

meeting minutes

Regular Meeting of the College of Education Faculty Assembly (COE FA)

January 26, 2024

Via Zoom Video Conference

- **Attendance.** Adriana Labarta, Andres Ramirez, Andy Brewer, Ayse Torres, Brian Nichols, Caitlin Imgrund, Carman Gill, Charles Dukes, Cristobal Salinas, Daniel Reyes-Guerra, David Kumar, Deb Floyd, Deb Shepherd, Dilys Schoorman, Gianna Ramdin, Ira Bogotch, Jack Scott, Jenny Bloom, Jillian Powers, John Hardman, Joseph Faulkner, Robyn Klein, Joseph Furner, Joyce Krzemienski, Katie Miller, Kelly Emelianchik-Key, Lisa Finnegan, María Vásquez, Mary Lieberman, Maysaa Barakat, Melanie Acosta, Melissa Antonelli, Michael DeDonno, Michelle Vaughan, Pat Maslin-Ostrowski, Paul Peluso, Peggy Goldstein, Rama Ramasamy, Rick Laliberte, Rina Bousalis, Robert Shockley, Sabrina Sembiante, Sharon Darling, Sita Ramnarace, Steve Silverman, Steve Diaz, Susannah Brown, Taka Mays, Traci Catto, Victoria Brown, Williams, Yash Bhagwanji.
- **Welcome/Announcements.** FA President (Darling) welcomed faculty to the third of four FA meetings for 2023-24.
- **Minutes Approval.** Motion for approval of the Nov. 2023 FA Minutes by Lisa Finnegan and Seconded by Dilys Schoorman. Minutes Approved.
- **Continuing Business.**
 - **Listening session themes (Darling).** During the Sept. 2023 COE FA meeting on September 8, the faculty engaged in listening to one another as the COE discussed the “State of their Departments” and the “State of the COE.” The collected information was then coded thematically and presented to faculty at the November 3rd FA meeting. Many suggested activities, but no action came out of these discussions.
 - The FA President asked for volunteers to serve on an **Ad Hoc Committee** to further explore the Listening Themes and to return to the Faculty Assembly in April with the next steps. The faculty who volunteered were Rina Bousalis, Mary Lieberman, Melissa Antonelli, Caitlin Imgrund, and Lisa Finnegan.
 - **Faculty Assembly Elections and Nominations (Darling).** Positions for FA Officers and Senate for 24-25. Open positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Archivist. In addition, there are four Senate seats that will be vacant. Through the Steering Committee, faculty were asked for volunteers and for all of the faculty to reach out to colleagues whom they thought would serve the faculty well going forward as officers. This item is the announcement for nominations and will remain open until March 14.

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- **University Faculty Senate Report (K. Miller).** Faculty Senate had a busy calendar for the November/December meeting, and those interested should consult the website for a complete list. Among the highlights mentioned by Dr. Miller were: the continuing legislation on all DEI activities; a law was passed removing Sociology from the Core Undergraduate Curriculum, the extension of the Interim title for the President as the state has deemed the FAU Presidential Search to have been in violation of state regulations; a sexual misconduct policy is now to be added to faculty syllabi (to be done manually until it has been added to Simple Syllabus), a new AI website now exists at FAU; a survey of Florida students reported that 93% of our incoming university students have written papers (research, essays) of less than five pages in length.
- **The UFF Update (Darling).** Reminder to faculty who are interested to (a) join the Union, (b) sign up for e-Dues, and (c) complete a Statement of Interest card in case of decertification. UFF will be on the Breezeway on Feb 1 to discuss.
- **Committee Reports and New Business.**
 - **FA Constitution Changes.** Dr. Bogotch introduced members of the ad hoc committee on Constitutional Revisions: V. Brown, Schoorman, Mountford, Darling and Bogotch (as Chair). The committee identified 7 specific items that they were recommending revisions:
 - Item 1: A clarification of the new governance structures established by the FLDOE and Legislature under Governor DeSantis. This includes naming the increased roles given to the BOG and the BOT in terms of university governance. Adding the BOG and the BOT to the FA Constitution is not a statement of endorsement of these changes; rather it is a recognition of the fact that there have been governance changes.
 - Item 2: This item asks faculty to consider who is eligible to vote at FA. The current constitution calls of all tenured and tenure track members and sets up a formula for representation from student services. Among the other voting/membership alternatives offered range from only tenured-tenure-track faculty may vote (i.e., not sitting administrators) to allowing all full-time FAU employees in attendance at FA may vote.
 - Item 3 removes the FA Vice President from being assigned to the COE Research Committee
 - Item 4 adds a specific term of office (one year) to the Archivist role.
 - Item 5 deletes all standing committees currently listed in the constitution
 - Item 6 allows for the FA President to establish ad hoc committees with sunset dates. This designation will now replace “special committees” as a category.
 - Item 7 asks that the faculty allow the ad hoc constitution committee to make editorial changes so that the meanings of Articles and Sections (as headings) are clear and consistent throughout the document.
 - A Google Doc has been set up for faculty to register their opinions on any or all of the proposed items and for faculty to add any additional changes that they would like to see. The Committee is asking that recommended changes be accompanied by a brief rationale (e.g., no more than two sentences).

