MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty
FROM: Faculty Senate Office
DATE: April 3, 1996
SUBJECT: Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting of March 21, 1996

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Naval Modani, Chair, at 4:05 p.m. The roll was circulated for signatures. The minutes of Senate meeting of February 22, 1996 were approved. Guests present included President John Hitt, Vice Provost Frank Juge, and Dr. C. Harpole.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Modani announced that he has received names from the colleges of the newly elected senators for the next Senate year 1996-1997. He said that the following members are not returning to the Senate next year and thanked them for all their services: Professors Lee Armstrong, Rosalind Beiler, Arlen Carey, Ida Cook, Trudi Morales, Joseph Rusnock, Henry Whittier, Stephen LeBruto, Brian Rungeling, Janet Allen, Judy Lee, Alexander Wood, Issa Batarseh, Jamal Nayfeh, Art Weeks, Richard Talbott, Wendell Lawther, and Diane Wink. He thanked the Senate for the privilege to have served as Senate chair for the last three years. He felt it was a pleasant, learning experience. He stated that the first meeting of the 1996-1997 Senate is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 1996 at 4:00 p.m. in PH 115. The primary agenda items at this meeting will be to elect officers and the formulation of the Steering Committee and the Committee on Committees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Diane Wink, Chair of the Undergraduate Policy Curriculum Committee, reported that the Committee had readdressed two resolutions dealing with the length of academic calendar, and catalog for readmitted undergraduates. The Committee deferred actions on both issues until the next Senate year. The Committee approved a proposal to revise the Advertising/Public Relations program submitted by the School of Communication.
Dr. Stephen Goodman reported for Dr. Richard Tucker, Chair of the Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee, that the Committee discussed two items on the agenda: 1) alterations and corrections to the graduate catalog, and 2) alternatives to letter grades for thesis and recognition/monetary awards for outstanding theses. Dr. Stephen Goodman reported that the Graduate Council was in the process of reviewing several appeals and course action requests.

Dr. Duane Davis, Chair of the Personnel Committee, said that there are two resolutions from the Committee on today’s agenda. Dr. Walter Johnson, Chair of the Budget and Administrative Committee, reported that the Committee has had very productive discussions with Mr. Joel Hartman and Mr. Bill Branch regarding the technology improvements on campus.

Provost Whitehouse was invited to address the Senate. He congratulated and thanked Dr. Modani for his three years’ of service to the Faculty Senate and to the University. He also congratulated and thanked the Senate for the work during the year. Provost Whitehouse reported on the discussions of “university specials” at the President’s Budget Committee. He also stated that he has requested suggestions for university specials from all deans, vice presidents, Dr. Modani, and the Strategic Planning Council. Dr. Modani asked that all suggestions from Senate members for specials be forwarded to him. He will forward the suggestions to the Budget Committee. Provost Whitehouse also invited ideas by June 20, 1996 for the establishment of new centers like CREOL and IST. Establishment of new centers will allow UCF to increase funding for research. President Hitt and Provost Whitehouse briefed the members on legislative and funding issues. Both stated that UCF priorities for the next year are equity funding, funding for enrollment growth, and funding for a project in collaboration with USF and AT&T. This project would designate the Central Florida area to focus on industry related to high technology and special funding will allow the universities to offer programs and training to promote industry related to high technology. The local legislative delegation is strongly supportive of the UCF priorities and the legislative session should be a productive one for UCF.

In response to a question regarding the suspension of the Student Government Association, President Hitt responded that the Student Government Association has been suspended until the fall semester 1996. His recommendation is to reduce the student activity fee by $1.00 per credit hour. This would reduce the SGA’s budget. It appears the SGA has too much money to spend. Dr. Cunningham asked President Hitt for a progress report on campus construction. President Hitt reported that the Student Center should be completed in the fall of 1996; Gemini extension, connection to the McCulloch Road, and widening the road in the Greek Park are also scheduled to be completed in the fall of 1996; the computer science building is near completion; plans for the dedication of the international student center are in progress; the fund raising effort for the President’s home is near completion and ground breaking should be scheduled soon.

Dr. Modani announced that Founders’ Day is April 3, 1996 and classes are canceled between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. He urged faculty to attend and to please encourage their students to attend.
NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Duane Davis, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported on Resolution 1995-1996-5. The intent of this resolution is to clarify the job descriptions for academic chairs and directors. The last sentence of the resolution was amended to read: “Such exceptions shall be approved and justified in writing by their supervisors.” There was considerable discussion. Several members spoke in favor of the resolution. Dr. Davis requested a vote by secret ballot. The resolution was approved with a substantial majority of the senators in favor of the resolution.

Dr. Diane Wink, Chair of the Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee, reported on Resolution 1995-1996-10. This resolution calls for transfer GPA from other institutions not to be used in calculating an overall GPA. Several members expressed concerns about the resolution. Members were concerned that this resolution will penalize FTIC students at UCF. Dr. Cunningham moved to return Resolution 1995-1996-10 to the Committee for further review. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Dr. Davis also reported on Resolution 1995-1996-12 supporting tenure for UCF faculty as it presently stands in the state of Florida. After some discussion, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Dr. Modani thanked the Senators for their support during his three years as Faculty Senate chair and stated that he will continue to be involved with the Senate and issues dealing with faculty governance. He asked the Senate to continue its good work.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.