



Item: VIII

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

SUBJECT: LIFELONG LEARNING SOCIETY OVERVIEW

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

See Attached.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

N/A.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

Supporting Documentation: Lifelong Learning Overview and Presentation

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THE LIFELONG LEARNING SOCIETY AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Introduction

The Lifelong Learning Society is committed to developing and offering university-level, non-credit courses to a largely older population throughout FAU's service area. It is, based upon available data, the largest and most outstanding program of its type in the nation. In the year 2006-2007, 19,000 lifelong learners throughout the system accounted for 35,000 class registrations. The program has been in place in Boca since 1980 and in Jupiter since 1997. The Treasure Coast campus initiated the program in 2006-2007 and it now is being offered both at Port St. Lucie and Vero Beach. At the Broward campus, due to budgetary considerations, the program is limited, but with additional resources should be expanded in the future.

Unique LLS Program Features

There are a number of unique program features that account for the success of the LLS program:

The Faculty: A large majority of the LLS instructors are regularly appointed FAU faculty. These men and woman must first fulfill their primary teaching and research responsibilities before they can teach in LLS. They bring to the program the same cutting edge research background, teaching skills and commitment to education as they do in their credit classes. The LLS program provides the faculty with an attractive stipend that can be a positive factor in recruiting new faculty and supplementing the salaries of existing instructors.

The Syllabus: In 2006-2007 there were 180 lifelong learning classes offered throughout the four campuses. The greatest number of these classes was from the traditional liberal arts. 23% of the classes fell into the current affairs category, 18% in music, 15% in general education, 7% in philosophy, 7% history, 7% in Jewish studies, 6% in literature and theater and 6% in science.

Facilities: The Barry and Florence Friedberg Learning Auditorium in Boca and the Elinor Bernon Rosenthal Lifelong Center in Jupiter, both largely funded with LLS student gifts are, to the best of my knowledge, the two finest facilities in the nation that are dedicated to lifelong learning and teaching.

Budget: The established lifelong learning programs in the system are entirely self supporting . Due to large enrollments, it has been possible over the years to build reserve funds that have provided the source of substantial gifts to support the scholarship, teaching and research program of the University.

Gifts to FAU: In addition to the facilities that have been built in Boca and Jupiter, approximately \$1,500,000 has been given to help fund undergraduate and graduate scholarships, graduate assistant stipends, the Center for Teaching Excellence and the establishment of endowed professorships in the Arts and Letters College and the College of Nursing.

Volunteers: There are over 150 volunteers who work in all of the LLS programs to build and sustain a high level of student service and satisfaction. Key among these volunteers are those people who serve on the Advisory Board that advise the staff on major program and management matters.

FUTURE GOALS

1. To expand the enrollment in lifelong learning courses throughout the FAU service area by an average of 5% for each of the next five years.
2. To manage the lifelong learning program in a way to assure that the course fees will remain reasonable and within reach of the older population that is served.
3. To continue, when funds are available, to support FAU's teaching and research program
4. To continue to diversify the syllabus by recruiting new faculty and offering special seminars, performing arts series and guest faculty.
5. To continue to reach out to the general community to build an depth awareness of lifelong programs

Ely Meyerson, Assistant Provost,

Lifelong Learning

October 24, 2007



Lifelong Learning Society at FAU

Presentation to the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees
November 14, 2007

Lifelong Learning Society



Mission, Size, and Scope of Lifelong Learning at FAU

Mission: To develop and offer university-level, non-credit courses throughout the full service area

- Boca Campus in 1980
- Jupiter Campus in 1997
- Treasure Coast in 2006
- Broward Campus in 2006

Size and Scope: Largest and most outstanding in the nation

- 2006-2007: 19,000 students accounted for 35,000 class registrations.

Lifelong Learning Society



Unique Features of LLS at FAU

Faculty: FAU instructors. Stipends supplement salaries and assist in recruiting new faculty

Offerings: 180 courses in 2006-2007 in three semesters

Most popular areas:

Current affairs: 23 %	Philosophy: 7%
Music: 18%	History: 7%
General Education: 15%	Literature and theatre: 6%
Jewish studies: 7%	Science: 6%

Unique Features of LLS at FAU

Facilities: the finest in the nation, constructed largely with student gifts.

1. Barry and Florence Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center in Boca Raton
2. Elinor Beron Rosenthal Lifelong Learning Complex in Jupiter

Budget: As an auxiliary, the unit is entirely self-supporting in developed programs

1. Large enrollments
2. Reserve funds provide source for gifts to FAU

LLS Gifts to FAU

LLS has provided over \$1,500,000 in gifts directed toward:

- Undergraduate and graduate scholarships
- Graduate Assistantships
- Endowed Professor positions
- Faculty travel funds
- Center for Teaching Excellence

Goals

Future Goals

- 5% annual growth
- Affordable course fees
- FAU's teaching and research programs
- Diversifying the syllabus
- Community outreach