College of Education

Graduate Programs Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 8, 2023

GPC Convened at 1:04p.m. Remotely via zoom

https://fau-edu.zoom.us/j/89343037635?pwd=eFFIREhwTVFoV3NVMHZ3UnpYeU5SUT09

1. Roll Call, Convening and Announcements
   - In Attendance: Drs. Paul Peluso (CE, Chair of GPC), Victoria Brown (T&L), Ali Danesh (CSD), Sharon Darling (DSE), Kelley Emelianchik-Key (CE), Bianca Nightengale-Lee (C&I), Sabrina Sembiante (C&I), Deborah Shepherd (Associate Dean), Jarrett Warshaw (ELRM), and Maysaa Barakat (ELRM).
   - Absent: Lisa Finnegan (DSE)
   - Recorder of Minutes: Sabrina Sembiante
2. Review And Approval of Prior Minutes
   - No changes requested on minutes; minutes approved unanimously
3. Curriculum Committee Report and Recommendations
   - No items
4. Student Petitions Committee Report and Recommendations
   - Eight petitions from two departments were reviewed by the subcommittee. These come with a motion and a second from the subcommittee. These petitions are on the table and open for discussion.
   - C&I - Three petitions to waive continuous enrollment, add additional hours to a graduate assistantship, waive a minimum requirement for GPA, and waive recency of credits.
   - ELRM - Five petitions to waive recency of credits, request leave of absence, and waive continuous enrollment.
   - Discussion: Reasonable course of action
   - Subcommittee recommendations were unanimously approved by members of the GPC.
5. College of Education Updates
   - Paul provided a follow up to a discussion that occurred in our last meeting around scheduling a meeting between chairs and the GPC where we could discuss perceptions of overlapping areas. Paul presented this to department chairs and they were open to meet about this. It was suggested that the meeting take place in March or early April because APR site visits are taking place this month and a number of the departments are going

through candidate searches at the moment as well. Moreover, the calendar before spring break is tied up, and the Dean can only make it after spring break. Paul will be working on a date for the meeting and will communicate this to GPC members by email. This meeting would be a GPC and chairs forum, and the idea was also to invite the COE undergraduate programs committee as well. We may subsequently want to have a college wide conversation or present the information at faculty assembly, wherever the best avenue is.

- Next item is a follow up to a discussion point around full time status at the dissertation level. Paul was not able to ask the graduate college because of changes occurring around the installation of the new graduate college dean. Paul will talk to the graduate college dean in the next few weeks to follow up on this point.

6. University Graduate Council/University Graduate Programs Committee Updates

- University Faculty Senate met last week. The board of trustees chair Brad Levine discussed the president search and other issues. The dates for a listening tour have been announced where faculty can participate (the list of dates is available in an email sent to faculty). These sessions are meant as an open forum for the entire community. At the last senate steering meeting, the names of those who are on the president search committee were still private however these names have now been made public. There are some members on that committee from the provost's office but there is no faculty representation on that committee which was noted at steering. The public forums are an opportunity for faculty to show interest and investment in the president search. There is a perception management opportunity here that if faculty don't participate in these sessions, it could be interpreted by the trustees that faculty are largely disengaged or don't care about these issues. It is encouraged that faculty participate in some of these public forums and that faculty encourage their colleagues to participate as well. This is going to be fairly important process and faculty attendance does get noticed.
- Interim President Volnick came to the University Faculty Senate meeting and discussed the state requests for information on DEI. Her main message was that these requests cannot be ignored and the university is trying to answer them as best as they could. She did hear and acknowledge that there was a lack of clear communication to the university community about what was being collected and sent up to the state. There were faculty members that were very concerned that their names were attached to lists that also included salary amounts. There was a belief that names would not be used and there was a back and forth about that. The first report went to the governor and information shared in that report would make it easy to identify individual faculty members involved in DEI. The second request that came from Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Paul Renner included information about texts and emails, which is much more explicit. That point created a lot of discussion and many faculty were disturbed that there was such a broad definition of where these texts can be used. Tori Winfield, Associate General Counsel at FAU, confirmed that any FAU business conducted on personal information could be liable for state collection. The interpretation is that if you are conducting university business on any device, the state has a right to any information on university business.

- There was a statement that was drafted in part by some faculty members and also by the Faculty Steering Committee that expressed concern about this fathering of information related to DEI. It is a public document that laid out the fact that 2 years ago the Board Of Governors were mandating DEI in various aspects of university processes. The statement detailed that. The statement also detailed the positive impact of these DEI efforts, the awards that had been won by the university, and the benefits to students. The statement was passed unanimously. This issue has been picked up by the media, such as Inside Higher Ed and The Chronicle of Higher Education. FAU has been one of the first voices to express concerns about this in the university state system.

- Discussion: It is important to note what is going on in New College. The state has replaced the entire board of trustees and replaced the president of New College. Information may have been gathered in order to do that.

- Clarification: A question was asked about the degree to which information on personal devices could be liable to state access. Paul clarified that business conducted on one's cellphone is open to being discovered and to being accessed when pressed for records. However, the line that separates personal from business information is blurry. For example, do texts about the university count? If colleagues text one another to share their opinion on events that took place at Faculty Senate, is that business or is that open to being collected for this purpose? Another example is if one colleague texts another colleague to send them the link for a meeting. If the state wants to know all information related to graduate curriculum across the university, the question would be if that first text would count or the second text would that count – that is the issue that is being challenged.

7. Other updates:

   - On February 14th, the next board of trustees meeting will be held.

   - A revisit on the post tenure review issue to be discussed by the Board of Governors. The BOG did meet at FIU in January but the issue was not on their agenda and was not discussed. It will likely be discussed at the BOG meeting on March 28/29 in FAMU. The meeting agenda will be posted on Feb 22nd on their website. Senate steering will be monitoring the agenda.

   - Departments in the COE are going through Academic Program Review. One is currently going on in CSD. After tomorrow, 3 APRs will have been conducted with 2 more APRs to go. Paul is grateful for everyone's cooperation with that. APRs have gone smoothly so far.

8. Adjourn at 1:26pm

   Motion: Victoria Brown

Second: Sharon Darling