

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Monday, April 27, 2015
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. SJGC Lecture Hall 2002
Dr. Bettye A. Grable, Presiding

Officer's (Present)

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

Senator's (Present)

Dr. William Guzman
Dr. Kyle Eidahl
Dr. David Jackson
Dr. Huberta Jackson-Lowman
Dr. Merlin Langley
Dr. Jermaine Robertson
Dr. Paulette Reneau
Dr. Lekan Latinwo
Dr. Lavetta Henderson
Dr. Rufus Ellis
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
Dr. Raymond Hix
Dr. Violetka Tsoleva
Dr. Keawin Sarjeant
Dr. Joseph Grant
Dr. John Cooperwood
Dr. Maurice Holder
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Dr. Perry Brown
Dr. Angela Thornton
Mr. Sylvester Peck
Dr. Carl Moore
Dr. Primus Mtenga
Dr. Dawn Brown-Cross
Dr. Aurelia Alexander
Dr. Roscoe Hightower
Dr. David Guthrie
Dr. Sevilla Bronson
Dr. Elijah Johnson
Mrs. Ernestine Holmes

Senator's (Absent)

Mrs. Marci Duncan
Dr. Darryl Scriven
Dr. James Strohaber
Dr. Desmond Stephens
Dr. Jesse Edwards
Dr. Margaret Gitau
Prof. Ann Marie Cavazos
Prof. Nise Nekheba
Ms. Raquista Claitt
Dr. Ronald Lumpkin
Dr. Chao Li
Dr. Olivier Chamel
Dr. Clyde Ashley
Dr. Marcia Owens

Senator's (Excused)

Dr. Aretha Hill
Ms. Jeneice Smith

EX-OFFICIO (Voting) (Present)

Dr. Donald Palm

EX-OFFICIO (Voting) (Absent)

Mrs. Faye Watkins

SGA (Voting) (Absent)

Mr. Ronnie Mackey, II

The meeting of the Faculty Senate was opened by President/Senator Bettye Grable at 3:04 p.m. Senator Grable announced a court reporter, who was requested by the Interim-Assistant Corporate Secretary, was present to record the proceedings of the meeting. All senators were then asked to move to the back of the room.

The parliamentarian was not present, and a quorum could not be established. Instead, President/Senator Grable began by reviewing the hand-outs in each senator's packet.

Associate Vice President/Senator Donald Palm was asked to report on the proposed Plus/Minus grade initiative. Senator Palm indicated the provost wants some faculty senators to meet to review this recommendation before it becomes policy.

We received information about the Faculty Senate Retreat. This is was an information-only item.

Because Trustee Rufus Montgomery was present to meet with the Faculty Senate, President/Senator Grable indicated that once we moved beyond announcements, she would have to recuse herself since this meeting had not met the requirements of notice as dictated by Florida Law.

The parliamentarian announced at 3:15p.m. a quorum of senators was present, and the Faculty Senate could be officially opened for business.

New Business

The Faculty Senate Retreat – It was agreed to hold the retreat at the beginning of the new academic year.

It was motioned and seconded the minutes from the March 17 meeting be approved. The motion carried. It was motioned and seconded the agenda be adopted. The motion carried. It was reported that interim Board of Trustee Chairman, Rufus Montgomery, was on his way. President/Senator Grable left the room, and turned the remainder of the meeting over to Senator Houston.

Announcements

Senator William Guzman announced that Senator David Jackson is stepping down as chair of the History, Geography and Political Science Department. Senator Jackson has served for ten years.

Administrative remarks

President Elmira Mangum was present, and she brought remarks. Specifically, President Mangum discussed three items.

1. Student Opportunity – Her goal is for FAMU students to have greater opportunity by giving them access to an outstanding faculty;
2. Organization of the University;
3. Retention – She is attempting to find ways to reward students who are doing well
 - A. Strong Finish Program
 - B. Institutional Grants
 - C. Rising Junior Scholarships

President Mangum told the Senate she is looking for creative ways to help students be able to financially remain at the University. She made an appeal to the Senate to encourage students to participate in the Passport Initiative.

