

**ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES**  
ZOOM (COVID Pandemic retreat)

**Friday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 8:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Welcome and (re)introduction of new ACFS member, Roll Call**

Attendees: Bill Self (Chair), Deanna Michael (Vice Chair), Shawn Felton (Past Chair), Ann Marie Cavazos (FAMU), David Bloom (UF), Eric Chicken (FSU), Erin Ryan (FSU), Hanadi Hamadi (UNF), Jenifer Schneider (USF), Tim Boaz (USF), Joe Harrington (UCF), Keith Koons (UCF), Joerg Reinhold (FIU), Deanne Butchey (FIU), Kimberly Dunn (FAU), Keith Wagner (FAU), Sylvain Dore (UF), Sarah Hernandez (NCF), David Harvey (NCF), Sherry Schneider (UWF), Jamie McDonald (FGCU), Anna Carlin (FGCU), Ray Thomas (UF), Todd Adams (FSU), Matthew Crow (UWF), Chris Beetle (FAU), Gary Tyson (FSU)

**Approval of Minutes of Pre-BOG meetings and special COVID meeting conversations (Summer 2020)**

Minutes were approved.

**Discussion of the recent push for more face to face classes.**

At almost all SUS institutions, there was a push for more face-to-face classes for Spring 2021 semester. Members discussed what the presidents and provosts at their institutions have shared with them and other faculty leaders about the reason for the sudden change and how soon it had to be accomplished. Faculty at each institution expressed concerns to their representatives about any potential conflict between the CDC Guidelines for safety and a quick return to face-to-face classes.

**Government Relations update – Janet Owen**

There is a belief that the budget for the state of Florida will decline from \$93.2 billion to \$92.2 billion due to lost revenues. Education is 51% of General Revenues. State revenues are down for FY 2020-2021 by 1.2%. The development and release of vaccines would bring an increase in revenues.

The BOG budget request includes Performance Based Funding, Preeminence and National Ranking funding, University of Distinction funding, Library Services, Fire Marshall, IFAS Workload, Moffitt Cancer Center, FAMU-FSU Engineering, and the Johnson Scholarship. The legislative season is from March 2 to April 30. There is a mandatory face-to-face meeting on November 17.

Budget issues include the legislature mandated 6% holdback for quarterly funding and the 8.5 BOG requested budget cut exercise. Increasing revenues could include raising tuition, but the legislature could decrease the SUS System funding by the same amount.

Areas to pay attention: The new Conflict of Interest law needs to be narrowed to be used well, changes to higher education laws allow more spending flexibility, and there is pending Annual Assessment of Intellectual Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity legislation. The Chair added that at the Spring meeting in March, he planned to include a meeting with legislators to understand their views as well as to express our concerns.

COVID-19 mitigation support would mean that to reopen campuses completely, there would have to be increased housing for students, which means higher allocations for building residence halls. The Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative (FALSC) moved to FSU and should have its funding restored.

### **Governance review and discussion – Chair (Summary document)**

The review of the governance documents found commonalities and many differences.

Committees and Councils are used for communication with faculty and administration. The communication with the Faculty Senates varied.

Administrative Attendance of Faculty Senate meetings varied from President and Provost both attending every meeting to only the Provost attending to neither attending very often.

All of the Faculty Senates were open meetings. Committee and Council meetings were often considered closed.

Eligibility for election varied from only tenured and tenure-earning to open to all full-time faculty to inclusive of permanent part-time lines.

Release time for President was consistent, but some institutions paid summer stipends.

### **Lunch.**

### **Discussion with Chancellor**

In his general comments, Chancellor Criser shared that his major focus was keeping track of the virus and activities on campuses. The SUS institutions were instructed to follow CDC Guidelines and the BOG staff was monitoring capacity on the campuses, institutions were doing what they could safely for now. The calculation for capacity was 33% to 40% of actual capacity. The return to face-to-face classes and campus experiences was advocated by parents and stakeholders.

Athletic teams were responding well to following mitigation protocols, at least on campuses.

The danger continued to be events off campus where mitigation strategies were ignored (parties). Florida is in Phase 3. The BOG believes that the CDC Guidelines should be followed on all campuses and uphold safety protocols.

The Chancellor opened the floor for questions and comments:

Questions focused on the return to face to face classes and the need for local flexibility. Chancellor Criser explained that the BOG was gathering data about student wishes for face-to-face classes (registration trends), but parents wanted their children to have an on-campus experience. He acknowledged that there is a stigma attached to online and distance learning that needed to be addressed because so much had changed over the past 20 years. The BOG was putting the needs of the students as the priority, but stakeholders' questions and desires must be addressed as well. It was important for the SUS System to communicate why it was doing what it was doing. He continued that the BOG was aware that different degrees need different modalities and different subjects needed different methods. The SUS System had moved with safety in mind through the pandemic. In relation to the apparent conflict between the digital strategic goals of increasing online education and the move to go back in the classrooms, he responded that the presidents are moving to offer students more choices in course delivery. The BOG Strategic Plan included a goal to have 45% of courses online by 2025 due to projected demand. The SUS institutions have different capacities to deliver online programs and that is taken into account.

The members thanked Chancellor Criser for joining the meeting.

### **Diversity Equity and Inclusion – discussion from Memo; follow up for accountability SUS wide**

Members discussed what their institutions were doing to address the need for anti-racism actions. Institutions' responses included creating task forces to develop actions to address equity to faculty senates passing resolutions demanding actions by the administrations both within the campus communities and in the surrounding communities.

### **Faculty Environment Discussion - potential action from ACFS to drive SUS wide Survey data and Retention data**

Faculty hiring and career support is expensive and should be considered an investment. The Chair asked if any institution had not had a faculty climate survey over the past 5 years.

FGCU, in 2010, shorter ones annually; UNF, no; FIU, COACH Survey was completed, but results were not shared; UCF, Faculty Senate made a resolution; USF, COACH Survey completed last year, but results have not been shared.

### **Update on Florida Polytechnic University Leadership**

The faculty contract does not follow the FGCU model, which has checks and balances to support faculty success. It contains the demand for research without start-up funds or research support. Faculty rollover is expensive to the institution and the state. ACFS could pull numbers of faculty rollover at the institution and compare to NCF or an engineering department of comparable size.

### **Library Funding issue – update on LBR and discussion**

The defunding of the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative (FALSC) placed an unfunded mandate on the educational systems of Florida. The details and information came out at the end of July. There is a push to return funding to the system.

### **Chair's Report**

The Chair thanked everyone for their support and announced that the ACFS would be meeting in December and January, but not in November because of the holiday. There is planning for a face-to-face retreat in October of 2021.

### **Vice Chair's Report**

The Vice Chair also thanked everyone for their support and looked forward to seeing them in December.

### **New Business**

USF FS President reported that reorganization of the College of Education was not transparent and seemed to be justified by COVID expenses.

UNF was seeing improved enrollments and increases in FTE through increased caps and purged waitlists. The institution moved to student credit hour based funding. Faculty were asked to increase caps and course loads. The pedagogical consequences could compromise students' success in their courses.

The meeting adjourned.