

**Florida Gulf Coast University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of 1/30/09
Student Union Chambers**

Attendance:

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

Absent with Alternate (Alternate Senators):

None

Absent with Proxy:

None

Absent

Braddy, Jon; Gogate, Lakshmi ; Murray, Beth; Burkett, Tony

Guests:

President Bradshaw, Wilson; Benefield, Lenore; Goen, Jennifer; Isaacs, Madelyn; Landy, Karen; Rogers, Hudson; Toll, Ronald

I. Gathering

President Halcyon St. Hill called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. when quorum was reached.

A. President's Report – Dr. Wilson Bradshaw

- President Bradshaw told the Senate the current budget situation does not look at all good and things are probably going to get worse before they get better. He has been meeting with senior leadership and has spent many hours looking at where we are right now and trying to define the parameters within which FGCU has to operate. The newly established Planning and Budget Council (PBC) will advise the Cabinet on how we will proceed. Of course we will not put the entire burden on students, but the reality is that tuition and fees are likely to increase as we plan for relatively modest enrollment growth. FGCU could increase tuition for the next 5 to 7 years by 15% annually and still would not be at the national average. In the upcoming session the State legislature will be considering legislation that would allow the state universities to increase tuition up to 15%. We are projecting growth for next year. The members of the Cabinet and I are trying to determine our needs for the next two years.
- The Budget Subcommittee is one of five committees on the Planning and Budget Council.
- FGCU is plugged into the events in Washington and will be exploring how we can access some of the "stimulus" funds when they become available. Jennifer Goen will be addressing the Senate next and will update you on the Florida budget cuts.
- Undergraduate applications for fall '09 admission to FGCU are up by 25% and, because of the anticipated budget cuts; we will probably be turning away applicants who meet our admission criteria.
- President Bradshaw is pleased and proud of our BOT for its proactive stance on the anti-discrimination/anti-harassment regulation passed at its last meeting.
- FGCU is not anticipating any layoffs and is continuing with employment searches. At this point, we just don't know what the budget cuts are going to be and which positions ultimately will be filled.

- \$1 million has been cut from the FGCU Solar Field project. We are working very hard to find ways to keep the project whole. There have been several conversations with the contractor. Plans are to have the project fully operational by mid to late summer.
- As always, it has been my pleasure to speak to you and I promise you a balanced budget.

B. Legislative Update – Jennifer Goen

- Jennifer Goen introduced herself and said she was always available to talk to anyone with budget and lobbying concerns. She noted that if in Tallahassee, she can be reached by her e-mail: jgoen@fgcu.edu. Just allow sufficient response time. FGCU is looking at everything with a holistic viewpoint. Any money amount received by the State would be “block grants”, and FGCU might get some of that. Florida is expecting \$7 billion. We do not yet know how will be divided. The Stimulus Package is composed of four areas: energy, education, saving and maintaining public sector jobs, and infrastructure. We are closely examining.
- The Florida Legislature is looking at more cuts. The Differential Tuition Bill and the Cigarette Tax Bill will have a big impact on education and should ease up money for other areas. The Differential Tuition Bill (Senate Bill 762) and (House Bill 403) has had some minor changes to make it less cumbersome. Overall, this bill should be very helpful.
- March 1, 2009 is the deadline for filing bills. Normally, average 350 new bills.
- Keep a watch on the State College System. FGCU works with Edison State College which is going to experience some growing pains. The costs are problematic for Edison. The pro side is they are starting to nestle into nursing, education, and technical areas.
- Presenting a united message is very important. Start with your own members. The Legislature wants to hear from constituents. The tuition bill will have a lot of changes. March 4th is the first week of the session. Be active, write letters. See you in session. Thank you.

C. SGA Report – Isaac Roman

- SGA budget of \$2.683 million is in and budget hearings are being held today, Saturday, and Monday from 8 to 5.
- Rally-Tally will be held March 4th on the steps of the capitol building in Tallahassee.
- Dr. Halcyon St. Hill noted that if there were not enough students, faculty will be able ride on the buses to Tallahassee.
- Bright Futures Forum coming up soon.
- SGA now has a new inventory system and a place for storage.
- Relocation of the plants in the solar field worked very well. Plans are to do this again in another couple of weeks. To facilitate, SGA has purchased twelve extra shovels.
- SGA will be responsible for the Eaglepalooza event next year.
- Nest Fest is tomorrow. Come and join the fun.
- New banners which were designed in house are now displayed across campus.

