

**Florida Gulf Coast University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of 9/5/08
Student Union Chambers**

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

Alternate Senators: Gischel, Carolynne for Simpson, Mark.

Absent without Alternate: Jinian, Jeff; Murray, Beth

Absent with Proxy: None

Guests: Isaacs, Madelyn; Navaratna, Menaka; Rogers, Hudson; Roman, Isaac; Savarese, Michael; Snyder, Paul; Toll, Ronald

I. Gathering

President Halcyon St. Hill called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. when quorum was reached. Dr. St. Hill welcomed Senate members to the new academic year.

II. Complete the Election for Senate Secretary

- Martha Rosenthal said two names were being brought forward from the e-mail nominations last spring: Claude Villiers and Jeff Jinian.
- Ballots were submitted, votes counted, and Claude Villiers was elected as Senate Secretary.

III. Senate Overview

A. Overview of the Senate Constitution and Bylaws - Martha Rosenthal

- Martha Rosenthal said that Senate Meetings followed the “Robert’s Rule of Orders.” The number of Senators changed to 35 this year as a result of a bylaws change last year. Twenty-four Senators are now needed to reach quorum.
- The attendance policy was reviewed.
- A second change in the bylaws last year now limits all reports to 15 minutes unless a motion is made and approved to extend time. Most votes require a simple majority; others 2/3 of those present.
- New Business is not generally voted upon but can be if a motion to suspend rules is made and approved.

B. Senate Communications - Optimum Representation of Faculty Voices and Views - H. St. Hill & Chuck Lindsey

- Dr. St. Hill told Senators they are the voices of the entire faculty and are thereby entrusted to represent the faculty and participate in shared governance. We want to bring all viewpoints to the table. Senate work is done by majority rule but we must always be respectful of the views of the minority opinions.
- Chuck Lindsey said Senators represent 11% of the faculty and that it is very important to assume responsibility for communicating Senate proceedings to your respective colleges.
- Dr. St. Hill noted the Senate does not tell the units how to conduct their business. As an example, in her college “Senate Updates” are included as an agenda item in the faculty council meeting. She strongly recommended that correspondence coming from her should be forwarded

to all faculty members by senators; how the senators decide on disseminating depends on the college/unit. Each college and the library gave examples of how they disseminate senate information. Dr. St. Hill noted that she sends very important items to the entire faculty.

- Dr. St. Hill said the Senate website is a major area of communication and is currently being updated.

C. What's on the Horizon and Strategic Directives (Items for 2008 – 2009 Senate Agenda)

- At the first meeting last year, Senate goals for academic years 2007 to 2010 were formalized. Dr. St. Hill referenced the list of items that was disseminated with the 9/5/08 meeting agenda as an indicator of what agenda items were on the horizon. These goals are posted on the website and provide a list of what we need to accomplish each year. Items or issues that were not completely addressed last year will be worked on this year. The Senate Leadership Team will be reviewing this list and updating it as well as the Senate Goals 2007 -2010.
- Dr. St. Hill asked for representatives to replace Abbe Finn on the BCAT and Pat Greene on the Parking Committee. Carolynne Gischel volunteered to serve on the Parking Committee.

D. Q/A Session – All

- Question was raised regarding the Professional Development Fund. Dr. St. Hill responded that this item is on the list to be discussed by and it is also on today's agenda.
- Question was raised by Morgan Paine regarding Dr. Bradshaw's evaluation and raise. Dr. St. Hill responded that this was a contractual issue. She also shared with the Senate that she has a dual role on the Board: as the faculty Senate President and she will represent the faculty, on issues that are not within the scope of us as faculty, such as contractual items to which the university is committed she votes as a member of Board and not as a Faculty Representative. In those instances, as in others she votes based on all information available to her.
- Jeff Kleeger stressed that items should be presented to the Senate only after they have been carefully reviewed.

IV. Reports

A. Provost's & Vice President for Academic Affairs Report – Ron Toll

- Dr. Toll began by indicating that he was both honored and thrilled to be at FGCU. He was impressed with the physical plant, program offerings and especially with the very fine community of people who make up FGCU. He noted that he wears multiple hats: Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs and is pleased to also be Professor of Marine Sciences. As VPAA he is responsible for the quality and integrity of the academic programs.
- He is an enormous supporter of shared governance and looks forward to working with the Faculty Senate.
- The Provost's Office supports the Faculty Senate through provision of an office in the library and approximately eight hours of secretarial assistance per week.
- Investment in faculty and faculty development is an essential piece of institutional success.
- Short-range goals include the establishment of a teaching/learning center where faculty can share best practices and a New Faculty Academy to assist in the orientation of our new colleagues. As part of the New Faculty Academy, Dr. Gray-Vickrey is currently extending new faculty orientation to include eight separate events spread out over the academic year.
- Dr. Toll understands the value of our faculty and staff and is pleased that in these times of significant budgetary constraints, FGCU is demonstrating its support with a 1% salary increase (effective Jan 1st) and a \$1,000 bonus.
- FGCU needs to be flexible in space design when planning new building construction. Must look far down the road in designing space to accommodate our projected programmatic and pedagogical needs.
- Re-configured the Deans Council to include department deans and the dean of the library and function as a strategic visioning group.
- Looking at specific projects such as the Solar Ray field. Faculty members are on the committee reviewing ten different proposals.
- Faculty Development Grant program will continue in place with same funding as previous year.

