

**Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters, FAU**  
**Faculty Assembly Minutes**  
**November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.**  
**WebEx Remote Meeting due to COVID-19 | 62 (Peak) Faculty Attended**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Welcome/Faculty Assembly Chair's Report/Consideration of Minutes**

**Mauricio Almonte - Faculty Assembly Chair**

- Meeting called to order.
- Recent passing of Arlene Fradkin. 1 minute of silence. Floor given to Dr. Karen Leader for remarks and comments on Arlene. There is a donation campaign for a seat in the University Theatre. Checks can be sent in any amount to FAU Foundation Inc. Dr. Susan Brown took the floor next with additional comments and memories of Arlene. Floor is then passed to Dr. Chris Robé with additional comments and memories. Last to have the floor with comments is Dr. Mike Harris. On December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM, there will a memorial service in SO-250. Due to COVID-19, it will be in person with social distancing, as well as remotely available.
- Approval of 10.12.20 minutes. Minutes approved.
- Curriculum Accessibility Committee update is to form a focus group consisting of approximately 10 students registered with ASA and faculty members that will look at syllabi to be sure they are inclusive of information relevant to SAS and the students registered with them. Michele Shaw mentioned that there are 4 students so far that are interested in participating. Asks faculty to participate and send syllabi.
- DFSCAL University Graduate Council Representative was voted online via Qualtrics and it was announced that the Carla Calargé with 29 votes would be the representative. Other nominees included Evan Bennett (13 votes), Max Kirsch (13 votes), and Anthony Guneratne (7 votes). There was 1 abstention. A total of 63 votes here collected.

**11:55 a.m.**

**Dean's Report**

**Michael Horswell, Ph.D. - Dean of Arts and Letters**

- Provides some comments and memories regarding Arlene Fradkin.
- Program reviews for Political Science, Sociology, WGST, Anthropology, etc., for the Board of Trustees.
- A significant gift to the college will come from a Holocaust survivor. \$20 million gift. \$5 million comes now to build or expand a building for Jewish Studies on the Boca campus. This will hopefully have an exhibition space, teaching space, screening space, etc. The other \$15 million will come from the estate as an endowment. This will be great for space as there's none for the college. There is no date set for breaking ground.
- Reminds faculty that there is a research incentive policy within the college. This program is based on the university's research incentive

policy. This means the college may additionally assist with travel, research etc., based of successful external grants.

### **Questions & Comments**

- Q: What will the college give for including salary within a budget? And is there an automatic resource kickback?
- A: The way it's done is time and effort over expenses rather than paying oneself a salary. 15% gets kicked back into your account from the University. You can also add up to 25% of your salary above and beyond for salary.
- Q: What is the process for receiving the incentive? Do we have to contact you before applying, or after receiving the grant?
- A: It's a good idea to contact Aimee Arias.
- Q: Can these research incentive awards be applied to grants that have already been awarded, retroactively for example?
- A: No, not if they're closed.
- Q: Would it be possible to suggest small amendments to grants received?
- A: Not usually.
- Overall the college wants to create a stream for faculty writing these types of grants.
- Student academic services had a program review that met with administrators and faculty. It was recommended that advising be implemented more into the faculty. For example the advising group would like to meet with faculty more often for a more free flow of information. Barclay Barrios is putting together this protocol. It will also assist with the filling of the Advising Director position in the College.
- Broward campuses updates. There will be BGS degree based in Broward. (Bachelor of General Studies.) This would be for those that did not finish their degrees and are coming back to school. There will be a faculty member that will help create the degree along side Linda Johnson. CODA/CODAT is moving forward at the Fort Lauderdale campus.
- There is no news on the budget. Stuck in a holding pattern.
- Diversity committee is working hard to get their initiatives set.
- Enrollments are improving for spring 2021 but down about 5% from last year at this time. MA programs appear to be up 12%.
- AWAs were approved by the Dean's office. Now the Provost should approve most of the AWAs.
- Opens floor for returning to campus in Spring 2021.

### **Questions & Comments**

- Q: What has the conversation been about the new spikes in numbers?
- A: As of today, there is no change to any planning for spring.
- Q: There are reports where the governor is burying the numbers. What can administrators do?
- A: FAU people are attending statewide meetings regarding COVID-19 data. FAU took a conservative approach this fall in contrast to others in the SUS.

- Q: This is not political but economic. So what justifies that returning to campus is for the good of the students?
- A: The economics are driving the BOT and BOG. The goal for upper administration is to balance safety concerns for all. So far, the university has done well and hopes the plans stay in place. Adjustments could be made pending what the next few weeks offers through the 2020 holidays and for COVID-19.
- A: Associate Dean Becky Lautar shared that in-person courses that do not have students attending might be able to shift to online. This policy is in the works and not finalized, yet.
- Q: So university presidents throughout the SUS are worried about their own jobs? It's a derelict of duty to not be transparent.
- A: There is a belief that there is a concern for faculty and students. However, no one knows what's going on behind the scenes.
- Q: A question regarding faculty advising? How will it be implemented?
- A: This would be at the college level. More liaisons from departments to the advising office. Mentorship is another idea of integration of faculty to advising. University Academic Services is different and students are not released to the college until 45 credits is reached. We would like earlier access obviously to these students.
- Q: What is the availability of AWAs for staff?
- A: No policy yet regarding staff AWAs. The hope is they will be honored.

**12:30 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker**

**Gloria Stuart – Liaison to Counseling and Academic Services (CAPS)**

- They provide counseling services and workshops. There are also crisis services for students. These are 24-7 services. General summarization of what CAPS is doing.

**Questions & Comments**

- Q: What's available to those students from out of state?
- A: Some of the therapists are licensed for other states and can provide students with assistance.
- Q: Has there been an upswing since COVID-19?
- A: Absolutely there has been an increase in volume.

**12:40 p.m.**

**For the Good of the College**

**Mauricio Almonte - Faculty Assembly Chair**

- Faculty Senate meets today at 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- The Dean will make more time to open the floor to questions and comments about COVID-19 and the return of faculty and students for Spring 2021 at the next Faculty Assembly meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Any agenda items can be sent to FA reps.

**12:40 p.m.**

**Motion to Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn.
- Faculty Assembly Adjourned.

**DFSCAL FA Minutes recorded/submitted by:**

**Prof. S. C. Eason, Secretary**

**Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University**