

Florida A&M University
The Faculty Senate Meeting
Tuesday January 18, 2005
Lee Hall, 3:00 p. m.
Presiding: Dr. Mary B. Diallo, President

The Attendance was as follows:

Officers (Present)

Dr. Mary B. Diallo, President
Dr. Hudson Nwakanma, Vice President
Dr. Mary Fennal, Secretary
Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian
Dr. Dreamal Worthen, Sixth President

Senators (Present)

Dr. Michael Abrams
Dr. G. Thomas Bellarmine
Dr. Willie Cook
Dr. Gwendolyn Dixon
Dr. Adeline Evans
Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud
Dr. Beulah Hemmingway
Mrs. Ernestine Holmes
Dr. Elijah Johnson
Dr. Patrick Johnson
Dr. Robin Kennedy
Dr. Alfredo Lorenzo
Dr. Yvonne McIntosh
Dr. Augustine Nwabuzor
Dr. Rhonda Porter
Dr. Nancy Red Vern Vance
Dr. Angela Thornton
Dr. William Tucker

Dr. Yves Anglade
Dr. Jennifer Cherrier
Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
Dr. Kyle Eidahl
Dr. Mildred Fennal
Dr. Cassel Gardner
Dr. Maurice Holder
Dr. Newton Jackson
Dr. Joseph Johnson
Ms. Michelle Jones
Dr. Lekan Latinwo
Ms. Lisa McClelland
Dr. Wendell Motter
Dr. Donald Palm
Prof. Thomas Pugh
Dr. Velma Roberts
Dr. Keith Tucker
Ms. Linda C. Williams

SGA Voting (Present)

Ms. Keneshia Grant

Ex-Officio (Voting Present)

Dr. Dorothy Henderson

Senators (Excused)

Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku
Mrs. Cornelia A. Taylor

Other Faculty (Present)

Dr. Soronnadi Nnaji

Opening Remarks-Faculty Senate President:

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p. m. by Faculty Senate President, Dr. Diallo.

Dr. Diallo submitted a brief written report. She noted that the Board of Trustees selected Dr. Castell Vaughn Bryant as FAMU's Interim President. Dr. Diallo stated that Dr. Bryant is a retired former president of Miami Dade College. Dr. Bryant began work on January 3, 2005. In meetings with administrators and faculty during her first week at FAMU, she outlined her goals and objectives for her tenure at the university.

The Board of Trustees approved FAMU Strategic Plan, which Provost Larry Robinson submitted to the Board of Governors in December.

The Faculty Senate President participated in a town hall meeting at the National Alumni Association meeting in Baltimore Maryland on January 7-9. Dr. Larry Robinson and Student Government Vice President Keneshia Grant also attended the event.

The Advisory Council of Faculty Senates met in January. Some outcomes of that meeting are as follows:

- Learning Compacts-Guidelines will be presented later. The Chancellor's office is having an ongoing discussion with individual institutions.
- There is concern by the Board of Governors that the state if Florida is awarding too many doctoral degrees.
- The tentative goals for the Y-Axis were calculated on the national average. MGT is fine tuning its report. Some people believe that the national average may not be appropriate; MGT is focusing on the cost per degree; MGT's draft report is due next Wednesday, January 19, 2005. Written responses are required by February 1, 2005.
- All strategic planning information can be found on the BOG web site.
- On February 24, the BOG will have a workshop, and each president will make a presentation about his or her strategic plan. Initial meetings will focus on the data.
- The Board of Governors has adopted two initiatives; a) To make changes to major gift programs, b) To review university governance.
- The Advisory Council of the Faculty Senate drafted a resolution concerning the Chiropractic College at Florida State University. Dr. Dreamal Worthen will present the resolution at the next Board of Governors meeting.

It was moved and properly seconded that the Agenda be adopted with the deletion of the Library report.

It was moved and properly seconded that the minutes of the November meeting be approved.

Interim President-Dr. Castell Vaughn Bryant:

The President spoke to the Faculty Senate and expressed a sincere respect and appreciation for what the faculty does. She thanked the faculty for their commitment to teaching and learning. The President reminded the senators that there is no such thing as "I" and "them", "there is only us." The Senators were asked to always put the learning process of students first. The President said she would meet with faculty in each department very soon.

Dr. Bryant expressed some concern regarding the vulnerability of the University, especially during the legislative sessions. The strengths of FAMU were listed as faculty, students, and alumni. Weaknesses were listed as; finances, excuses, which seem to be part of the "we have always done it that way", which is part of our culture. The opportunities for FAMU were listed as "many" we were reminded that we have a chance to become one of the finest institutions in the nation. The President believes that we have not corralled our expertise. She stated, "We have it and we do not use it."

The major threat to FAMU is losing the University. The President advised that this is a real threat and it will be difficult, but we will do what is necessary to save the institution. However, correcting problems will be very painful, but it must be done. Other important information stated by the President included her belief in Shared Governance and recruitment of Merit Scholars; we were promised that there would be more than four of these scholars at FAMU next year. She reminded the senators that we need money to attract these students and our package must be competitive with other colleges and universities. President Bryant has plans to ask Dr. Fred Humphries to recruit Merit Scholars. President Bryant said she will be involved in the selection process of deans but will not hire any. President Bryant expressed confidence that we are going to change the culture at FAMU.

Management Services-Mr. Joseph Bakker:

Members of the Department of Management Services were present to update the Faculty Senate on all areas that fall within its jurisdiction.. An overview of safety, parking, construction, and environmental services was presented. The Senators expressed multiple concerns involving safety practices and the inability to receive help after infractions are reported. The cleanliness of the campus, (yard and buildings) was expressed by the Senators. Request for information on building renovation was solicited for informational purposes as well as concerns for safety.

It was proposed that FAMU students majoring in areas that are lacking are not used in the process i.e. construction and environmental services. The Department of Management Services assured all senators that their concerns will be given attention at the earliest convenience. The Department members will return at a later date to continue the discussion.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee-Dr. Soronnadi Nnaji

The School of Journalism and Graphic Communication asked the Senate to approve the reduction of credit hours required for its degree programs from 128 to 125 hours. The request was approved.

Committee on Committees:

Unfinished Business

Research Awards Committee:

No report at this time.

Hurricane Relief Efforts

Ads are being placed in selected media to announce the availability of assistance.

New Business

People Soft-Grade book and training sessions

Beverly Barrington will come to the Steering Committee meeting to discuss faculty concerns.

Election-SACS Reaffirmation Process Committees

Request made by President Diallo to consider serving on these committees, or recommending someone to serve on the committee.

The Faculty Senate meeting adjourned at 4:55 p m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mildred D. Fennal, Secretary
Rebecca Bruce, Office Manager