



Item: AS: A-M

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2009 MINUTES

PROPOSED BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Initiate roll call to document member participation, ensure quorum, and approve the October 21, 2009 meeting minutes.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Armand Grossman, Chair _____

Dr. William Bryant, Vice-Chair _____

Mr. Scott Adams _____

Dr. Rajendra Gupta _____

Dr. Timothy Lenz _____

Mrs. Sherry Plymale _____

Ms. Tiffany Weimar _____

Mrs. Nancy Blosser (ex-officio) _____

PARTICIPATING BOT MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony Barbar _____

Mr. David Feder _____

Mrs. Lalita Janke _____

Mr. Robert Stilley _____

Mr. Thomas Workman _____



Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes
October 21, 2009

BOT Chair Armand Grossman, convened the meeting with the following committee members present: Trustee Nancy Blosser; Trustee Scott Adams; Trustee Sherry Plymale; Trustee Timothy O. Lenz, President of the FAU University Faculty Senate, and Trustee Tiffany Weimar, President, Student Government Association.

Other trustees participating in the meeting included: William Bryant; Rajendra Gupta; Anthony Barbar, David Feder, Lalita Janke, Robert J. Stilley and Thomas Workman. The following university officials participated: Michael Armstrong, Associate Provost; Barry Rosson; Gary Perry, Dean, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science.

ASA: A-M. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting.
The motion passed unanimously.

ASA: A-1. Request for Approval to 2010-2015 FAU Enrollment Plan

Dr. Michael Armstrong presented for consideration to the Committee FAU's five-year current and projected enrollment plan for 2010-15. He explained that a draft is submitted in July to the Board of Governors for their use and the Legislature's planning following a specific format and instructions.

Dr. Armstrong presented information on projected high school graduates, the current and projected budget situation and an analysis of demographic data which dictates that the University should expect to focus energies on maintaining near current funded enrollment levels for in-state students through 2011-12. During that period, out-of-state students may grow toward a level of 10% of total enrollment. If budgets are sufficiently restored by 2012-13, demographic data analysis supports modest growth of upper level and undergraduate students for the last two years of this planning period. These strategic factors are likely to affect undergraduate recruiting and enrollments. The housing market is a key driver and economic forces are reflected in a decline in state revenue collections. The University sees no indications, for planning purposes, that it can rely on increased revenues for the next two or three years of this planning period, and the plan has taken this into consideration.

Should there be additional revenues following a change in the economic situation, the University will resubmit the plan next year with the revised figures.

After a short discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the 2010-2015 FAU Enrollment Plan. There was no further discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ASA: I-1. Information Agenda - Enrollment Presentation

Dr. Mike Armstrong presented to the Committee an information item update on student admissions and undergraduate and graduate enrollments.

While first-time-in-college students showed an increase of FAU's popularity with a 40% growth undergraduate admissions and community colleges transfers leveled during years 2004 and 2009 due to FAU's inability in hiring additional faculty and to its housing shortage. On the other hand, FAU Undergraduate Admissions and other transfers showed an increase and can now be more selective. Student population is better prepared, therefore, the students retention rate has gone up by 6%. The main strategic objective of Strategic Planning is to increase FAU's retention rate. The students come back and they are staying due to their positive student life experience, increased student activities, better academic support and all this is very positive for the University.

The Dean of the Graduate College, Dr. Barry Rosson, then presented the portion of the slide presentation pertaining to graduate student admissions and enrollments. He stated that during the past five years graduate applications, enrollments, and degrees awarded have all had an upward trend. In particular, graduate applications have increased 70%, and the number of graduate degrees awarded has increased by 23%. The number of doctoral degrees awarded has increased by 50%, and is anticipated to increase in future years as the newly created PhD program in Geosciences and DNP program in Nursing produce graduates.

Graduate program selectivity has steadily increased over the past five years. In 2008-2009, approximately 45% of applicants were accepted to a graduate degree program. In 2004-2005, approximately 55% were accepted. Of those accepted in 2008-2009, 78% enrolled in graduate school at FAU.

Graduate College top ten graduate programs of interest are: Business Administration (MBA), Accounting (MAC), Executive Forensic Accounting (MAC), Family Nurse Practitioner (MS), Executive Business Administration (MBA), Social Work (MSW), Educational Leadership: K-12 (MEd), Reading Education (MEd), Speech Language Pathology (MS), and Biomedical Science (MS).

During the past five years, graduate student enrollments of under-represented, federally-protected class students have increased by 21%, and out-of-state tuition paying graduate student enrollments have increased by 33%. There was a 19% decrease in international graduate student enrollments during this same time period.

The Graduate College is engaged in several on-going recruitment activities. It hosts a university-wide Open House for prospective graduate students to learn more about FAU and the programs offered. In addition to in-office meetings and monthly information sessions for prospective graduate students, it travels to multiple recruitment fairs and follows-up with email campaigns using Intelliworks. It provides grants to FAU departments/schools to enhance their recruitment efforts, and distributes recruitment fellowships to augment the financial packages that are offered to outstanding graduate students.

