



meeting minutes 9-6-24

Meeting held virtually on zoom

Attendance COE FA Members: Robyn Klein, Michael Frain, Ann Musgrove, P. Maslin, Rick Laliberte, Rina Bousalis, Robert Shockley, Sharon Darling, Sabriana Sembiente, Sangbeak Ye, Steve Silverman, Susannah Brown, Susanne Lapp, Taka Mays, Traci Baxley, Yash Bhagwanji, Kelly Emelianchik-Key, Steve Diaz, Meredith Mountford, Andres Ramirez, Anne Van Zelst, Ayse Torres, Bridgette Cassidy, Bryan Nichols, Carman Gill, Christy Timm Fulkerson, Cristobal Salinas Jr., Dale Williams, David Kuman, Deborah Shepherd, Dilys Schoorman, Lisa Finnegan, Tiffany Vastardis, Melissa Antonelli, Michelle Vaughan, Ira Bogotch, Victoria Brown, Charles Dukes, Jack Scott, Angelica Downey, Maria Vasquez, Elizabeth Villares, Dale Williams, Jillian Powers, Patricia Maslin Ostrowski, Michael DeDonno, Justin Faulkner, Traci Baxley, Katie Friesen, John Hardman, Katie Miller, Deborah Floyd, Joseph Brojomohun-Gagnon

New Business -10am

- Welcome and new faculty introductions
 - Meredith Mountford welcomed everyone back to the Faculty Assembly for the new academic year. There were introductions of the new faculty members that took place for each department. She acknowledged the hard work of the previous year's President, Vice President, and secretary- Drs. Sharon Darling, Lisa Finnegan, and Ira Bogotch, and thanked the Dean for his support.
- Dr. Mountford congratulated the successful tenure and promotion faculty. Successful PTR applicants were also recognized. New appointments and positions were recognized. Dr. Elizabeth Villares is currently the new interim senior associate dean of research.
- **Faculty Assembly Theme** for 2024/2025 is wellness and building community among the faculty. Meredith addressed concerns about the faculty's morale and the changes they were experiencing. She shared that many faculty members were feeling frustrated and stressed due to issues

with technology and policy changes. Dr. Mountford proposed several ideas for upcoming events, including a faculty assembly meeting, a lunch gathering, and an outdoor picnic event, and encouraged the team to submit their own ideas. She also emphasized the importance of fostering a sense of belonging, particularly for new team members, and suggested that informal gatherings could help achieve this. Some faculty expressed that this is not a mutually agreed upon feeling that is felt by all faculty, and they did not feel isolated or disconnected. It was agreed that if any faculty members are feeling this way, building a sense of wellness and community could not hurt in any way. Faculty steering will plan to propose and promote a faculty-organized event at a local bar. The group also planned for future in-person and Zoom meetings, with the Dean providing a map to the chosen venue. Dr. Bryan Nichols suggested that we encourage faculty visits to do nature visits. Busch Wildlife has mental health programs for teachers and students. As well as Loggerhead Marinelife Center. He does lots of kayaking in the area and would be happy to take others along. He suggested many ways to help with people's mental health and get people involved in nature.

- **Dean's Search Timeline** updates were provided. We are right on schedule for the dean search. Dr. Russ Ivy is getting things underway, and the search committee has been selected. The committee includes the following people: Michael Horswell (Chair); Deborah Shepherd; Joel Herbst; Carman Gill; Ali Danesh; Hannah Bowers; Andres Ramirez; Angela Rhone; Daniel Reyes-Guerra; Lisa Finnegan; Robert Stackman; Rick Laliberte
- **Presidential search updates** were provided. Dr. Victoria Brown is the representative from the COE. She shared the presidential search committee list and shared her email if we have any specific things we want to see in the new presidential search. Buffkin and Baker is the new presidential search firm. They say they can navigate the political climate in Florida to complete a successful search. Right now, there are virtual sessions that are open as well as face-to-face. She will be attending as many listening sessions as possible so she can input feedback on those. She announced the formation of an advisory committee to provide faculty input to the Presidential Search Committee, emphasizing the importance of faculty feedback in the selection process. Concerns were expressed about faculty input in the process, to which it was clarified that various methods were being used to gather feedback. There is also a link that will take you to the presidential search site where you can provide feedback to the committee and post it that is confidential. There are multiple ways to provide feedback, and they are trying to provide as many avenues as possible. Data was presented on the search firm's retention rate, and Dr. Brown encouraged faculty to participate in listening sessions. The

team also discussed the need for a scholar, not a politician, to lead the university and the importance of investing in faculty for the university's growth.

