

meeting minutes

**COE Faculty Assembly
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Friday, April 5th, 2024,
10 am-12 pm (Zoom and In-person, Room 313 COE)**

Attendance. COE FA Members **PRESENT ON ZOOM (n=28) and IN-Person (N=24): Sharon Darling (President), Lisa Finnegan (VP), Ira Bogotch (Secretary), Meredith Mountford (Archivist), Kelly Emelianchik-Key (CE), Dilys Schoorman (C&I), Mary Lieberman (ELRM), Jack Scott (ESE), Steve Silverman (Dean), Gwen Carey, Rick Laliberte, Deborah L. Floyd, Katie Miller, Joyce Krzeminski, Joseph Furner, Andres Ramirez, Bryan Nichols, Michael Frain, Victoria Brown, Jillian Powers, Maysaa Barakat, Taka Mays, Eileen Ariza, Steve Diaz, Robert Shockley, Michelle Vaughan, Bessie Dernikos, Adriana Labarta, Daniel Reyes-Guerra, Justin Faulkner, Yash Bhagwanji, Sabrina Sembiante, David Kumar, Peggy Goldstein, Susannah Brown, Carman Gill, Sita Ramnarace, Melissa Antonelli, Caitlin Imgrund, Pat Maslin-Ostrowski, Paul Peluso, Ayse Torres, Rina Bousalis, Cristobal Salinas Jr., María D. Vásquez, Charles Dukes, John Hardman, Ali Danesh, Rangasamy Ramasamy, Michael DeDonno, Andy Brewer, Maria Vasquez, Ronald Persin, Robyn Klein**
In-person names in bold

Welcome. FA President welcomed those in attendance in person and on Zoom.

Minutes Approval. The January 26th, 2024 COE FA Minutes were approved: Motion – Sembiante; Seconded-Scott **Note- this motion is rescinded**, as it was brought to the President’s attention that the minutes were not widely distributed prior to the meeting. These minutes will have to be brought forth to the Assembly in the fall of 2024 for approval.

State of the Assembly Address. As required by the FA Constitution, President Sharon Darling delivered her State of the Assembly Address. The Address highlighted: Legislative Updates-Brief overview of the legislation and mandates implemented this year; Faculty Voice: The Listening Tour elicited departmental and college-wide priorities, and significant concerns of COE faculty relative to climate and leadership; COE-School District Relationships: Superintendents from neighboring school districts spoke with the COE faculty; and Significant FA Constitutional revisions.

Guest Speaker. Deputy Superintendent of Palm Beach Schools, Mr. Edward Tierney. In his opening comments, Mr. Tierney noted the high-quality candidate coming out of FAU’s COE. He stated that FAU had, in his opinion, the best Teacher Preparation program and was complimentary of the many partnerships (e.g., biennial recruitment events, educational leadership preparation, etc.). He himself is a graduate of the educational leadership master’s program. Mr. Tierney noted the many challenges facing public education today, notably the Florida Legislature’s agendas on standards, assessment, and parental involvement... all of which require a great deal of flexibility among administrators and teachers who are impacted in real-time. He believed that K12 and HE could better inform the community of the benefits of public education. He devoted significant time to overcoming systemic biases in Advanced Placement (i.e., math, science, social studies, and dual enrollment). He linked this effort to expanding students’ opportunities to receive Bright Futures when they attended universities. He saw the need to educate the diverse communities about the expectations set for admissions to Advanced Placement which included parent education on early opportunities. He asked faculty

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to engage in research on teacher and educator shortages and the role of AI in both face-to-face settings in virtual education.

Committee and Other Reports.

