

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG
Undergraduate Council Meeting
Monday, February 18, 2008 10:00AM

Present: Grover Kearns, Bonnie Braun, Mike Lockett, Seth McKee, Tina Neville, Kim Stoddard, Bob Thompson
Guests: Dean Vivian Fueyo, Deanna Michael, Kathe Rasch
Absent: Jennifer Baker, Ella Schmidt

New Program Proposal:

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with Teaching Certifications in Elementary Education and Exceptional Student Education with endorsements in ESOL and Reading

Background:

For more than a year, the faculty in the College of Education have been working on a new program proposal that would replace the current bachelor's degrees in elementary education (Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with ESOL endorsement and the Bachelor of Science in Exception Student Education with ESOL endorsement). The "No Child Left Behind" legislation has led to increased accountability and, in addition, the Florida Department of Education has changed their criteria from a course-based system to a competency-based system. The Florida DOE change allows more flexibility in programs and the COE faculty has taken advantage of this opportunity to revamp their program to make it more useful to our graduates and to the needs of the state.

The new program will allow students to graduate with a degree in elementary education and exceptional student education but will also give them expertise in the areas of ESOL and reading/literacy. This will create more job opportunities as well as better classroom experiences since our graduates will be better prepared to handle the increased demands of inclusion and accountability. Reading and literacy are also considered high priorities for the Pinellas County and Florida education systems. Other institutions around the country have created somewhat similar programs but this program should be unique to the state of Florida.

Dean Fueyo assured the Council that budgetary concerns were minimal. Since the proposal is a revamping of the current program, the only potential budgetary concerns will be for a few semesters when the COE will need to offer phase-out courses to meet the needs of the students that have not yet been moved over to the new program.

Comments and Questions:

Dean Fueyo began by commending the education faculty for their cooperation, creativity, and teamwork on this project. Because of their ideas and their hard work USFSP will be better able to meet the needs of our students and the educational needs of the state of Florida.

The UGC also applauded the College of Education faculty for their well prepared and carefully considered proposal. The COE is commended for coming up with fresh ideas that will make the USFSP program more unique (and therefore more marketable), for creating a program that builds on the strength of their faculty and, most importantly, for finding a way to meet the new requirements of the national and Florida educational systems.

The only question about the proposal involved NCATE. The education faculty were asked if the new program would have any impact on the NCATE accreditation process that is already underway—specifically, if the site visit takes place while we are still teaching under the old program, will that cause delays or problems in getting NCATE approval? Dean Fuego responded that Florida is a partner with NCATE so NCATE defers to Florida for program approvals. The COE faculty do not foresee any problems or delays connected to the NCATE site visitation or with the timetable for implementing the new program.

Bob Thompson moved to approve that the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with Teaching Certifications in Elementary Education and Exceptional Student Education with endorsements in ESOL and Reading proposal be accepted as written. Kim Stoddard seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of the minutes

The minutes from the January 22, 2008 meeting were approved with the correction sent in by Bonnie Braun.

Review and Discussion of the Path to Mission Differentiation document: BOT agenda item

Chair Kearns had distributed the latest version of the “Path to Mission Differentiation” that has been prepared for presentation to the BOT in March. The document clarifies the missions on the various campuses and describes how all of the campuses fit into the USF system. One aspect of the document includes the intention to apply for separate IPEDS for each campus which will help in tracking students.

Discussion of the document included the following:

1. Concerns over centralization functions spelled out on page two of the second section of the document. Specifically, how will some of these such as research, library, and development affect separate SACS accreditations?
2. The need for clarification on how the system-wide boards will be constructed and the need for equal representation from the regional campuses.
3. It was noted that the differential admission standards noted on the bottom of page five of the second section seem to contradict the earlier notation relating to managed transfer articulation between campuses.
4. A comment was made that admission standards should not be determined unilaterally.

Grover will create a memo highlighting the questions and concerns relating to this document and forward them to the Faculty Senate and Chris D’Elia.

Review and Discussion of the USF Policy on Termination of Degree Programs 0108

This document will provide a mechanism for terminating existing programs that no longer serve their original purpose. Some discussion ensued about determining the responsibility for deciding if a program needs to be considered for termination because of low enrollment. The general consensus was that this determination should remain at the College level. A comment was also made that Colleges always have the option of suspending a program rather than terminating it. This leaves open the option of going back to the program if the market demand improves.

Bonnie Braun moved to accept the Termination Policy as written. Bob Thompson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

none

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am

Next meeting:

(third Monday of the month) at 10:30 am (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

March 17, 2007

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Neville