

**ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES**  
Remote meeting by ZOOM (COVID pandemic 2021)

**Spring Meeting**  
**Friday March 26, 2021 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**

Attendees: Bill Self (Chair), Deanna Michael (Vice Chair), Shawn Felton (Past Chair), Joe Harrington (UCF), Anna Carlin (FGCU), Jamie McDonald (FGCU), Kevin Wagner (FAU), Kim Dunn (FAU), David Bloom (UF), Sylvain Dore' (UF), David Harvey (NCF), Deanne Butchey (FIU), Joerg Reinhold (FIU), Matthew Crow (UWF), Sherry Schneider (UWF), Erin Ryan (FSU), Eric Chicken (FSU), Tim Boaz (USF), Jennifer Schneider (USF), Fawn Ngo (USF), Chris Beetle (FAU), Gary Tyron (FSU)

Fawn's notes

Meeting began at 9:15 AM. Chair Bill Self opened the meeting, introduced new members, and called roll.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for October 16, 2020, December 14, 2020, January 19, 2021, March 8, 2021, and March 22, 2021 meetings were approved.

9:45 AM      BOG meeting update (Self)

Discussion of the goals of conversations with legislators (Self): Topics for discussion with Senator Rodrigues' staff member and Representative Plasencia could include the complexity of the COVID Relief expenses faced by the universities, for example modifications of HVAC and buildings for better and safer ventilation, the suggestion of easing the restrictions on Carry Forward funds in the short term, discussion of SB 264 and HB 233.

ACFS attendees discussed the classroom issues and potential consequences of SB 264, concerns with Carry Forward restrictions, the E&G cost of waivers and the BOGO legislation with Senator Rodrigues' staff member. The staff member shared his contact information and asked that interested members reach out to him with their questions and suggestions.

Representative Rene Plasencia explained the function of the Higher Education subcommittee that he chairs. Attendees shared their concerns about the classroom consequences of HB 233 and SB 264. Other topics discussed were the cap on E&G funding for faculty salaries, the use of federal stimulus funds in the response to COVID-19, Carry Forward spending, and the potential for institutions of higher education borrowing money as other states allow their institutions to borrow funds. Representative Plasencia stated that he wished for the SUS System to be the best university system possible. He encouraged the members of the ACFS to contact the Higher Education Subcommittee on Appropriations staff and members as we are familiar with how

their decisions affect higher education in Florida. Chair Self invited Representative Plasencia to attend the ACFS summer meeting.

Discussion follow meeting with legislative staff and Representative Plasencia: It was suggested that the ACFS could address issues directly affecting faculty work in teaching and research in the fall before the legislature meets in the spring. Over time, the contact could become regular meetings with legislators. These meetings would not compete with the lobbying efforts for the universities and would focus on building stronger faculty and SUS System.

Noon – break for Lunch for 30 minutes

Meeting with Chancellor Marshall Criser: Chancellor Criser shared information about the budget proposals in the legislature. The ACFS members discussed their meeting with Senator Rodrigues' staff member and Representative Plasencia and the importance of exemptions for pedagogical reasons (clinical education and courses with open discussion by students). Chancellor Criser discussed the limitations on how stimulus funds could be spent and the importance of the upcoming revenue conference for the legislature's approach to the state's budget. The BOG was requesting funding for PBF, Universities of Distinction and Preeminence. Other topics discussed were the regulations around the second federal stimulus legislation, any potential salary increase, recruitment of faculty from Florida and within Florida, potential for borrowing funds to be more competitive, reduced PICO funds for building projects at universities, and possible vaccine requirements for face to face classes. Chancellor Criser posed the question about the profile of a great faculty member and the complexity of faculty jobs. He suggested that it could be of use for the public policy makers to understand our positions and jobs better.

Leadership updates from the SUS (New College, FSU, others): New College is interviewing candidates for the Presidents position. The search committee at FSU is still meeting and search firm is reviewing potential applicants.

Meeting Dates for upcoming meetings (and modality):

Next meeting is the Pre-BOG meeting May 3 from 3:00 until 4:30 on Zoom.

The next ACFS regular meeting will be on May 21 from 9:00 until 12:00 on Zoom.

In June the BOG will meet at USF St. Petersburg campus for a face to face meeting.

Chair Self suggested that the ACFS meeting once a month on Zoom and have 3 face to face meetings each year. He also requested that any ACFS member who was not supported with travel funds contact him. The ACFS is advisory to the BOG and its members should be supported.

New Business:

Members discussed whether the 6% held back from the universities would be returned by the legislature or not. A discussion of the costs and benefits of changes to the retirement system will be on the agenda for the May meeting. Members also shared information about their

budget committees and the responsibilities of those councils and committees. The final topic was how instruction is evaluated at different institutions and the role of student evaluations.

Chair Self asked members to send their institution reports to Deanna Michael for posting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00.