

**University Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**January 29, 2016**  
**CM 130, 2:00PM – 4:00PM**

**Members and Guests Present:** See *Appendix A* for attendance sheet.

1. The UFS meeting was called to order by Dr. Chris Beetle at 2:10pm. The meeting was held in room CM-130 and CM-125 on the Boca Raton Campus and was video conferenced to Davie (DW 108), Fort Lauderdale (HE 608), Harbor Branch (LE 235), Jupiter (SR 200), and Sea Tech (ST 209)
2. **With positive approval**, the Senate approved [December 4, 2015](#) UFS minutes.

**3. President's report**

- a. Dr. Beetle mentions to the Senate that we should consider moving the meetings to Mondays instead. This is something the Academic Planning and Budget committee will have to decide. If anyone has opinions on this, please let Dr. Beetle know.
- b. One item to report today regarding Distance Learning. Dr. Beetle mentions that this partly has to do with the newly decided state LMS system, which will be Canvas. Dr. Beetle also mentions that Dr. Val Bryan will be speaking more to this issue. He informs the Senate that the statewide LMS decision is opt-in, however there has been no decision on behalf of FAU to switch LMS systems. He concludes his report and introduces Dr. Val Bryan.

**4. Speakers**

- a. Dr. Val Bryan reports to the Senate her involvement in the decision for the state to move towards a statewide learning management system. She explains the state's process in choosing a statewide LMS. Reps from state colleges were also involved in this decision process. Dr. Bryan mentions there were reps from each LMS program there to demonstrate what their software does and how it can be used. Dr. Bryan discusses the criteria they were looking for. She informs the Senate that Canvas, the LMS chosen by the state, scored highest in every category. A master agreement has already been let. So, this is the management system to come.

Dr. Bryan goes over some questions she anticipates the Senate will have. First, she echoes Dr. Beetle in saying that Canvas is opt-in only right now and the SUS is not required to adopt it as their LMS system. Secondly, she answers the question pertaining to any disadvantages for not switching over. Some of the primary advantages of switching over is cost effectiveness, those universities that are switching over will get a 10% discount off first year licensing. The second advantage is quantity of students, the more students on the platform the lower the cost of the platform. Lastly, the primary advantage is students will be using only one LMS in the system. Dr. Bryan asks Dr. Vicki Brown to elaborate more on FAU's decision process for choosing whether to opt-in or not. Dr. Brown starts by saying the state's committee did not evaluate the newest

Blackboard update, called Blackboard Ultra. It was not available at the time the state was assessing the various LMS programs. Dr. Brown goes on to explain her what her committee's process will be in deciding FAU's future LMS program. She plans on getting plenty of faculty input in the various programs we will be looking at. There will be days for faculty to test out the programs and surveys distributed as well on their experiences.

Dr. Dyess asks Dr. Brown if it's safe to assume the transition from Blackboard to Blackboard Ultra would be easier than to Canvas. Dr. Brown does not know yet. Until she can play around with it, she cannot provide an answer. Dr. Brown does, however, love what she's seen so far of Blackboard Ultra.

There are concerns about the migration of LMS systems from the Senate. Both Dr. Brown and Dr. Bryan assure the Senate that, no matter the choice of software, there will be a team who will help faculty transition over to the new program.

There are no more questions. Dr. Bryan concludes her presentation.

5. [UUPC Consent Agenda](#)

- a. No objections from Senate – **approved by majority vote.**

6. [UUPC Action Items](#)

- a. University-Wide
  - o *Minor in Military Science*
    - No objections from Senate. **Approved by majority vote.**
- b. College of Arts and Letters
  - o *Minor in Dance*
    - No objections from Senate. **Approved by majority vote.**
- c. College for Design and Social Inquiry
  - o *Bachelor of Social Work*
    - No objections from Senate. **Approved by majority vote.**
- d. College of Nursing
  - o *RN to BSN Concentration*
    - No objections from Senate. **Approved by majority vote.**
- e. College of Science
  - o *Honors Program in Chemistry*
    - No objections from Senate. **Approved by majority vote.**

7. [UGC Consent Agenda](#)

- a. No objections from Senate – **approved by majority vote.**

## 8. UGC Action Items

### a. College of Science

#### o *Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security*

- No objections from Senate. **Approved by majority vote.**

#### o *Combined BS/MS Program in Math*

- Dr. Jerry Haky mentions that this item must be considered by both the Undergraduate Programs committee and the Graduate Programs committee. The issue is that the GPC approved it last month, while the UPC only approved it this morning. It technically hasn't been vetted through Steering policy. **Dr. Beetle tables the item until next month**, when the UUPC's recommendation will be available.