- COE UFS Senator Dr. Salinas summarized UFS meetings from January to March 2024.
- COE FA Constitutional Revisions-Polling. Proposed revisions were made available for COE FA review prior to the meeting. Items were then presented one at a time for FA voting, conducted via Zoom Polling. Seven items were presented to faculty on Zoom polls. The results were as follows:
 - Item 1: New language supporting faculty governance and academic freedom: 31 agreed with the changes; 4 disagreed. Item 1 passed with 2/3rds majority: The new language will be written into the FA Constitution.
 - Item 2: Voting Membership. None of the items related to changing the voting membership of the COE FA (i.e., removing chairs, Associate Deans, and Dean from the voting body, changing the Student Services representation, and allowing instructors/visiting instructors to become voting members of the FA body) passed-none received a 2/3 majority.
Recommendation: Questions were raised as to why the roles of Dean, Assistant/Associate Deans, and Chairs were included as one item. Going forward, faculty may desire to vote on each role separately. There was further questioning of the wording on the Office of Student Service representative, and on who was actually eligible to vote in Spring, 2024 on the non-tenured faculty item. This item should be returned to the Faculty Assembly in Fall 2024 for reconsideration.
 - Item 3: Removing the VP from the Research Committee: 29 agreed; 4 disagreed. Item 3 passed with a 2/3rds majority and will be deleted from the Constitution.
 - Item 4: Term limit for the Archivists: 33 agreed; 3 disagreed. Item 4 passed with 2/3rds majority and will be added to the Constitution.
 - Item 5: Abolishing all standing committees (which have been inactive): 33 agreed; 4 disagreed. Item 5 passed with a 2/3rd majority and will be deleted from the Constitution.
 - Item 6: Merging Standing and Special Committees to become Ad Hoc appointed by the FA President: 33 agreed; 4 disagreed. Item 6 passed with a 2/3rds majority and will be edited according to the Constitution.
 - Item 7: Allowing for overall editing of the Constitution to clarify titles of Articles and subtitles of Sections: 35 agreed; 2 disagreed. Item 7 passed with a 2/3rd majority; this editing will be completed over the summer of 2024 by the outgoing FA Secretary.

New Business.

- Faculty Assembly Results. The FA President announced the election results. Incoming elected COE FA officers for 24-25 are as follows: Meredith Mountford (EDLRM), President; Andres Ramirez Agudelo (CI), Vice President; Kelly Emelianchik-Key (CE), Secretary; and Ira Bogotch (ELRM), Archivist. COE UFS Senators for 24-25 are as follows: Dr. Andres Ramirez Agudelo (1st of 2-year term); Dr. Sharon M. Darling (1st of 2-year term); Dr. Charles Dukes (2nd year of 2-year term); Dr. Lisa Finnegan

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(1st of 2-year term); Dr. Katie Miller (2nd year of 2-year term); Dr. Dilys Schoorman (1st of 2-year term); and, Dr. Meredith Mountford (President of COE Faculty Assembly)

- P&T Update. Dr. Floyd, the 23-24 COE P&T Committee Chair, updated the faculty on upcoming university and COE P&T fora for those considering promotion/tenure in the future. Dates and times were announced for these fora.
- Listening Session Recommendations. Presented by Drs. Finnegan and Imgrund, Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs. They summarized that the primary objective of the Listening Session was to demonstrate the pressing need for faculty engagement. Therefore, the following recommendations were made based on the themes that emerged from the Listening Session (Note, these themes were first presented in January 2024). Briefly, the recommendations are as follows: “listening sessions” happen annually; the FA, in cooperation with the COE Dean establish, an Ad Hoc Committee to assist faculty in the transition to R1 status; create Faculty Development and Learning Communities- Perhaps structuring the FDL Communities by tiers by academic rank; the COE Dean to establish a COE Calendar so that faculty have enough time to build events into their busy calendars; and , create policies and structures for equitable teaching, research and service loads; in line with this recommendation, a policy is needed to ensure that any differential teaching loads do not adversely affect faculty’s rights for promotion to Full Professor.

Dean’s Talking Points. Dean Silverman addressed the following items.

- Summarized the building improvements that are underway in the COE (e.g., back stairwells, bathroom upgrades to meet ADA requirements, upgraded water fountains, lobby COE branding, and new furniture in common areas.
- The Dean explained the COE budget and how, this fiscal year, he is trying to spend allocated dollars before the Central Administration “sweeps back” unspent monies. Thus, building improvements and additional travel funds.
- Again, the faculty has expressed serious concerns about the transition to R1 status for the COE this coming January. The Dean explained that the COE has to align itself with the university, especially concerning faculty assignments more in line with R1 status (e.g., 40% teaching, 40% research, and 20% service). That said, the faculty remains confused about the plan and how infrastructure support can increase. This item remains on the table for continued discussions.
- The Dean clarified the governance and mission for the newly set up Research Center. The plan is for the Center, over time, to become self-supporting. Its mission is to serve the COE through workshops (Quant/Qual), site licenses, and other faculty support.
- The Dean ended by thanking Dr. Sharon Darling for her service as President of FA and recognized the many contributions made to the college and university by Dr. Paul Peluso.

FA wishes to recognize Dr. Paul Peluso for his many years of service to the COE and to FAU. He will assume a distinguished professorship at FSU in the Fall.

The meeting was adjourned at noon followed by lunch, which was sponsored by the COE Office of the Dean.

Minutes Submitted by Ira Bogotch

2023-2024 YEAR COE FA Secretary

Minutes Approved 9/16/24