In other remarks, the President covered the following items.

1. Performance funding model
2. Convocations – Invited faculty to participate by coming to convocations and encouraging students to come, so people coming to campus will be able to engage with faculty.

President Mangum ended by reminding the senators that she can't raise money if people think our students aren't interested. She then ended her remarks.

The remainder of the meeting was opened for the interim chairman of the Board of Trustees, Rufus Montgomery, to meet with the Faculty Senate. Senator Joe A. Houston presided.

Trustee Montgomery began by sharing some brief comments. He announced the appointment of Trustee Bettye Grable as the new chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.

Afterwards the house was opened for public comment and questions. All speakers were asked to limit their comments to two minutes. The following senators came forward with questions and comments.

- ❖ Senator Oriaku – Expressed concerns about the appointment of trustees and the impact it had on the changes in athletics which often necessitated the changing of the Athletic Director.
RESPONSE: Mr. Montgomery said the preview of personnel lies solely with the president of the University. He said he has flattened the authority of the Board Chairman.
- ❖ Senator Guzman – Asked about the possibility of expanding the program in African-American Studies to offer graduate degrees.
RESPONSE: Mr. Montgomery referred this question to the President.
- ❖ Senator Latinwo – Asked about the major goals of the BOT. He was concerned because he has not seen any members of the Board of Trustees donating to the University. He said the BOT should work with the President to raise money.
RESPONSE: Mr. Montgomery discussed the committee assignment. He announced the restructuring of committees and the appointment of a Presidential Evaluation Committee. He also said the President has a process whereby she presents goals to the BOT. He said the President is responsible for the operation of the University, but trustees have not been asked to participate in fund-raising. He went on to say he would ask trustees to donate. He said he does give money when he can. He won't pressure Board members, however, to give.
- ❖ Senator Holder – Announced the death of former Dean of Graduate Studies, Charles U. Smith. Discussed how devolution of the former Board of Regents had put FAMU in a bad place, and attempted to place the University in a tier-system. Former BOT members, however, did not attempt to take over the role of the president. Senator Holder went on to point out that there must be a working relationship that is dictated by statute without infringing on University rights.
RESPONSE: Mr. Montgomery said it is the CEO's prerogative to move items forward. He said it would be irresponsible for anyone to engage any discussions without the President.
- ❖ Senator Davenport – Asked what this board is going to do to be a better board.
RESPONSE: Mr. Montgomery talked of discontinuing current processes and beginning new ones. He said committee reports will be submitted 14 days before the board meeting.

Senator Houston thanked Trustee Montgomery, and moved back to the agenda of the Senate. Trustee Montgomery left.

Continuing Business

Dr. Agatha Onwunli, the University Registrar, gave a report on the grade point average reset initiative. She explained how students ending one degree program and beginning another will have a grade point average reset. On the other hand, students who are dismissed and readmitted will not.

After a protracted discussion about the associate of science and associate of arts degrees, it was motioned and seconded to accept the policies presented by Dr. Onwunli with additional changes and suggestions. The motion carried with a vote of 29 yes and 1 no vote cast by Senator Hightower.

The next item was the presentation of the Gold Medallion to former Senate President, Dr. Beulah Hemmingway.

Dr. Neil James presented the Curriculum Committee Report. The report included 16 new-course requests. It also included 2 course request changes. It was motioned and seconded the report be accepted. The motion carried.

Michael James came to present the report on the E-Mail Policy. Mr. James thanked Senators Perry Brown, David Guthrie, Elizabeth Davenport and Donald Palm, who'd worked on this committee. Senator Oriaku asked a question about the system. Mr. James clarified. It was motioned and seconded the report be adopted. The motion carried.

After a motion and second, President/Senator Grable declared the Senate duly adjourned at 4:50.

Submitted by

Joe A. Houston, Recorder

**After the adjournment, President/Senator Grable entertained a suggestion we pause for a moment of silence in honor of Dr. C. U. Smith. The Senate paused. It was motioned and seconded that the Senate send some written communique about Dr. Smith. The motion carried. The meeting was again adjourned.