

Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters, FAU
Faculty Assembly Minutes
March 1st, 2021 | 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
WebEx Remote Meeting due to COVID-19 | 43 (Peak) Faculty Attended

11:35 a.m.

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

Mauricio Almonte - Faculty Assembly Chair

- Meeting called to order.
- Consideration of February 1st, 2021 minutes. *(Approved)*
- Chair's report – Immediately following Senate today, the Dean is hosting "Coffee with the Dean" to speak on the strategic plan for the College.
- The College needs someone for Honors and Awards Committee immediately for Faculty Senate. We need to elect or appoint someone urgently. The nominee (unattested) is Dr. Dukhing Kim. He is therefore the new representative to the committee.
- Senators for Faculty Senate are expiring. These are two-year appointments. Nominations are open from the floor or via email. Nominations will be open until the next Faculty Assembly meeting.

11:45 a.m.

Dean's Report

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

- Incredible year so far in faculty research and creative achievements, especially during COVID-19.
- It has also been a productive year in College fundraising. Two new gifts: Theatre Lab gift for Theatre, Dance, and Creative Writing. \$50000/year then \$1.5 million later on. The School of ARCH accepted a gift in support of student internships for around \$500000.
- Special recognition to the School of Public Administration. SPA had 3 PhD students graduate and find 3 tenure-track positions.
- Broward College and FAU meetings held to strengthen pathways to FAU.
- College has done well in KPIs, Key Performance Indicators. Because the College did well, it will increase the budget by about \$160000. However, there could still be cuts. KPI funding is reviewed every year.
- Enrollment is up 7% for the College. The university is breaking even and other colleges are down. The fall 2021 semester is still unknown.
- DEI campus survey was sent out via email, but may have gone to the junk folder. Please find it and fill out. It's anonymous.
- Diversity Committee is doing well and new courses may be added.
- The Undergraduate Dean is working on IFP relationships to DEI goals.
- A lot of pockets of support this year for research and creative work.
- Budget for next fiscal year remains unknown. We'll need to wait until May or June 2021. Some good news is that the Florida economy is "open" and tax revenue shortfalls are decreasing which may help the SUS. Also,

there's the CARES-ACT 2 at the federal level and it looks like it should pass. This will be in place to assist students.

- Scholarships are also available within the College that can help students.
- The College's Strategic Plan is being conceptualized and should roll out in the fall. Program Assessment Committee will be in place for spring 2021. We need to be ready to feed this assessment data in the fall in case there is a budget reduction, or if units will be absorbed into other units, etc. The criterion for all this is still being written.

Questions & Comments

- *Q: Can you shed light on delayed compensation for teaching overloads?*
A: Departments send requests for overloads. Sometimes faculty take on an overload because there may be an issue where there is a need for an overload after the semester has started. Note that payment for overloads are the full pay, even when delayed.
- *Q: Who came up with strategic plan criteria?*
A: Criteria came out of the Deans and Chairs meetings. It was based of some readings that came out of what's being done nationally. We just want data, arguments, clear narratives of a program's value, etc. Not all questions in the criteria will apply to all Units. So there would need to be some customization to each of the programs. These are more like prompts than anything and we're looking for faculty feedback on the criteria before deploying. The goal is to create universal criteria, but the Dean's office understands that every Unit is different. This will all articulate to the University's goals for the College.
- *Q: The long term goals seem to be to increasing graduate programs. What is the plan for this?*
A: The productively of graduate programs comes out of faculty in multiple departments and programs. Each need to look at internal impacts especially for an interdisciplinary program. This is important, as it needs to be clear for administrators at the university level. It can be complicated. Patricia Kollander is the rep and co-chair of the committee. They are still looking for more streamlined data.

12:20 p.m.

Yearly Reports of Standing Committees

Thomas Stollar, Ph.D. - UUPC Chair

- Not a whole lot to report. Cohort is working well together. Diversity and Equity courses are coming through often and are fairly dynamic.

Dukhing Kim, Ph.D. - ROCA Chair

- Met three times. Two Osher awards. 16 SCAFs with 7 selected. Also met for Scholar of the Year Awards with 2 selected from 10 applicants and submitted to the University Committee. No result, yet. There might be another round of small funds. However, it needs confirmation.

12:35 p.m.

For the Good of the College & Motion to Adjourn

Mauricio Almonte - Faculty Assembly Chair

- Next meeting is at the end of March 2021.
- Remember that Faculty Assembly Officers and Faculty Senators are open. Please think about running.
- There seems to be a push for IFP and possible changes. It might be beneficial that Dean Ed Pratt address the Faculty Assembly.
- Palm Beach Book Festival starts this month and is free to FAU faculty, staff, and students. However, if interested, register for the event online.
- FA asks College Units to not schedule other meetings at the same time.
- Motion to adjourn. (Approved at 12:40 p.m.)

DFSCAL FA Minutes recorded/submitted by:

Prof. S. C. Eason, Secretary

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