FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
Faculty Assembly
College of Education

meeting minutes 4/11/25

Faculty Assembly – Virtual Meeting

4/11/2025

Attendance: Steve Diaz, Bill Trapani, Charles Dukes, Meredith Mountford, Ayse Torres, Bessie Derniko, Bridgette Cassidy, Bryan Nichols, Christy Timm Fulkerson, Charles Dukes, Dale Williams, Deborah Floyd, Daniel Reyes-Guerra, Dilys Schoorman, Lisa Finnegan, Sharon Darling, Victoria Brown, Eileen Ariza, Ron Persin, Patricia Maslin-Ostrowski, Elizabeth Villares, Gwendolyn Carey, Ira Bogotch, Jenny Bloom, John Hardman, Joseph Brojomohun-Gagnon, Joyce Krzemienski, Kaley Adams, Katie Friesen, Katie Miller, Maria D. Vasquez, Mary Lieberman. Maysaa Barakat, Michelle Vaughn-McGovern, Ann Musgrove, Philomena Marinaccio, Rina Bousalis, Robert Shockley, Robyn Klein, Sabrina Sembiante, Steve Silverman, Susannah Brown, Susanne Lapp, Andres Ramirez, Michael Frain, Rick Laliberte, Yash Bhagwanji

1. **FA President Welcome and approval of January 24 meeting minutes**
   Meredith called meeting to order and explained the schedule. Then she asked for a motion to approve meeting minutes from January.
   Dilys Schoorman motioned, and Sabrina Sembiante seconded.
   All were in favor of approval of the minutes from January.
2. **Dean's Talking Points**: Steve Silverman
   As part of ongoing institutional requirements, the deans conducted a comprehensive review of all positions and syllabi, with departments being asked to either review their mission statements or include footnotes acknowledging their role in the accreditation process. Recent weeks have seen the emergence of anti-DEI activity on campus, prompting the dean to meet with the president to present a PowerPoint highlighting the college's numerous contributions and initiatives. This meeting appeared to be supportive, with the dean emphasizing the critical role the College of Education plays in maintaining the university's R1 status.

   While the provost search is expected to begin soon, advertising has yet to commence. The dean search has been suspended, with plans to appoint an interim dean instead. The expectation is that a new provost will be selected before the dean position is filled. The current dean plans to take time off from June through August 1st but will return briefly to assist the

interim dean during the transition period, with his last official day in office scheduled for June 27th.
Reflecting on his tenure, the dean expressed deep gratitude to the faculty for their collaborative work over the past six years. Under his leadership, the college has achieved significant milestones: the budget remains in good order, rankings have improved, and the college's reputation on campus has strengthened considerably. Notably, the college now ranks second in grant funding and has surpassed the medical school in this area. For the past three years, the dean has produced an annual "point of pride" document that has effectively showcased the college's achievements. As he prepares for retirement, the dean emphasized the importance of finding better communication strategies to sustain the college's continued progress and thanked the faculty for their dedication and contributions to the institution's success.

3. **Guest Speaker: Liz Villares**

Liz began by thanking the leadership representatives for their participation and support. She then provided a comprehensive explanation of the new UGPC process and offered updates on dissertation content requirements along with an overview of various roles.

The College of Education has implemented a new Graduate Programs Committee (GPC) curriculum proposal request form that operates electronically. This updated system automatically notifies when a document is submitted and awaiting review. A significant improvement in the new format is that documents can now be uploaded as Word files, enabling direct editing capabilities. Additionally, the electronic form includes a tracking feature that allows the GPC to monitor the progress and status of submitted documents throughout the review process. While the undergraduate programs committee has the option to adopt this same format, no changes have been made to their current process by the GPC at this time.

A critical concern addressed during the meeting was the responsibility of doctoral students for maintaining the quality of their submitted work. The number of errors being submitted by students has reached concerning levels, encompassing not only content issues but also significant formatting problems, table of contents errors, broken links, and inappropriate non-formatting comments within documents. To address these challenges, a comprehensive checklist has been developed to provide students with essential resources and guidance. This checklist includes numerous linked resources designed to support student success. Reciteworks.com was specifically mentioned as a valuable tool that not only assists students but also provides additional accountability measures. Each department is encouraged to engage in discussions with their faculty members to determine preferred approaches, identify necessary departmental modifications, and establish effective communication channels to relay feedback and expectations to

students. Finally, departments should consider reviewing and implementing JARS (Journal Article Reporting Standards) standards in dissertations, as this practice will facilitate the publication process should students choose to submit their work to academic journals.

4. **Senator's Report**: **Lisa Finnegan**

January – March was shared on since this meeting was done late. Kim Dunn reached out to faculty about the need for faculty to step forward for different committees. In the February meeting it was shared about the new president, and she gave advice for the new transition with the new president, such as keeping the current president and provost involved. The president will be at the meeting on April 21st. The college of medicine and nursing has new deans. Professor emeriti were shared. Information about AI was shared to make sure we are marking in simple syllabus how AI is allowed to be used in courses. They did make some changes to simple syllabus, so department info, course info, and college info is going to be revised. Academic calendars through 2027 are approved. The new budget changes are paused until fall for these conversations until new leadership is in place. Syllabi review was done, and no problematic areas were found. At the university level they are looking at new drafts of curriculum change forms. There was discussion at steering about recording meetings, and it was decided that recordings will not occur.

5. **FA Officer Elections Results**: **Meredith Mountford**

Election outcomes were reported. Dr. Andres Ramirez will be the president, Dr Daniel Reyes-Guerra will be the president-elect, Sabrina Sembiante was selected as secretary, and Meredith Mountford is the archivist.

6. **CoE Dean's Search Updates and Conversation**: **Andres Ramirez**

Andres provided an update on the dean search, explaining that the process had been paused by the president and was recently closed by Russ Ivy due to circumstances beyond the university's control. As was reported in other meetings, two of the three final candidates became unavailable, and no information was provided regarding why the third candidate was not extended an offer. During the faculty assembly meeting, members were invited to share their thoughts on this development, but no comments were offered.

The administration has now issued a call for an interim dean position. A small committee is being assembled to review potential candidates, with the goal of making a selection by early May. Several individuals have already been approached to serve on this committee. Meanwhile, there are no new

developments to report regarding the provost search. Given President Hasner's emphasis on shared voice and governance, there is recognition of the importance of conducting this search while faculty can actively participate, rather than postponing it until the summer when faculty availability may be limited.

7. **Director of Clinical Research Unit Operations Overview**

   The information for Judyta Kociolek was shared and it was announced she will speak at next year's meeting. (jkociolek2017@health.fau.edu)

8. **COE Social Highlights and Reflections**

   Everyone was thanked for their role in planning this event and being on the wellness committee this year. There was a lot of praise shared with Sita about the event and people enjoyed connecting. We will continue to focus on bringing people together at least once per year to connect.

9. **Adjournment**

   11:48am

Meeting minutes recorded by Dr. Kelly Emelianchik-Key, FA Secretary
Approved: 9/5/25