

Faculty Council Newsletter 9/30/2016

From your Faculty Council President:

It is with a great sense of responsibility to our faculty that I receive the baton of Faculty Council President from Steve Ebert. He and Diane Davey have taught me so much in the past year; I hope to be able to use this knowledge to help me in the coming year. My mission is to help all faculty learn how to use the resources available at UCF to make our careers more successful and our working environment inspiring; and, where resources may not be available, to help find them. I am a clinician and educator, and have been in academic medicine for 20+ years, yet I found my own knowledge of governance in academics really limited (maybe I needed to get out of the clinic more!). This year I hope to increase the awareness of all faculty about what is happening at the Faculty Senate, Board of Trustees, and the Faculty Council. These newsletters will sent by email and will be posted on the Faculty Council Website. If you are at all interested in the policies being created that will affect your working environment, FTE assignments, requirements for promotion, etc, please take a minute to read this newsletter. I will try to make it practical and relevant.

This month, in lieu of a paragraph update about the Faculty Council, I would encourage you to check out the slides from our meeting on 9/26/2016; they are posted on the faculty council website. Thanks to Bill Self, Steve Ebert, and Deb German for making the meeting such a success.

Everyone who knows me knows I welcome discussion, debate, and even a little drama (I am an adolescent gynecologist after all). Please reach out to me and let me know what’s on your mind!

Warmest regards,

Judy

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Updates from Steve Lambert from Faculty Senate Meeting 9/22.

1) The office of Faculty excellence is looking to introduce an electronic reporting system for faculty activities that will also allow for the preparation of reports of departmental activity etc. They are looking at both commercial and in-house systems and are currently soliciting feedback from faculty. Given that the Department of MedEd has developed such a system, we may be able to contribute to this process.

2) Greg Schukman (our UCF lobbyist in DC) addressed the senate. The Federal Priorities process (we used to call it earmarks) is being reintroduced. This process has funded a small amount of UCF projects in the past and is based on an internal peer review process at UCF of projects proposed by faculty, with the selected project(s) being added to spending bills in DC. Deadlines for this process include a white paper by October 10th and a full proposal due November 20th. Mr. Shukman said that most faculty are aware that this is happening as he has been in touch with all Deans and is setting up meetings with the Deans to explain the process. To the best of my knowledge COM faculty are currently unaware that this is happening.

3) Resolutions regarding COM SOTL and RIA awards were up before the senate. The senate President announced that like SOTL, TIP and RIA awards from other departments these had been forwarded to the UFF as part of the collective bargaining process. When it was brought to his attention that COM does not fall under the collective bargaining process, he said it was something required by administration. Given the speed at which this process moves it might be worth looking into this if we are requiring approval of these documents in a hurry.

4) A number of resolutions were raised in the senate concerning changes in the Bylaws for various committees including Graduate, information, Parking, Undergraduate, Promotion and Tenure and Nominations. I have copies of these resolutions if anyone is interested. Most discussion was reserved for a new resolution that concerns Academic Governance. This is an attempt to encourage faculty participation in governance at all levels of the University. The thrust of the resolution is to encourage open and regular meetings of the faculty with minutes of those meetings being easily acceptable to all faculty. I sent out a copy of this resolution recently. The accessibility of minutes to faculty and the idea of open governance is applicable to meetings at all levels of an academic unit. In our case for example this would also include meetings of the executive faculty and the enterprise. Discussion centered around the necessity of this resolution and the idea of potentially forcing faculty to attend yet more meetings. It was generally understood however that the main thrust of this resolution is to protect faculty. These resolutions will be voted on at the next meeting of the faculty senate in October, and if passed will go to the provost for his signature and incorporation into the University bylaws.

5) Our own Dr. King (BSBS) announced that his personnel committee is looking into current University Bylaws that affect nepotism, particularly as it affects laboratory personnel who may have a spouse or relative working with them that is a required expertise in the lab. Current resolutions in this area are somewhat conflicting.

Thats it. Please let me know if you need further information on any of these issues and please feel free to chip Dr. Gorman if you think there’s anything I missed.

Steve Lambert.

Update on UCF Board of Trustees meetings in September.

The Board of Trustees met for a special session on September 11, where Dr. German presented the decision process on how and why HCA was chosen to be our partner for a teaching hospital in Lake Nona. Dr. German’s slides from the presentation are available on the Faculty Council webpage. On September 15, the budgets for the COM faculty practice, and the self-insurance program for the COM physicians were presented by Dr. German. In October Provost Whittaker will present an annual report on reduction of textbook costs, as mandated by a new state law passed in 2016 with the hopes of making textbooks more affordable. All presentations to the BOT are available on the BOT website, posted at the end of the agendas for the date of the presentation.