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- Feedback will be solicited through February 16, unless extended. The Ad hoc committee will then compile the results to be shared with faculty no later than March 28th. A final vote on the Constitution will take place April 5th.
- Finally, all COE FA Constitutional revisions will be sent to Chairs, the Dean, and to the University Provost as revisions must be in concert with State Regulations, Laws, and University Rules.
- **Guest Speaker: Broward Superintendent Dr. Peter Licata**
 - Dr. Licata was complimentary of the FAU COE, both from his position as Superintendent as well as his own long-term affiliation teaching in the School Leadership Partnership program as a Palm Beach School District administrator. He highlighted his vision in terms of FAU's leadership in both content areas (the what) and in teaching pedagogies (the how) that meet the students where they are. While both are important, two Dr. Licata believes the *how*-to be most important. He welcomes AI technology but asserts that the role of the teacher will always be central to learning. His vision for education revolved around how to "touch the future," noting that students were more complex than ever before.
 - Finally, he called upon the FL Legislature to increase school funding both for faculty salaries and for needed infrastructure. In collaboration with the Urban League, he is working to build more affordable housing so that essential service workers, like teachers and staff, can live in Broward.
 - A Q&A followed: Again, Dr. Licata was very complimentary of the COE and extended an invitation to faculty to reach out to him (through channels) so that he could assist wherever his help was needed.
- **New Business.**
 - **Statewide updates (Brewer).** Dr. Brewer updated the COE FA on the FEAPS and the College's Reading Endorsement approval.
 - **Proposed ad hoc committee on Faculty/Student Engagement (Dukes).** Motion was approved, allowing for a discussion stating that deliverables might be a composite of faculty expectations [of students], which, if adopted, might be added to course syllabi. Pros and Cons were raised in terms of whether the findings of the ad hoc committee would become mandatory or just remain as recommendations for individual faculty to adopt. Opposition to the motion was mainly around standardization and whether another mandatory paragraph for the ever-growing syllabi was needed. Arguments were made in favor as well. The President then called for a faculty hand count: the item was approved.
 - **COE's Core of Research Excellence (CoRE) (DeDonno)** informed faculty of the new COE Center of Research Excellence which would provide consulting support for faculty across FAU in research projects.
 - **AI Brown Bag (Miller, K. and V. Brown).** The meeting was announced by V. Brown to be held on Zoom on 2/16 at 12 noon. A flyer will be sent out following this meeting announcement.

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▪ Dean's Talking Points

- The President apologized to the Dean for having to limit the time to 15 minutes.
- The Dean responded positively to the comments made by Broward Superintendent Licata and looked forward to scheduling a meeting with him to discuss collaborations. He noted that he had a positive relationship with a previous Broward Superintendent, Robert Runcie, but since the turnover in that position, he has yet to have a one-on-one meeting with the new Superintendent.
- The Dean was happy to announce that pending the General Counsel's [and UFF] approval, beginning in Summer 2024, adjunct pay will be raised to \$4,000. It is anticipated that the same raise will apply to full-time faculty who teach overload courses.
- The Dean asked for more detailed information regarding certain items on the Listening Tour thematic analysis, which pertained to his leadership. He defended his record as Dean as well as his positive interpersonal conduct with all faculty and staff. He noted that wherever and whenever he can, he has been a positive force in promoting the COE to external audiences (FAU Deans, the BOT, at various ceremonies, etc.).
- The Dean noted the extremely tight timeline for the PTR process given that there are nine (7 full professors and 2 associate professors) who are being assessed this year, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 pm

Minutes Submitted by Ira Bogotch

2023-2024 YEAR COE FA Secretary

Minutes Approved September 6, 2024