Meeting opened and was called to order at 2:30 p.m. in 110/112.

Mitch Pietras, President, began the session by asking for approval of the minutes from our last meeting, and a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded, and a unanimous vote was passed.

Mitch announced Dr. Eaton as our special guest and turned the meeting over to her.

**Dr. Eaton:** Began by thanking faculty for what we do to help students continue learning. She said that, “communication is always something we can improve, and it is two-way.” “Reach out as often as possible to know what is going on, and I encourage you to continue to be creative and have “Walla Walla” moments. She encourages us to continue participating at events outside the classroom because it means so much to students.

*With regard to the Smoke-free Policy,* our voice is “heard,” and it just hasn’t been time yet, but things have been “working behind the scenes.” This issue will be back up for discussion at the March and April Board meetings.

*With regard to Upward Evaluations,* some faculty are concerned that we no longer evaluate administrators, but “everyone is evaluated.” Having upward evals and evals by our supervisors was duplicative. She’s done a lot of research with regard to 360 evals, and it originally came from the Germans during WWII. For example, if she were working behind the scenes to change positions with board members, but we saw nothing, we might complete the evaluation without the benefit of knowing that and have a negative result, which makes the upward evaluation have potential for invalidity. It’s hard for evals to be valid and reliable unless you know what someone is doing on their job. Although we can continue to give her arguments to the contrary, she doesn’t see that upward evaluations are necessary.

*With regard to the Continuing Contract,* there is now very specific language about standards and guidelines that the state recommends to evaluate faculty, and it requires “checking all the boxes.” So, pay attention to the new legislation as it comes out.

She encourages us to become a member of AFC, if we aren’t already, because they are doing the “heavy lifting” in regards to Continuing Contract for our benefit. The more voices they have, the better. For example, one of the first pieces of legislation out this month was to do away with paying Colleges for “Developmental Ed” courses, and AFC will have a strong voice to represent us on that.

**Time for Questions to Dr. Eaton:**

- Faculty Question regarding the Gen. Ed. Decision with the legislature: it was tossed back yesterday as having all 36 credits. We’ll see where it goes.
• Faculty Question about the BSN status: it is in the Pipeline at the Chancellor’s Office to get feedback from area universities and independent colleges. We are in the 100 day waiting period.

• Faculty Question about opening back up the daycare program: no, they are considering what to do with a lot of the spaces around campus, including the daycare program, but there are other possibilities that they want to explore- like possible dorms.

• Faculty Question regarding centralizing online courses at UF: there was coming legislation which suggested centralizing all online education to one university because having the same online platform can save money; however, this argument has only worked for states that did not already have online programs in place. Since we have so many online programs at so many institutions, we’re hoping this won’t go forward.

• Faculty Question regarding enrollment- it is projected to go down, so will faculty be given an opportunity to provide feedback into improvement? Faculty members are the enrollment generators. We should continue promoting our College.

• Faculty Question regarding her openness to an English Language Institute: she is open to the idea, but her answer is “not now.” She will reconsider this further when dorms, or other suitable housing, are available that can maximize their experience.

• Faculty Question regarding SPD Funding: She realizes that going to conferences in field is valuable, but she also wants us to continue looking for ways to utilize our talent for in-house training.

• Faculty Question about support for Master Faculty and LDI programs and other in-house workshops: she agrees that more support needs to be given and that these programs are valuable.

The meeting was resumed by Mitch, our FS President.

A motion was tabled to invite Dr. Eaton to future FS meetings and make her an ex officio member. The Discussion was whether she would have to be a voting member and that some people might not be as open to discussion if she were present. The motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made to extend an open invitation to President Eaton to attend meetings anytime she is available. The motion was seconded, and a unanimous vote was made in favor of the motion.

The Treasurer’s Report: Vickie reported that we have two accounts (one in the credit union and one in the College). $61.15 was spent to send a fruit basket to Chuck Barber, retired faculty, with cancer. A motion was made to reimburse Vickie Brown for paying for this out of pocket. We have $536.84 in one account and $533.30 in another.

Committee Reports were bypassed temporarily.
Maggie Karda, representing the Gay Straight Alliance resolution, asked that we make a motion to add language to our College’s Equal Opportunity policy to include “sexual orientation and gender identity” as being free from discrimination. **A motion** was made for the resolution to add this language, the motion was seconded, and a unanimous vote was **approved**.

Going back to Committee Reports:

Continuing Contract Pilot Committee: Reported that Pilot candidates will also be announced at the March 21 board meeting. They asked to extend the Pilot for 2 years and to allow anyone to opt in to the program, including faculty up for promotion. A comment was made to be very aware of the new state guidelines coming out.

The Portfolio Committee: Announced that only 15 more Portfolios are left to review, which will be presented at the April board meeting for Professor and Senior Professor candidates. All others would also go to the March board meeting.

**A Motion** was made to extend the Pilot Program for two years and to allow anyone to opt in to the program, including faculty up for promotion. The motion was seconded and **unanimously approved**.

Meeting concluded at 4:05 p.m. and unofficial questions/comments were addressed by the Officers.

The **next Faculty Senate Meeting** is scheduled at 2:30-4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, in building 110, room 112. We hope to see you there. We will also have a meeting during fall planning; look for the fall planning schedule for details.

sgd