rate is at 80 percent which is higher than the average at our peer institutions.

Currently, FAU is preparing for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) re-accreditation which is an intensive self and peer study examining every aspect of the University and assessing the progress we have made toward our stated goals. She also reported there is an ambitious plan to hire senior faculty members, particularly in the research fields in order to support the University's goal to double research in the next five years. Chair Plymale announced that the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution (HBOI) has agreed to partner with FAU to sponsor the hire of three senior faculty members with a financial investment of up to 3 million dollars in the next five years.

Trustee Maher reported that the online advising system is very beneficial in providing students with a snapshot of exactly where they stand academically and in their program progression.

However, he inquired regarding how FAU keeps track of students who transfer from the University to other institutions and what measures are being taken to attempt to retain them. Dr. Edward Pratt, Dean of Undergraduate Studies acknowledged that FAU needs to increase the number of advisors in order to better address this issue.

The Trustees requested that information regarding First Time in College (FTIC) students and the statistics of their GPAs and SAT scores be sent to them. Dr. Gitanjali Kaul, Vice President for Strategic Planning and Information Technology indicated she has the information and will forward the information to each Trustee.

Discussion ensued regarding the variables (family dynamics, work, non-traditional student) involved in the success rate of students and their progression through their selected program. Chair Plymale proposed that a request be made for the Board of Governors to conduct a review of comparable statistics to analyze the 6-year graduation rate (Predictive Graduation Rate). A motion was made and seconded to approve the request. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Trustee Maher asserted that in order to more effectively connect students to degree programs and to assist their acclimation to campus life more quickly, freshmen could be prohibited from having a car on campus. This would promote greater and quicker connectivity to campus life. Chair Plymale asked him to research other Universities imposing this policy and to come prepared with data to discuss this issue further in December.

Various ideas were shared regarding best ways to reach out to students who express the desire to leave the University. Ideas such as conducting an exit interview, applying a triage approach to customer service and providing an academic advisor in the residence halls for a few hours of the work day were discussed. Chair Plymale noted this topic would provide beneficial discussion at a future meeting.

AS: I-2 Discussion – Potential Policy Redirection at the State Level

Chair Plymale called for discussion and response from Trustees regarding the letter received from the governor. There was a consensus of opinion that clearly the issue of accountability for academic assistance is paramount. While the core programs of STEM (Science, Technology, Math and Education) are key, other programs such as the arts, languages and fine arts have a profound and crucial impact on our society. It was noted that college graduates are far more easily employed than those with less education, and thus we need to continue to focus on students' timely progression through our programs. The challenging issue of providing student advising needs to be addressed in order to boost retention rates.

President Saunders asserted that we must learn to tell the FAU story better. FAU collects enormous amounts of data and it would be helpful for Trustees to learn how to access the data in order to keep informed and current. She reported that a workgroup has been scheduled to address the issues raised by the letter.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **The meeting was adjourned.**