

**Florida Atlantic University
University Graduate Council
Minutes
October 13, 2010**

Present: Deborah Floyd, Education; Ronald Nyhan, CDSI; Susan Folden, Nursing; Ali Zilouchian, Engineering; Khaled Sobhan, Engineering; George Morales, GSA; Charles Roberts, Science; Ben Lowe, Arts & Letters; Valerie Bryan, Education; Massimo Caputi, Biomedical Science; Xupei Huang, Biomedical Science; Andrew Furman, Arts and Letters; Elwood Hamlin II, CDSI; Kim Dunn, Business; Allen Smith, Business;

Absent: Shirley Gordon, Nursing; Massimo Caputi, Biomedical Science;

Others Present: Barry Rosson, Graduate College; Barbara Bebergal, Graduate College; Ingrid Johanson, Science; Mary Jane Saunders, President

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Nyhan.

I. Approve Minutes from September 8, 2010 Meeting.

The minutes were unanimously approved after removing Emily Stockard and adding Andrew Furman from Arts and Letters to the membership of the council.

II. Q & A with President Saunders.

Nyhan introduced President Saunders to discuss graduate education. Saunders explained that FAU has a new graduate structure at this time. She does not have a good idea of the budget for tuition waivers and stipends. Graduate Dean should get statistics on the amounts of those items.

Saunders then mentioned the Graduate Awards Reception at the Baldwin House and how successful it was and how impressed she was with the amount of doctoral students and programs at FAU.

She discussed the expense involved with graduate programs, such as the Medical School, Engineering and Performing Arts.

Saunders stated we have 28,000 students but only 16,000 FTEs. Federal support is 10 to 15 million. It is difficult to run a research endeavor on this amount of funding.

We must establish this institution as a school where students want to stay to complete their degrees. We are a university, not a community college or a research school. The undergraduate school has to support the graduate school.

Nyhan asked Saunders what she felt the role of the council should be in supporting graduate education. Saunders answered that the council has to talk about what it can do to support the graduate students. She requested help from the council members for both the provost and research VP position searches.

Saunders explained that she wants to understand what duties the GA,TA and RA students do compared to their experience and program. She expressed that TAs might need more supervision.

Floyd spoke about data driven decisions and the importance of validation of data.

Saunders asked about the diversity of the faculty compared to the diversity of the student body.

Morales shared that FAU has a large Latino student population and that the pay rate at FAU is low. He stated he has colleagues from other schools who get much higher stipends.

Saunders asked who is deciding on how much to pay each student (stipends). She agrees that the stipends are low. There is no easy answer.

Zilouchian spoke about salary for faculty on nine month basis.

Saunders stated the importance of garnering more grants. The university may hire a grant writer. She shared that high schools are looking to start summer Engineering programs, which might be employment opportunities for TA's. Summer camps are another way of getting federal funding.

Bryan talked about the large number of faculty have not been replaced. Adjuncts are being pulled in at very low dollar amounts.

Saunders mentioned the raise to faculty and staff. New money must come from university growth. We must cautiously structure a new budget. There must be an adequate number of advisors. Saunders spoke about satellite campuses and whether or not they are sustainable.

Huang asked about having enough faculty members for the medical school. The medical school only has two of the necessary five funding elements.

Nyhan said strategic planning is going on. Faculty will have to turn to other sources for funding. Saunders said the university must find the next wave of the future and a theme for the institution.

Zilouchian said the graduate faculty needs more communication about the university.

Saunders stated FAU is lowest in Florida for graduating undergrads with no obvious reason for this.

III. Old Business

a. Graduate Faculty Governance Policies:

A. College of Arts and Letters

B. College of Science

College of Arts and Letters will adopt the University Graduate Governance Document as their graduate faculty document. Morales motioned to approve, Roberts seconded. Unanimously approved by the council.

College of Science – Nyhan sent revised document to council, Floyd moved to approve, Sobhan seconded. Unanimously approved by the council.

b. Graduate Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines

The council was sent copies to review and will send any corrections to Bebergal or Nyhan. Council was asked to review documents sent out by Nyhan.

IV. New Business

a. A Data-Based Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs in the United States. Tabled

V. Other Business

Nyhan will select thank you card for Dr. Saunders for the council to send to her. The Graduate College will give portfolios to the council and President Saunders.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.