- Looking at adding twenty additional faculty slots for the 2009-2010 academic year. Will advertise for twenty-five because don't always fill all positions.
- Talked to the Senate leadership about the possibility of presenting an "Academic State of the University" address in January followed by a reception.
- Time ran out and motion made and passed to extend by fifteen minutes.
- Jeffrey Kleeger asked if Professional Development funds could be increased. Dr. Toll commented that, in the past, he has added to this activity by sending faculty members to national conventions on curriculum and governance and that this is an important component of faculty development. He commented that we need to extend our efforts to seek extra-mural funds to support faculty development and that development and submission of substantial grant proposals is in itself a form of scholarship.
- We are members of a great profession. Want to look at ways to improve what we do. Time ran out. Motion made and passed to extend by ten minutes.
- Dr. Toll's vision for the library is to supply the needed resources but we are limited by funds. Electronic distribution of resources, such as on-line journals, is a great asset and can be a means to increase resources, sometimes with level or decreased costs.
- Wants to focus on establishing our own path and be the very best FGCU that we can possibly be. Mission Statement is part of who we are. Expansion will occur and managed growth is the key to staying on track with strategic objectives.

B. SGA Report - Isaac Roman

- Isaac said Student Government is in the process of retrofitting the University's shuttles to a re-doable bio-diesel fuel.
- 155 freshmen are currently going through the leadership development process. Please notify the Student Government office if interested.
- Textbook affordability and Bright Futures will be on the fall agenda in Tallahassee.
- Trying to get students registered to vote and to change current voting precinct to the library to increase turnout.
- Working on student lounge areas with Provost.

C. UFF Report – Maddy Isaacs, UFF President

- Currently there are over 100 faculty members or 30% faculty representation.
- Worked both cooperatively and collaboratively with the faculty and with FGCU administration.
- UFF will be looking at travel ban and K-Secondary education.
- Labor management training classes are being offered for those who are interested. Please contact the UFF office and join us on the labor management team. The more people we have on the team the better. One of our first tasks will be discussion of class size.
- Will be discussing class size increases and doing an internal inversion/compression study. Please become a union member and become involved with what we do. Respect shared governance.
- There will be a UFF meeting in two weeks. Do not yet have a definite date. Will send notice out by e-mail. Fall social will be held on October 29th in the Student Union from 4 to 6 p.m.

D. Senate President's Report - Halcyon St. Hill

- The Senate now has its own office - Library 456.
- Tickets will be distributed to graduates for fall commencement in Alico Arena. September 19th 2008 is the deadline date to sign up for graduation.
- Grant writing workshop is being held by ORSP today.
- Mary Hartley is the Senate representative on the committee that is reviewing Solar Ray proposals.
- A presenter from Uganda through Global Partners contact Brenda Tate will be presenting topics related to Human Rights. Plans are being made for presentation to two classes (graduate and undergraduate) and one open forum in the Student Union in October. Dates and information will follow.
- The workgroup on Textbook Affordability Bill had a teleconference in July. Subsequently, they developed a survey that will be disseminated through the SUS. Faculty can expect this survey

coming from the Provost and VPAA or Senate President this month (September 2008). Faculty is encouraged to complete the survey as the data gathered will be used to inform the workgroup, the BOG and legislature.

- There is a Distance Learning workgroup at the state level as well; I will keep you abreast as information becomes available.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2008 meeting; minutes approved, with minor correction in wording, as written.

VI. Old Business

A. Proposed Graduate Policies Documents – (Action Item)

- Motion made and seconded to accept. Vote taken and motion passed with one Senator abstaining.

B. Proposed Changes to Graduate Faculty Appointment Document – Action Item)

- Motion made and seconded to accept. Vote taken and motion passed with one Senator abstaining.

V. New Business

A. Professional Development Fund Grant Guidelines - Action Item

- Dr. St. Hill told the Senate that some changes had been made based on faculty feedback and committee input. This is an action item. We can vote on today or wait and vote on in two weeks.
- Questions were raised that the language was limiting and that other changes still needed to be made. Dr. St. Hill told the Senate to e-mail her proposed changes and she would send to the committee. We can then decide at the next meeting if we are going to vote on. She gave the Senators a deadline of next Wednesday for feedback. She will then send back to the committee for changes and then issue will come back to the Senate at the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

VI. Announcements

- Date of Next Senate Meeting: September 19, 2008