

College of Arts and Letters  
Faculty Assembly  
AD 305 (Boca Campus)  
Via Teleconference in Davie, LA 150; and Jupiter, SR 204  
November 05, 2018

*11:03:*

— Dr. William Trapani, Chair of Faculty Assembly, welcomes attendants and moves to approve minutes from previous FA meeting, without objection. Chairperson then proceeds to:

- Review current slate of Senators from the College of Arts and Letters, which totals 12 and constitutes one of the largest contingency at Faculty Senate (Mauricio Almonte, LLCL; Jacob Henson, English; David Williams, Communication and Multimedia; Michael Harris, Anthropology; Adam Bradford, English and Dean's Office; Barbara Ganson, History; Max Kirsch, Anthropology; Brian McConnell, Visual Arts and Art History; Chris Robe, Communication and Multimedia; Stacey Balkan, English; Marshall De Rosa, Political Science; Tiffany Frost, English);
- Inform Assembly of need to reactivate the College's Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, SPIT, currently in "dormant" mode, asking faculty to help identify colleagues that may be interested in serving on said Committee;
- Inform Assembly that Sustained Performance Evaluation process, SPE, is in its second year, and introduce Dean Horswell.

*11:13:*

— Dr. Michael Horswell, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, addresses the Assembly and:

- Informs of very recent return from representing FAU at yearly Navitas Conference, this year held in Sri Lanka, noting that it was a productive conference, with Navitas being a promising tool with which to increasingly promote graduate programs offered by the College;
- Shares that 30 international students from Nigeria applied to FAU last year, and paid tuition, but the U.S. State Department denied their student visas;
- Notes that global undergraduate market is shrinking, as source countries are increasingly have their own prestigious universities with which to satisfy domestic demand, motivating institutions in the U.S. to increase focus on graduate students;
- Thanks all those who participated in the Robert F. Kennedy Jr. presentation, on Nov. 02., at the University Theater, in particular, Dr. Kevin Wagner, who was in charge of handling questions and answers section of said talk;
- Shifts attention to Key Performance Indicators, KPIs, which have been recently expanded at FAU, from a list of 10 identified by the Board of Governors to 25, that is, an addition of 15 KPIs, all as part of effort to obtain more funds from the State and make FAU a more prestigious university;
- Notes that five of can bring about direct incentives to the Colleges, namely, (1) Graduation rates, (2) Academic Progress rates, (3) Number of Intersession courses, which includes mini-mesters and courses offered as Alternative Spring Break, and (5) Adoption of Open Education Resources, OER, underscoring that # 4 and # 5 were specifically identified by the Provost for the College of Arts and Letters;

- Informs that the College will focus on the following KPIs, “our goal” in the immediate future: (1) Recruit first-year students that are top 10% of their class, (2) Graduate transfer students, with Bachelor’s degree, within four years of arriving at FAU with an Associate degree, (3) Increase number of graduate degrees awarded within the College, from 100 (currently) to approx. 130 annually, and (4) Increase percentage of First Time In College students, FTIC, within the College, from 42% (currently) to 50%.

*When asked:*

- About recruiting from 10% of graduating [high school] class, points to research showing said students are more likely to complete a college/university degree within four years, rendering them institutionally desirable, as said grade completion would help national ranking of the university;
- About funds and/or incentives associated with KPIs, and which are to go to Academic Units, notes that amount of said funds will be determined by formula created by Provost Office;
- About potential competition with Honors College, when recruiting top high school students in South Florida, suggest likely existence of two types of honors students, one interested in the Jupiter experience, and another seeking a Boca experience;
- Whether the College is able to provide scholarships to help recruiting efforts, notes the College is reviewing this and other options;
- Whether he shared concern about possibility of creating a two-tier student body (elite/honors vs. all others), expresses understanding of said concern;
- About the Broward College Library, which recently housed the Eastern Airlines Collection, and degree of integration within the FAU library system, defers to Associate Dean Linda Johnson, who informs that materials at the Davie campus library used to appear within catalog of FAU’s library.

*12:03:*

— Chairperson Trapani informs that representative from UFF-FAU is unable to address the Faculty Assembly as scheduled, today, and proceeds to share interest in creation of a space/committee to hold ongoing discussion on issues such as safety, assistance with eLearning, and courses releases for instructors, subsequently requesting input from faculty, which contributed as follows:

- Questioning nature of Faculty Assembly, and faculty governance in general, e.g., is it just a space for (downward) dissemination of information?
- Noting unethical nature of pushing students towards graduation when said students are not ready;
- Expressing desire to see improvement in university’s website, whose main page tends to reproduce a notable number of stereotypes.

*12:20:*

— Chairperson Trapani open floor, For the Good of the College, and:

- Dr. Aimee Arias, Associate Dean of Research and Creative Achievement, informs that a graduate student from Communication and Multimedia Studies won a Three-Minute Thesis Competition Award.

12:21:

— Meeting is adjourned.

Submitted by Mauricio Almonte, Secretary, Faculty Assembly, College of Arts and Letters