

**Florida Gulf Coast University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes of 10/3/08  
Student Union Chambers**

**Attendance:**

Angeletti, Michelle; Boldic-Simpson, Sheila; Braddy, Jon; Carlson, Erik; Chesnutt, Rod; Cooke, Rachel; Erdman, Rob; Gogate, Lakshmi; Harrison, Doug; Jinian, Jeff; Kauanui, Sandra; Kirche, Lee; Kleeger, Jeff; Lindsey, Chuck; Mock, Karen; Murray, Beth; Paine, Morgan; Rosenthal, Martha; Sakharuk, Alex; Simpson, Mark; St. Hill, Halcyon; Szecsi, Tunde; Upham, Dayle; Vazquez-Montilla, Elia; Villiers, Claude; Voytek, Mary; Wisnom, Mary; Yazici, Julie; Zhao, Fan

**Alternate Senators:**

Navaratna, Menaka for Hartley, Anne

**Absent without Alternate:**

Alexakis, George; Burkett, Tony

**Absent with Proxy:**

Swalaheen, Mushfiq

**Guests:**

Bradshaw, Wilson (President); Breitenstein, Dave (The News-Press); Duff, Cathy; Hart, Mary (UCT); Isaacs, Madelyn (UFF); Roman, Isaac (Student Government); Snyder, Paul; Toll, Ronald (Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs)

**I. Gathering**

President Halcyon St. Hill called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. when quorum was reached. Motion was made by Martha Rosenthal to suspend rules and allow President Bradshaw to speak beyond the normally allotted 15 minutes. Motion passed.

**II. Reports**

**A. University President's Report – President Bradshaw**

- President Bradshaw said that a total of over 10,000 students are enrolled at Florida Gulf Coast University this fall. Sixty-five percent of these students are from Southwest Florida. FGCU finds itself very challenged in this austere fiscal environment. While we are not in a crisis mode, we are making tough decisions. We may start to re-visit and revise our Strategic Plan this year and next year to ensure the continuance of our high quality educational experience for students.
- FGCU doesn't want to fall behind in meeting the needs for new faculty/staff. Plans are to add twenty new faculty positions and use existing resources to help accomplish our mission. Goal is for an informed, transparent process.
- Looking at some changes in governance structure including a more efficient governing body than LRPIEC.
- Provost Toll and Dr. Paul Snyder attended the BOG Meeting last week. Major discussions took place regarding enrollment caps and differential tuition. While FGCU is not currently a part of the differential tuition program, a discussion did take place that would allow FGCU and other institutions to participate. Tuition in Florida is among the lowest in the country. Low tuition plus lower state appropriations is not a successful formula.
- We will not be adding new programs if we cannot fully support and have them of high quality. Want to make class sizes smaller.