ASA: A-2. Request for Approval of Charles E. Schmidt College of Science Program Review

Dr. Gary Perry presented the Committee with an overview of key College trends and analyses as they pertain to the overall University Strategic Plan and Goals since the College last program review in 2001-02.

Goals 1 and 2: FAU will continue to provide access to higher education for residents of the region, the state and the nation and will respond to the competitive economic environment by increasing the number of degrees granted to students at all levels. Goal 2: FAU will commit academic and fiscal resources to meeting Florida's need for trained professional in nursing, teaching and advanced technology. It will demonstrate its commitment to recruiting and preparing students in these vital professions and to identifying emerging trends in the labor force. Dr. Perry indicated that the number of science majors has increased steadily as well as the number of sections offered while the total annualized student FTE has steadily increased by 26%. The total degrees awarded at all levels have also increased steadily and are at an all time high of 587. There has been a small decrease in numbers over the last few years, but Fall enrollment is up. FAU compares favorably with peer institutions and research institutions in overall undergraduate SCH/FTE faculty. Students perceive the instruction by science faculty to be very good to excellent, and this has remained unchanged. The College uses nationally accepted assessment procedures to refine programs that are current with curricular assessment plans i.e., student achievement of curricular goals, ongoing programs maintenance or improvement, and documentation and process for funding accreditation (SACS). The DFW rate in lower division mathematics courses has dropped significantly as a result of strategies such as supplemental instruction and placement testing. The College has implemented several new and innovative programs to improve undergraduate instruction such as ChemBound

for chemistry, OrgoBound for organic chemistry, LifeLine for introductory biology classes, Master Teacher program visiting while class is in session to provide constructive criticism, and an Undergraduate Research Mentoring program introduced in biological sciences to involve undergraduates in research.

Goal 3: building world-class academic programs and research capacity. FAU develops its academic and research programs of the highest caliber to support Florida's strategic engagement in building an economy based on high technology and to foster a culture enriched by scholarly inquiry. The College is very successful at obtaining sponsored research dollars which continue to increase although the loss of several key research faculty members in recent years resulted in a decrease last year. Increasing instructional loads takes away from research activity.

The number of regular faculty has remained essentially constant while all other productivity measures have increased. Diversity of instructional faculty is about 20% more than in the last few years. It does compare favorably with peer and research institutions in instructional cost per student FTE and research expenditure per faculty FTE. Salaries are less competitive than at our peer institutions and this has become a problem for faculty retention.

Goal 4: meeting community needs and fulfilling unique institutional responsibilities. FAU will be a full participant in the life of its seven-county service region. It will advance economic development, encourage regional cooperation and sustainability, build partnerships in key areas of community need and enrich lives through lifelong learning. The science faculty members are active in service activity to the university, community and their profession and are dedicated members of the academy who work tirelessly on behalf of the College, the University and its students.

Dr. Perry concluded this Program Review by emphasizing FAU's new exciting partnerships and initiatives that will take the College to new levels of excellence. These include academic research affiliation partnerships with such research powerhouses as Scripps Florida, Max Planck Florida Institute, Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies. Max Planck Society is establishing its first institute here in the United States, under the leadership of Dr. Bert Sakmann, 1991 Recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology. The focus of the Institute will be on bioimaging. The addition of the Max Planck Florida Institute and the presence of neighboring partnerships Scripps Florida have created momentum that is carrying Palm Beach County forward on a fast-track to becoming a major center for bioscience companies, in addition to the long relationship that the College has had in the past ten years with Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and it can expect that relationship to blossom. These partnerships involve university-wide initiatives in climate change and environment with a new direction of South Florida Water Management District

and FAU's Center for Environmental Studies under the direction of Dr. Len Berry and his new \$2 million grant who will continue to operate and manage Riverwoods Laboratory in Kissimmee River; the Comprehensive Everglades National Park restoration project, half a million per year with funding to provide scholarships and fellowships in the College's Environmental Science program; outreach activities in FAU's local community consist of Frontiers of Science Public Lecture Series funded by Lifelong Learning Society; Nobel Symposium; Lifelong Learning Society Lecture Series – Exploring Science Today; Math in Middle Schools – Teacher/Curriculum enhancement (NSF funded); ChemBond – The next Generation (NSF funded); Math Days (High/Middle Schools); Pumpkin Drop (Middle Schools); and Science Olympiad (High/Middle Schools).

The College strengths consist of the quality of faculty, interdisciplinary graduate programs, very strong undergraduate programs, state-of-the-art facilities, research/technology infrastructure with state-of-the-art equipment, community engagement (advisory board). Its weaknesses are program assessment, graduate stipends, fundraising, community exposure and faculty shortage/faculty salaries. The College needs to find ways to be more competitive. There are enormous opportunities and time has come to turn Jupiter campus into a prime Institute for Biomedical Science and Technology campus. This institution would have various centers to focus on: a Center for Biotechnology and Drug Discovery; the Center for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology to interact with Scripps; the Center for Integrative Brain Sciences; Integrative Bioimaging; the Center for Bioengineering; and the Center for Informatics.

In conclusion, the Program Review highlights that the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science continues to be a pivotal college for the future development of Florida Atlantic University as a comprehensive research university.

After a short discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science Program Review. There was no further discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

(Prepared by L. Perez)