

Minutes of the Faculty Senate  
Tuesday, September 16, 2014  
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Lee Hall Auditorium  
Dr. Narayan Persaud, Presiding

**Officers (Present)**

Dr. Narayan Persaud, President  
Dr. Bettye Grable, Vice President  
Dr. Joe Ann Houston, Secretary  
Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian

Ms. Jeneice Smith  
Mrs. Ernestine Holmes  
Dr. Donald Palm  
Mrs. Faye Watkins  
Dr. Elijah Johnson

**Senators (Present)**

Mrs. Marci Duncan  
Dr. William Guzman  
Dr. Kyle Eidahl  
Dr. David Jackson  
Dr. Huberta Jackson-Lowman  
Dr. Merlin Langley  
Dr. Na’Imah Ford  
Dr. Paulette Reneau  
Dr. Lavetta Henderson  
Dr. Rufus Ellis  
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport  
Dr. Lambert Kanga  
Dr. Violetka Tslova  
Dr. Raymond Hix  
Dr. Ann Marie Cavazos  
Dr. Nise Nekheba  
Dr. Joseph Grant  
Dr. Maurice Holder  
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku  
Dr. Perry Brown  
Dr. Angela Thornton  
Mr. Sylvester Peck  
Ms. Raquista Claitt  
Dr. Carl Moore  
Dr. Primus Mtenga  
Dr. Aurelia Alexander  
Dr. Chao Li  
Dr. Clyde Ashley  
Dr. Aretha Hill  
Dr. David Guthrie  
Dr. Sevilla Bronson

**Senators (Excused)**

Dr. Margaret Gitau  
Dr. Dawn Brown-Cross  
Dr. Roscoe Hightower

**Senators (Absent)**

Dr. James Strohaber  
Dr. Lekan Latinwo  
Dr. Desmond Stephens  
Dr. Jesse Edwards  
Dr. Gervin Robertson  
Dr. Jermaine Robertson  
Dr. Marcia Owens  
Dr. Ronald Lumpkin  
Dr. Olivier Chamel

**SGA (Voting)(Present)**

Mr. Ronnie Mackey, III

At 3:12 p.m., President/Senator Persaud welcomed members of the Senate. Attorney Shira Thomas came to give the oath to the new senators after it was determined there was a quorum present.

President Persaud announced he will be leaving at the end of September. He then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. It was motioned and seconded the agenda be approved. Senator Holder stated an unreadiness about the item for the replacement of the Senate president. Senator Holder said the item violated the Constitution. He then moved the acceptance of the agenda without this item. Senator Ashley pointed out if the president is retiring we will have a vacancy. A point of order was called, and a lengthy discussion ensued. Senator Holder gave a passionate oration about this item, and he motioned this item be stricken. The motion was seconded. President Persaud reported he had asked the University General Counsel for a legal interpretation of this issue. The motion to strike the item failed. A vote was then taken on the original motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

It was motioned and seconded the minutes from the last meeting be adopted. The motion was approved.

President/Senator Persaud again announced his retirement in two weeks. He thanked everyone for the support given during his presidency.

President Persaud asked the University General Counsel to present his opinion about filling his unexpired term. Attorney McKnight gave a review of his written opinion about the election of a president. He stated after reviewing the constitution there is a difference between “being absent” and “being vacant.” He gave an illustration about his daughter and her position at her elementary school.

Eventually, it was motioned and seconded that the Senate elect a president. Senator Holder asked if the Senate has a vacancy or absence today. The question was called on this motion. A friendly amendment was offered. The new motion was to elect a new president who would take office on October 1. This person will work with President Persaud for a smooth transition. The motion carried.

The house was then turned over to the parliamentarian to hold the election. Three people were nominated: Senators Betty Grable, Joe Ann Houston and Elizabeth Davenport. Dr. Muchovej asked if each candidate would be willing to serve if elected. Each indicated she would. It was then moved that each candidate address the Senate. Each candidate spoke. Senator Davenport withdrew and gave her support to Senator Grable.

After three tied votes, Senator Grable was declared the winner with 20 votes.

#### CONTUINING BUSINESS

Dr. Neil James gave a report from the Curriculum Committee. He appealed to the senators to join the Curriculum Committee. Dr. James explained the process for online courses. He presented two courses. It was motioned and seconded these two courses be approved. The motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

President/Senator Persaud presented the Teacher of the Year Awards. The “Advanced Teacher of the Year” went to Senator Ebenezer Oriaku, and “Teacher of the Year” to Drs. Darius Young and Ramesh Katam.

Vice President Ken Redda gave brief remarks about the Researcher of the Year.

Because Interim Assistant Vice President Michael James was not present, the item about the Email Policy will be distributed.

Professors Yvonne Tucker and Thomas Martineau were nominated to receive the status of “emeritus.” It was motioned and seconded this proposal be accepted. The motion carried.

Senator Donald Palm discussed travel grants and book orders. He told the Senate that \$250,000 was available for travel this year. He discussed the criteria for these grants. The maximum amount given is \$2,000. Senator Jackson-Lowman asked about people applying for the grant multiple times. Senator Palm explained about repeat applicants. Finally, he discussed book orders. Senator Palm encouraged people to order books through Auxiliary Services.

Before we adjourned, President Persaud presented Senator Grable as the newly-elected president, and asked her to address the Senate. She thanked everyone and pledged to work with the UFF on behalf of the faculty. She then asked the Senate to give President Persaud a standing ovation.

The Senate adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Joe A. Houston  
Recorder