

## ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES

Fall Meeting, UCF

Friday September September 10, 2021

### Minutes

Attendees: Bill Self (Chair), Deanna Michael (Vice Chair), Kim Dunn (FAU), Kevin Wagner (FAU), Steve King (UCF), Joe Harrington (UCF), Tim Boaz (USF), Jenifer Schneider (USF), Amanda Phalen (UF), Anna Carlin (FGCU), Jamie McDonald (FGCU), Joerg Reinhold (FIU), Deanne Butchey (FIU), Matthew Crow (UWF), Sherry Schneider (UWF), Erin Ryan (FSU), Eric Chicken (FSU), Ann Marie Cavazos (FAMU)

Friends: Keith Koons, Manoj Chopra, Gary Tyson, Sylvain Dore

The meeting was called to order at 8:45.

Members and Friends introduced themselves. New members were welcomed.

President Alex Cartwright welcomed the ACFS members and friends.

- President Cartwright shared that civil discourse in general needs to be a value in society and is part of university degrees and experiences.
- It is important to articulate this value to society and work with corporate partners because industry wants broader skills and education.
- He knows that these broader skills are already being taught but believes that the universities need to communicate it better to their communities.
- Communication is how universities can address the anti-intellectualism and the threat that polarization brings to higher education.

Janet Owen, UCF Government Relations, gave an update budgets and legislations for 2022.

- The outlook for general revenue over the next three years is positive. Lottery funds and projected growth are both going up.
- In this financial climate the BOG is asking for increased support for the SUS: Preeminence, 50 million each, Universities of Distinction, 87.1 million for all.
- The 2022 legislation filings include educational opportunities for disabled veterans, penalties for fraudulent proof of COVID-19 vaccination, racial and sexual discrimination among others.
- Tweaks are needed for some past bills that had unintended consequences.

Members shared that the HB 233 survey and the mask mandate prohibitions have faculty questioning the future of higher education in Florida. Members discussed the Georgia Board of Regents decision concerning tenure and evaluations of faculty. All of the SUS institutions have some kind of post-tenure review in faculty contracts. The ACFS decided to gather that information for all of the institutions and share it.

- One of the areas where the ACFS can communicate with state leaders is explaining how tenure relates to future hires, maintaining rankings, keeping the diverse environment reflected in personnel and institution focus, fiscal responsibility, student success, and research funding.
- The COACHE (Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education) survey is the kind of tool to track this. Partnering two campaigns could increase participation. Several SUS institutions are using the survey; only FSU is using the exit survey.

Meeting with legislators:

Senators Jason Brodeur, Shevrin Jones and Representatives Kristen Arrington, Amber Mariano, and Geraldine Thompson were invited to the ACFS meeting.

Chancellor Marshall Criser joined the meeting to discuss current topics and to listen to concerns.

- Members asked about progress on clarifying the foreign influence bill and its consequences for research. Chancellor Criser shared that discussions were ongoing and progress was being made. If the opportunity arises, the ACFS members could share some of the obstacles that have arisen.
- Infrastructure: Some institutions have invested in upgrading the ventilation of buildings and air quality. The BOG has asked for funding to support infrastructure needs at SUS institutions. All have deferred maintenance and retrofitting older buildings with up-to-date ventilation systems. Some of the retrofitting could be supported by non-reoccurring funds.
- Members also shared individual concerns about how COVID-19 was being address for the fall semester. Many faculty have communicated their concerns for their families with institutional faculty leaders.
- The Chancellor shared that the BOG and SUS institution leaders were examining what they learn ed and best practices for this kind of emergency.
- Members asked about changes in modality of course. The Chancellor explained that the academic freedom for the faculty is in course content; universities control the marketing and modality of delivery.

Chair Self thanked Chancellor Criser for listening to faculty concerns and sharing information with the members and friends.

Future meetings:

Decided to meet September 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 in St. Pete at the Don Cesar.

New Business:

Motion was made, seconded, and passed for a Legislative Affairs Committee to be formed: Deanna Michael, Kevin Wagner, Erin Ryan, and Joe Harrington agreed to be on the committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 pm.