- On October 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a public presentation by the three finalists for the construction of the solar field. Please attend and provide your input.
- FGCU is reaffirming its commitment to sustainability through the construction of Biscayne Hall and Academic Buildings Nos. 7 & 8. We are looking at everything that impacts the environment and have been receiving positive feedback from both the university and the community at large.
- At this point, Dr. Bradshaw opened the discussion for questions from the Senate body. Among the questions and concerns expressed were:
  - The addition of doctoral programs to Strategic Plan - President Bradshaw responded that FGCU is not going to sacrifice quality by offering doctoral programs too quickly. Working collaboratively with other institutions will also provide opportunities.
  - Class size - President Bradshaw responded that the ideal would be 30 students per class but this is not going to happen right away. Data shows that our average class size is 32 which, with the exception of New College, place FGCU dead center in the middle of our ten institutional cohorts. Plans are to add 26 new faculty members with an enrollment next fall of somewhere near 11,500 students. Need to look at section size across the board. Provost Toll commented that we have had 4.9 million in requests for 50 positions and have budgeted 2 million for new faculty. President Bradshaw commented that the BOG is making a legislative request of \$65 million for recruitment and retention.
  - Elevation of community colleges to state institutions – President Bradshaw commented that well over half of the community colleges are requesting to be brought into the State University System (SUS). FGCU is working closely with Edison State College to develop a plan for program implementation. Don't think it will affect the type of student who attends FGCU. We will be attracting those students looking for a four-year experience.
  - Discussion of cap sizes and the use of distance learning classes – President Bradshaw deferred to Provost Toll who said that FGCU is constantly looking at pedagogical bases and which are appropriate. May be able to put into place a distance learning fee. Don't feel we are sacrificing quality through the use of distance learning classes as we face the same types of questions as with normal classroom courses. President Bradshaw said we are seeing an increasing number of students taking on-line courses. On-line fees should kick in next fall.
  - Quality/Enrollment – Provost Toll said we need to look institutional wide and review how we are managing enrollment overall. Do we need to set specific targets or set limits so can go in new directions? We had nineteen new degree programs on our internal books that at one point FGCU said would be implemented in three years; of course, this we cannot now do. I have talked with the Deans across the colleges and this number has been reduced to nine. We are looking at interdisciplinary cooperation. This year is going to present a tremendous fiscal challenge. I don't believe that next year is going to be a turn-around year either. I hope it is not worse but it may be. We have to establish how to move forward while maintaining and improving quality.
  - How will students be affected if they can't get financing? – President Bradshaw responded that FGCU is receiving more applications than ever and is very concerned about tuition increases. We have topped \$1 million in awarding scholarships. Looking for money for those students who are unrepresented. May use 30% of tuition increase for need-based financial aid.
  - Differential Tuition – President Bradshaw said this is a flat approved rate of increase which then allows consecutive yearly increases. Major concern exists that the differentials are outside of "Bright Futures."
  - FGCU criteria for turning away students – President Bradshaw said that FGCU admits students on a first-come, first-serve basis. He added that a number of large institutions are actually decreasing the sizes of their freshman enrollments.
  - Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy – President Bradshaw said that FGCU will be revisiting and reposting this policy. Need to be more precise with the language.

**B. Course Management System & New Curriculum Processes – Cathy Duff & Mary Hart**

- Mary Hart said we are continually trying to implement the on-line system so that it is user friendly. Goal is to turn around requests for course changes as soon as possible. Tremendous progress is being made.
- Curriculum Management System (CMS) eliminates need for word documents and photocopying. It also greatly increases the speed with which we get new courses approved and existing courses revised. Faculty has the ability to go back and revise. A flat file can then be generated to send to the State for the course numbering system. All of this can be done electronically. This system also allows us to track historical information on courses. Mary Hart added that the deadline for revisions for all existing curricula to be included in the college catalog is October 31, 2008. Please send your revisions to Cathy Duff. Administrators in each college can give you access to this system. Dr. St. Hill asked Cathy Duff to please send her a list of the contacts in each college so that she could forward that information to the faculty.
- Cathy Duff asked the Senators to look at their respective programs under “catalog display” and contact her with any questions. Electronic format for courses in the CMS must be used.
- Concern was expressed with the course descriptions on Gulflink being spotty and that doing away with the paper catalog makes people nervous. Cathy commented that these concerns were being addressed.

**C. SGA Report – Isaac Roman**

- Work is continuing on the bio-diesel conversion of the university’s shuttles.
- Take the Vote Campaign ongoing. Student Government, upon request, will send representative to classrooms to explain importance of voting in this election.
- Textbook affordability remains a big issue.
- Eighty students watched the vice presidential debate.
- Senate just passed a bench bill to provide seating in the Student Union.
- Casino Night was a great success with 1,500 students participating.
- Nest Fest is coming up.
- Students have access to on-line Degree Evaluation Audit Program through Gulflink.
- Question was raised whether Student Government had any control over the designated smoking area between Reed and Whittaker Halls which is becoming very unsightly. Isaac responded that he didn’t know if this was a Student Government issue but they could create a campaign out of the problem. Dr. St. Hill responded that she would also take the concern to the Institutional Affairs Team.

