Faculty Advisory Council  
Minutes  
August 16, 2010


Absent: Alander

Dr. Lee attended as an alternate to Dr. Cissna. Dr. Branch explained that the USF Tampa Faculty Senate identified an alternate for Dr. Cissna because Dr. Cissna is expected to be away from the university frequently this year.

Provost Wilcox called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

Provost Wilcox introduced USF System General Counsel Steve Prevaux whose role at the meeting is to ensure that the meeting is conducted in accordance with USF, BOG and State regulations.

Roll Call – attendance reflected the list above

Dr. Wilcox directed the committee to the documents (including the membership list of the FAC, the signed USF Faculty Advisory Council charter, the USF System Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 approved by the University Board of Trustees, and a copy of a presentation that Dr. Wilcox provided at the USF System Academic Retreat held at the end of June this year) provided to each of them.

Dr. Cissna joined the meeting via teleconference. Dr. Wilcox clarified that Dr. Cissna, not Dr. Lee, will carry the eighth vote from the USF Tampa Faculty Senate. Dr. Cissna offered to defer to Dr. Lee; however, Dr. Branch requested that Dr. Cissna participate fully in the meeting unless his connection via telephone fails.

Provost Wilcox clarified his role for this meeting as Chief Academic Officer for the USF System and encouraged members of the FAC to leave local issues behind and focus on the good of the USF system.

Dr. Wilcox recognized the good work of the presidents of the various faculty senates, including Armitage (USF Polytechnic), Branch, (USF Tampa), Larkin (USF Sarasota-Manatee) and Reck (USF St. Petersburg), including their dedication to working toward a faculty body reflecting the USF system.

President Branch recognized the contribution of the late David Carr for his leadership of the USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate.
The Faculty Advisory Council has replaced the Intercampus Faculty Council. Dr. Wilcox academic matters and faculty affairs. Mr. Prevaux stated that the Faculty Senate historically has a special and significant role in shared governance of the university.

Provost Wilcox's comments:
This body will need to consider issues such as articulation with the Academic Affairs Management Council, consisting of academic leadership from all USF institutions/campuses. The AAMC will likely be changing its name in the coming months to better align with the USF Board of Trustees workgroup. The FAC will need to also consider a constitution and related documents needed to manage the FAC. Issues for consideration by the FAC will faculty governance and policy across the system. The FAC will be advisory to the USF System President and USF System Executive Vice President and Provost. The president of the Faculty Advisory Council will hold the faculty seat on the USF Board of Trustees. Members of the FAC should challenge one another (and the Provost) to act in the best interests of the USF system. Some of the items needing attention include the system brand, curriculum development, faculty performance, etc. System-wide issues include articulation between the FAC and campus/institution-based senates, the roles and responsibilities of the various governance bodies, the selection of Distinguished University Professors, honorary degrees, residency requirements for students, the System Strategic Plan, faculty representation on system-wide councils, and promoting and assuring system-wide citizenship.

Provost Wilcox introduced System Associate Vice President for Government Affairs Kathleen Betancourt. Ms. Betancourt spoke to the interest of legislators in USF and the important role of the faculty in impacting the perception of USF.

Dr. Branch mentioned that there is an organization that has included the presidents of the faculty senates from USF Tampa and USF St. Petersburg and that now those seats should go to the President and Vice President of the FAC.

Dr. Potter commented that one of the roles of the FAC should be to provide system-wide advocacy with the State Legislature.

Elections

Provost Wilcox outlined the process for the election of officers.
- The officers must be full-time tenured faculty members
- Officers will serve a term of one year
- Officers may not be from the same USF institution/campus
- If more than two individuals are nominated for an office, run-offs will be conducted as needed regardless of the number or percentage of votes until there are two candidates.
- If there are multiple rounds of voting, members will have a fresh vote for each round
- If there is a tie vote, the Provost will flip a coin

Provost Wilcox called for nominations for President. Nominations were received for the following members:
Laurence Branch
Elizabeth Larkin
Motion to close nominations – passed

Dr. Branch suggested that each nominee provide remarks prior to the vote. There was agreement from the council. Provost Wilcox asked that remarks be limited to three minutes. Dr. Permuth expressed concern about whether three minutes is sufficient for the members to make a decision. Dr. Larkin suggested that members be provided an opportunity to ask questions of each candidate following his/her remarks.

Dr. Branch provided remarks. Dr. Larkin provided remarks.

Provost Wilcox opened the floor for questions to the candidates.

A voice vote was taken. The result was not clear; therefore, a raise of hands was requested.

Branch – 8
Larkin – 9

Dr. Larkin was recognized as the elected founding President of the Faculty Advisory Council.

Provost Wilcox called for nominations for Vice President. The Vice President must be from a different campus than the President.

Nominations were received for the following members:
Elizabeth Bird
Huntington Potter
Laurence Branch – declined

Motion to close nominations – passed

Dr. Potter provided remarks, followed by Dr. Bird.

Provost Wilcox opened the floor for questions to the candidates.

A voice vote was taken. The result was not clear; therefore, a raise of hands was requested.

Bird – 8
Potter – 8

One abstention

Dr. Wilcox flipped a coin. Dr. Bird called heads. The result was heads. Dr. Bird was recognized as the elected Vice President of the Faculty Advisory Council.

Dr. Wilcox invited Drs. Larkin and Bird to take their seats at the head of the room to lead the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. Larkin stated that the FAC will need to establish by-laws and a regular schedule of meetings. Dr. Arthur Shapiro proposed that the FAC meet at least every two weeks. Dr. Larkin suggested that the FAC
review the by-laws for the faculty senates from each institution/campus. Dr. Armitage suggested that an executive committee be established but that in the near term the full FAC should meet too. Dr. Armitage also informed the group that as of August 19, 2010, he will no longer be President of the Faculty Senate for USF Polytechnic and that the new President will replace him on the FAC. Provost Wilcox offered assistance from Dr. Schoenherr in his office to facilitate logistics for FAC meetings from a distance. Dr. Wilcox encouraged the FAC to meet again later in the week before the start of the Fall semester. Dr. Wilcox was asked about whether administrative support would be provided to the FAC. He offered assistance from his office in the short term, but stressed that no one campus should bear the burden of system-wide activity.

The council agreed to meet on Friday, August 20, from 9:00-11:00.

General Counsel Prevaux was asked whether the FAC was subject to Sunshine Law. Advisory councils typically are not Sunshine bodies, but it depends on whether the council’s role will involve decisions that will winnow the options for decision-makers.

The meeting adjourned at 4:39pm.