Report to the College Assembly from the College Faculty Council

30 March 2009

(1) Committee members

College Faculty Council Webpage:

http://www.clas.ufl.edu/gov/comm/faculty.html

College Faculty Council Members


Behavioral & Social Sciences:

Susan deFrance, Anthropology (2007-2010)
Sam Stafford, Political Science (2007-2009)
Donald Stehouwer, Psychology (2007-2010)
Barbara Zsembik, Sociology (2007-2009)

Humanities:

Nora Alter, English (2007-2010)
Carol Murphy, Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (2007-2010)
Ann Wehmeyer, Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (2007-2009)

Natural & Mathematical Sciences:

Jean Larson, Mathematics (2007-2010)
John Yelton, Physics (2007-2010)

Ex Officio:

Chair of the College Assembly: Chris Snodgrass, English (2008-2009)
Chair of the Finance Committee: David Pharies, Spanish (2008-2009)

Student Representatives:

Amber Van Matre (2008-2009)
Kristin Tennyson (2008-2009)

(2) Statement on the proposed Budget Cuts

The Faculty Council will issue a statement regarding the proposed tiers in the possible 10% Budget Reduction exercise this week. The Council generally feels that the principles from the “Recommendations of the Faculty Council and the Finance Committee Regarding Alternatives in the $6M Budget Reduction” were still relevant and that proposals in Tiers 8,
9, and 10 would irreparably harm the College. The Faculty Council met with the chairs and faculty of the three departments most affected by the proposed cuts on Monday, 23 March 2009.

(3) Resource Allocation

The Council met with Dean D’Anieri in December, January (two meetings), February, and March (the April meeting is upcoming) to discuss such questions as the state of the college and of the college budget (history and present and future), layoffs, hiring, and the structure of the Dean’s office. As noted in the letter to faculty of 16 March 2009, “the Dean informed the Faculty Council that he would not give any details or proposals regarding the College plan for the 10% budget-reduction exercise to the Faculty Council before he provided the plan to the entire faculty.”

(4) Shared Governance and Organization

(A) As stipulated by our constitution, the Council met with the Dean at least once a month to discuss College business. The Chair of the Council met with the Dean each month as well.

(B) As previously reported, the website on governance will become separate from the Dean’s office on the College’s website.

(C) Although the Council intended to gather information on the status of shared governance at the department and unit level, the discussions of the proposed budget matters prevented it.

(D) The Council completed a survey from the Academic Policy Council (it will be posted to the Council’s website and the APC’s). The request was the following:

Because the establishment of shared governance at UF is fairly recent, and because we are still emerging from a difficult period of budget cuts and face potential cuts in the future, the Academic Policy Council seeks input from the Faculty Councils of the various units on campus as to how well shared governance has operated through these difficult times.

(E) The Council passed the following two motions:

The Faculty Council supports the names of the merged and reorganized departments as passed by votes of their respective faculties.

It is the position of the CLAS Faculty Council that college constitutions need to be honored whenever they specify more rights and procedures than the University constitution but do not directly conflict with it.