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Faculty Senate Report

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Presented at the Campus Board Meeting
USF St. Petersburg
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The following is a report on the major activities and accomplishments of the Faculty Senate of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg for AY Fall Semester 2006

Preamble

The Faculty Senate—hereinafter, the Senate—is the principal academic advisory body to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP). In this capacity, the Senate makes recommendations deemed important for the operations and welfare of USFSP, especially with respect to the academic mission of the University.

General Activities & Accomplishments

During AY Fall Semester 2006 the Senate:

- met monthly;
- publicized its meeting dates and time, as well as the minutes, in a timely manner, using state-of-the-art communication tools, particularly the Internet;
- maintained effective communication with the College Councils, Regional Chancellor (RC), VCAA, and other constituencies of USFSP;
- was represented on the RC's Leadership Council;
- reviewed reports from College Councils and cognate bodies, and made recommendations to the RC on aspects thereof having implications for the academic mission of USFSP;

Activities and decisions:

- Gary Patterson, Associate Professor in the College of Business, was elected chair of the Faculty Senate for USFSP.
- Faculty Senate hosted the first Final Friday of the 2006-2007 academic year. Because of the great support from the staff, it was well attended and everyone had a great time.
- In September, faculty members brought their request for remote access to their work on the USFSP server to the attention of the Faculty Senate and Regional Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Mark Durand, who attended the meeting. Remote access for the faculty is a reality now through the hard work of the Campus Computing Staff.
- As proposed last year, the Faculty Senate established a General Education Committee to review the General Education curriculum and the Exit Requirement courses.
- Discussion of Assigned Faculty Duties continued Fall semester. Regional Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Mark Durand requested that the faculty examine the differentiation in loads within and between the colleges. As the weighting of academic load is also a question about college values, these discussions are continuing at the college levels.
- President of the Student Government Association, Meghan Willoughby, presented the Commitment to Honor and Living the Commitment to the Faculty Senate. After a very informative discussion, the Senate voted to approve the Commitment to Honor.
- The Faculty Senate also drafted a response to the disseminated Strategic Plan draft expressing its concerns about the proposed centralization and requesting a more balanced approach to the administrative functions in the system.

Continuing Areas of concern

- Many of our faculty members have young families. Childcare is not only a concern for the present but also for the future of this campus as it grows.
- Access to some level of data from administrative evaluations is also a concern that the faculty have expressed to their representatives.