**D. Senate President’s Report – Halcyon St. Hill**

- Need to get accurate course descriptions and prerequisites on our class syllabi since they serve as contracts between faculty and students. This is also an important issue for SACS accreditation.
- Text book affordability issue is being worked on. Thanks for the completed surveys submitted both from faculty and others. Survey information is being collated by Hudson Rogers who will be submitting this to the BOG staff. The FGCU survey responses will be included with other SUS survey responses and forwarded to the Textbook Bill Work Group to inform discussion at the next meeting. There will be a work group meeting within the next few weeks by teleconference. I will update the Senate.
- On-line catalog is in early stages of development with representatives from each college/unit. Will not be a Senate agenda item as was listed. Dr. St. Hill stressed the catalog for the year under which a student enters FGCU will be maintained. Will keep Senate informed of developments. I will send the list of representatives for units to the faculty upon receipt from Cathy Duff. Please submit your comments about the catalog to your College representative.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2008 meeting; minutes approved.

#### **IV. Old Business**

None

#### **V. New Business**

##### **A. Emeritus Faculty Criteria – Chuck Lindsey (Action Item)**

- Marked up version was sent to you electronically. Senate will vote on next time appears on the agenda. Eighty percent of the changes are re-wording.
- Chuck commented that the main change was in eligibility and that the remainder was wording corrections.
- Question was raised on how to determine “excellence”. Chuck said this was open to interpretation with the intent being to look at someone’s overall record.
- Question asked as to whether an Instructor I, II, or Associate Professor were eligible to receive. Chuck answered that under the current guidelines and procedures they were.
- Concerns were then raised as to whether to keep the minimum requirements as they stand or to revise to more limiting requirements.
- Chuck said that no one’s current status would be changed.
- Dr. St. Hill noted that this document was going to be used in the future and will not impact what has been done in the past or is currently in process. Time ran out. Motion made and passed to extend by ten minutes.
- Dr. St. Hill said that we should step back and think about the revisions. This is not a promotion document. It is meant to bestow one of the highest achievements one can receive. To define “exceptional” is difficult to capture for all. Please take a look at what other SUS institutions are doing.
- Further questions were raised about the language being “bothersome” and that the introductory language needs to be refined.
- Dr. St. Hill asked Senators to take the Faculty Emeritus Criteria document back to their respective units for review and input. We will be voting on it the next time it comes before the Senate. There will be no revisions or revising of the document at the next Senate meeting if we follow process. We can vote on the Faculty Emeritus Criteria document with the changes from FAT up or down. We need to keep the process in line and let the designated team assume by letting the handle getting feedback and making changes. Dr. St. Hill asked Senators to take the Faculty Emeritus Criteria document back to their respective college/unit for input and to give that input to FAT. The unit responses should be sent to Chuck Lindsey as one document so that Chuck will submit those to FAT.
- Chuck Lindsey said he would come back to the Senate with an amendment or the reasons why the committee made their decisions.
- It was noted that FAT plans to meet the week of the next senate meeting and will be revising based on the input received. The document will be brought back to Senate for vote that same week. Dr. St. Hill asked about response time. It was agreed to have comments to Chuck by next week as the next Faculty Affairs Committee meets either October 15<sup>th</sup> or the 16<sup>th</sup> 2008.

#### **VI. Announcements**

- Senate Leadership Meeting in SU Ballroom from 11:15AM – 12:45 PM on 10/3/08
- Emeritus document will be on the agenda on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- Next Senate Meeting – 10/17/08 Dr. St. Hill announced that Betty Muzinara, from Uganda, will be speaking on October 28<sup>th</sup> on “Human Rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” She will also be presenting to both Dr. Abbe Finn’s graduate class that week and to Dr. St. Hill’s class. UFF – Maddy Isaacs – Next formal meeting is October 16th, 2008. An informal meeting will be held on the October 17th, 2008. If you are already a UFF member, please bring a non-member. There has been an important change this

year in the UFF's role with grievances for non-members. UFF will still advise and assist, and participate as observers for non members but will no longer represent grievants on-campus or through legal services afforded to members. Thus all faculty who decline membership are giving up full grievance representation AND the liability insurance that comes with membership.

- Alice Bruner invited everyone to attend the Eagle Family Weekend Oct. 17 – 19<sup>th</sup> 2008. Will be showcasing the music gallery. Wants to also focus on what faculty members are doing. Asking faculty members to present on October 18<sup>th</sup> 2008. There are openings in both the morning and the afternoon sessions. If interested in showcasing what you are doing in the classroom, please fill out Faculty Participation Form.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.