#### o *MS in Applied Math and Statistics*

- Dr. Bill Bosshardt would like to know if the Regression Analysis course will be accessible to outside majors. Dr. Stephen Locke explains that if a student has taken the necessary pre-requisites, he sees no problem with them taking the course. Dr. Locke advises Dr. Bosshardt to have any students interested in take the course to contact the Statistics department to find out if they're eligible to take the course.
- No further discussion from Senate. **Approved by majority vote.**

#### o *Professional Science Master in Medical Physics*

- No objections from Senate. **Approved by majority vote.**

## 9. **Open forum with the Provost**

- ### a.
- Provost Perry reports on the BOG meeting and the discussions that were had about the LMS system. He thanks Dr. Bryan for serving on the committee that chose Canvas as the statewide LMS system. Dr. Perry mentions the newest release of Blackboard software, Blackboard Ultra. We've setup another committee to "play in the sandboxes" with both LMS systems.

Another task force Dr. Perry and Dr. Vicki Brown worked on was the Online Education Task Force. They've developed a Strategic Plan through 2025. It is online on the BOG website. He encourages everyone read it.

There has been a change in the BOG. Tom Kuntz, formerly Vice Chair, is now the Chair. Additionally, Ned Lautenbach is now serving as Vice Chair. Mr. Lautenbach is also the head of the Board's Committee on Innovation and Online Education. He was involved in every meeting. Dr. Perry shares with the Senate that Mr. Lautenberg is very into the idea of online education.

Mr. Kuntz, when accepting his position as Chair, mentioned three key points he'd like to focus on; first, is job training. He wants universities to become more in line with the workforce. Second, he wants to push research agendas of each of the universities and wants to know how the BOG can help. Third, he wants to look at access to post-secondary education. What that means, is that he wants to get back to the 2+2 system

with the state colleges. Dr. Perry and Dr. Floyd have discussed and are working on the 2+2+1 track, as well. Dr. Perry believes FAU is well positioned for that.

Dr. Perry touches on his visit to Tallahassee. We've submitted several LBRs. The legislative session will begin early this year in January and should be finished by late March.

There are three dean searches on the way. Two of those are well on their way; the Honors College and College of Science. Also moving along is the College of Medicine. Applications are coming in and being reviewed. We brought in an outside individual, Dr. Arthur Ross, to serve as Interim Dean of the College of Medicine.

Applications for admission for 2017 are down. This was anticipated with the change of admission standards. The Division of Public Service is working on this. We are trying to get the best class we can land. Dr. Jenny Peluso is currently reaching out to the colleges to do that.

Dr. Perry concludes his report, but first mentions that 101 faculty searches are underway; 71 tenure, 30 non-tenure. Eighteen of those have already committed to coming in August this year.

- b. Dean Heather Coltman mentions there will be 4 candidates coming to campus for the Director of PJHR position. They will be coming throughout the month of February. Dean Coltman will be posting the dates of the visits so that faculty can see the candidates' public presentations and open forum. She looks forward to any input on the candidates.
- c. Dr. Bill Bosshardt asks for some statistics of the SPOT survey. Dean Ed Pratt mentions the response rate was higher than last year. In general the scores were better across the board.
- d. Dr. Jerry Haky asks about the way the admission GPA is being calculated. Dr. Perry is not aware if we've changed the way we calculate GPA. Dean Pratt said we are using GPA and SAT/ACT scores to admit students. This shouldn't negatively affect the upcoming class admitted.

#### **10. Good of the Senate**

- a. Dr. Bob Zoeller gives an update on the CBA. Right now, they are "full book", meaning they are in the process of reviewing close to 20 articles. A proposal has been made on faculty salaries. It's a two year salary increase proposal. The representatives of the BOT will be giving a counteroffer, however, one has not been received at this time. The reps of the BOT have indicated the delay is due to the workings of a three-year salary increase proposal. A more complete offer should be ready by the next meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Davood Moslemian would like to know if there has been any negotiating for summer salaries. Dr. Zoeller explains that negotiations just started, so once an agreement can be made, they can get to other things, but for right now they're just starting out. He mentions summer salaries have been discussed in the past so they will probably come up again. At this point, nothing has been formally negotiated.

Dr. Haky would like to know if any salary raises would be applied retroactively. Dr. Zoeller explains that is still up for negotiation.

Dr. Schmidmeier would like to know what the main points of contention are. Dr. Zoeller explains that everything is still in negotiation, so a summary at this point could change each time they meet. The UFF will be sending out updates as things move along. He also informs the Senate that they are allowed to attend the negotiation meetings. He asks if anyone intends to do so, to inform him first so seating arrangements can be made.

**11. Meeting adjourned by Dr. Chris Beetle at 3:06pm.**