D. UFF Report – Maddy Isaacs

- New UFF website is now online. Mark Simpson did a wonderful job. See updates on State legislative news, etc.
- As part of the UFF Steering Committee, have been involved in discussions focusing on building advocacy and support for higher education. Want to work with university as we need to be prepared for economic downturn.
- UFF members will soon be conducting a climate survey.
- Annual election of officers will be held in March.
- Beginning to schedule first bargaining meetings of the year.
- Informal meeting will be held on Tuesday from 11 to 1.

E. Senate President’s Report – Halcyon St. Hill

- As you know, I have been soliciting names for the new Planning and Budget Council and its subcommittees. The following have agreed to serve:

- Planning and Budget Council Representatives are: Chuck Lindsey, Kay Oistad, Shelton, Weeks, and Shirley Ruder.
- Sub-committee members are as follows:
 - Budget Committee- Jon Braddy and Dan Borgia
 - Safety and Facilities: Ashraf Badir and Roger Greene
 - Enrollment retention Committee – Julie Hulya Yacizi
 - Strategic Planning and Institutional Performance—Christine Wright-Isak and Halcyon St. Hill
 - Informational Resources—Lee (Elias) Kirsh

Thanks to all those who have volunteered.

- Questions on SAI- error on mean. Lenore Benefield responded this error only applied to on-line responses.
- Faculty Excellence Award announcements sent out in mid-December. Don't have any information regarding responses. Please nominate those worthy of the reward.
- The University Health and Wellness Committee is doing a survey and is asking for Senate input. Will send out to you when I receive.
- Rally-Tally will be held on March 4th. Faculty will be invited to ride on the student buses space permitting. Will try to get you additional information. Looking at system wide budget cuts. Tallahassee needs to hear our collective voices. We will lobby with students for those things that we need the most.
- BOG has started sending a link on daily news. Will try to get that link our website so everyone can view what is going on around the State.
- Dr. St. Hill reminded the Senate of the attendance policy and said she recently had to inform two Senators that they were considered to have resigned as they did not send alternates to Faculty Senate meetings. Proxies don't count. She said this does not create a problem with the quorum requirement as most colleges rapidly replace Senators.
- Martha Rosenthal commented that we could further discuss but any change would, of course, require a change in the bylaws.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2009 meeting; minutes approved with minor corrections.

IV. Old Business

A. Bylaws Changes – Martha Rosenthal (Attachment 1 – Action Item)

- Martha noted that Bullet No. 2 under Section 3.01 Role of the Senate was being voted on today to provide a description of the responsibilities of Senators. Passage required approval by 60% of the full Senate membership. Motion was made to amend and seconded.
- Morgan Paine brought up the methodology process used on how different units communicate with their constituency. Suggested implementing a mechanism to do so. This was followed by a motion to amend Bullet No. 2 which was seconded.
- Morgan's proposed amendment read:
 - “with sufficient time set aside at the first meeting of each academic year for each unit's faculty senators to discuss their means of communicating with their constituents.”
- Claude Villiers questioned the necessity of this being in the bylaws.
- Dr. St. Hill suggested a second alternative is to include the proposed amendments in the handbook noting that part of the reason for having a handbook is for orientation for new Senators.
- A vote was taken on the amendment to the proposed change in bylaws (Morgan's proposed amendment). Vote taken. Motion failed.
- Time ran out. A motion was made and passed to extend time by five minutes.

- Vote was taken on the Second Bullet of the changes that were proposed in bylaws. Vote taken. Motion passed and is now part of the senate bylaws.
- Martha noted that Bullet No. 3 (from the document that was presented at the meeting) was being voted on today to clarify the qualifications for being a Senate officer.
- Question asked if could include Instructor 3 in those who are eligible. Martha responded that we can make a motion to add or can vote down.
- Motion to vote on made and passed. 60% approval rate is needed to pass. Vote taken and Bullet No. 3 passed as is now part of the Senate bylaws.
- Morgan Paine brought up the validity of the current 33 members as relates to a quorum. Martha responded that Morgan is saying that the Senate is not following proper procedure. Dr. St. Hill said we can address this in the future. The number came from last year and the number of Senators for next year will be determined at the end of April.

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Order

- Julie Yazici distributed two handouts discussing upcoming proposed cuts by the Lee County School Board including staff, teachers, arts programs, class sizes etc. to overcome a possible \$40 million dollar plus cut in funding. Superintendent Dr. James Browder will be attending a *Make our Schools a Priority Statewide Rally for Public Education* meeting in Orlando on February 28th to discuss the funding crisis. Please contact your legislators etc. and/or forward this information.

VI. Announcements

- A. Next Senate Leadership Meeting: February 13, 2009 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- B. Next Senate Meeting: February 13, 2009

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.