- **AI university taskforce updates** Drs. Victoria Brown and Katie Miller discussed incorporating AI into syllabi, assignments, and resources while ensuring academic integrity. Starting last spring they developed some syllabus language as a committee and are developing policy around academic integrity. In simple syllabus there is some language that you need to select. There is also academic integrity that needs to be protected in regard to students using AI to complete assignments. There is a new code of ethics, and it will be voted on. There needs to be caution in regards to software that is used to detect AI is not perfect, and has a high rate of false positives. You need to back up what you find with additional pieces of information other than what the detector provides. It is important for faculty to start thinking about assignments differently. There is a website for faculty to start thinking about how to integrate AI into their assignments. FAU has a co-pilot that can be useful to use with your courses or other work. But you need to be logged in through FAU so your information is protected. They highlighted using Fau's Copilot to create secure rubrics, quizzes, and notes, and the potential of AI for K-12 education.
 - The following resources were shared
 - <https://www.fau.edu/ai/news/microsoft-copilot-at-fau/codeofacademicintegrity.pdf> (fau.edu)
 - Copilot AI log in link: [CoPilot AI](#)
 - The ACUE link is here: <https://www.fau.edu/ai/learning/>
 - AI Plaiground: [AI PIAIground | Florida Atlantic University \(fau.edu\)](#)

Old Business

- **Approve minutes from January and April 2024** . The minutes were reviewed from the January 2024 COE FA meeting. A motion was called by Dr. Schoorman to approve for minutes and seconded by Dr. Sembiante. It was a unanimous vote, and all were in favor of approving the January 2024 meeting minutes. Next, a motion was made by Dr. Jack Scott to approve the meeting minutes from the COE FA meeting in April 2024. The motion was seconded by Dr. Michael Frain. All were in favor and no opposed. The motion passed to approve the April meeting minutes.
- **Revote from April 2024.** During the April 2024 meeting, the concern raised implied that people who were not eligible to vote, were possibly voting. The vote on these constitutional changes was tabled for a revote this academic year. Dr. Mountford and Dr. Ramirez discussed the constitutional amendments related to faculty voting rights. A vote was

proposed to gauge support for expanding voting rights, which would require a two-thirds majority in favor to trigger further questions determining who should be granted these rights. The significant role and influence of instructors in the college system was emphasized, particularly in the College of Education, and highlighted that the union counts instructor input and voting equally with tenure-line faculty. However, she also noted that the college is unique in not allowing voting by instructors. The voting membership was clarified to include eligible voters such as chairs, deans, tenure-track faculty, and one representative from student services. Concerns were raised about the voting rights of tenured faculty members, and the possibility of expanding voting membership was discussed. The team also agreed to increase the number of representatives from the Office of Student Services. Several people discussed this vote, eligibility, and considerations before putting forward a new vote. All of these will be taken into consideration, and a new vote will take place via Qualtrics with about 1 week between each vote.

- **Faculty Assembly Constitution Revisions.** The constitution will undergo the last of the revisions once the revote takes place. All changes will be redlined, and the new document and old document will be presented to the COE FA once finished for approval.
- **Dean's Talking Points.** Dean Silverman discussed the University's legislative budget request to improve salaries and the transition to research-oriented status. He was not optimistic that faculty retention money would go through. He noted that at this time, there will be no travel budget increase for this year. He mentioned the work that was being done to ensure summer funding was in place. The Dean suggested that the University should compare its current situation to other universities that have recently become R1, rather than to Ivy League institutions. Meredith clarified that the transition to a research 1 status is primarily due to the work of the faculty, especially the PhD faculty. The Dean also noted that there will not be GRA's that are offered at this time, and usually, GRA positions are funded with grant money. He suggested seeking out external grant funds and building in GRAs. The challenges with writing grants and having time to do that and maintain R1 faculty loads are problematic if some support is not put in place prior. They emphasize the need for top-down support to conduct research competitively. At this time, there are no changes that will be seen as FAU heads into an R1 status.
- **Meeting Extended to 12:15pm** – Motion made by Traci Baxley and seconded by Andres Ramirez. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

- **PTR** criteria were briefly discussed, and the success rate of the PTR was discussed for last year. 4 exceed and 5 meets for PTR in the college of education. More discussion around PTR needs to be held. No one will be dismissed if they voluntarily go up for PTR this year.
- Sustain Performance Evaluations (SPEs) are currently on hold and to be discussed if they remain in effect along PTRs.
- The syllabi review was briefly discussed and faculty will need to stay tuned into guidelines provided.

- Meeting adjourned at 12:13pm.
- Minutes recorded by COE FA Secretary, Dr. Kelly Emelianchik-Key
- Minutes approved 11/1/24