



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Faculty Assembly
College of Education

meeting minutes 1/24/25

Faculty Assembly – Virtual Meeting

1/24/2025

Attendance: Steve Diaz, Bill Trapani, Charles Dukes, Meredith Mountford, Bridgette Cassidy, Bryan Nichols, Christy Timm Fulkerson, Cristobal Salinas, Dale Williams, Deborah Floyd, Dilys Schoorman, Peggy Goldstein, Dr. Ron, Elizabeth Villares, Ira Bogotch, Jenny Bloom, Jillian Powers, Jack Scott, John Hardman, Joseph Brojomohun-Gagnon, Joyce Krzemienski, Justin Faulkner, Kaley Adams, Katie Friesen, Katie Miller, Kumar, Maria D. Vasquez, Maysaa Barakat, Michelle Vaughn-McGovern, Ann Musgrove, Rangasamy Ramasamy, Rina Bousalis, Robert Shockley, Robyn Klein, Sabrina Sembiante, Sharon Darling, Steve Silverman, Susannah Brown, Susanne Lapp, Taka Mays, Traci Baxley, Victoria Brown, Andres Ramirez, Michael Frain, Yash Bhagwanji, Susanne Lapp, Rick Laliberte

1. FA President Welcome from Meredith Mountford.

2. Guest Speaker: Bill Trapani - President Elect – FAU Senate

Provided an overview of the Senate and his role. Questions were asked about senate and PTR and syllabi review. He encouraged participation in Senate initiatives and emphasized the importance of proactive engagement and building networks. Senate Involvement Discussions included how faculty can engage in Senate activities without drawing undue attention. It was noted that involvement goes beyond selecting battles; it requires proactive measures. Dr. Dunn attends approximately 70% of the Board of Governors meetings, highlighting the possible need for faculty presence to foster connections with SUS partners. The possibility of streaming Senate meetings virtually to enhance participation was raised. Bill Trapani agreed to present this suggestion to the Senate. Questions were asked about the new budget model and if new information will be shared with faculty. It was shared that they are hopeful that they will come back to share more, but the new budget model could also be put on hold completely because of the new president hire pending. So, they do not want people to put energy into these things until the president is hired. There could be changes to this model or a halt depending on who our president is. Staying unified is critical, and finding ways to work together is important. The first week of Feb will be the presidential visits. Please engage in the process and use the submission portals.

3. President Search

Presidential candidates include Adam Hasner, a former congressman with a political background (who was also in the search pool last time), and two academic candidates: Hartline, a dean at FSU, and Volin, with a forestry background. Their CVs are available here.

<https://www.fau.edu/presidential-search/>. Vicki Brown is the presidential search advisory board committee member for our college. She also urged us to share anything with her that we may want to be voiced.

<https://www.fau.edu/presidential-search/final-candidates/>

4. Approval of the Minutes

Meeting minutes were approved from 11/1/24. Dilys Schoorman motioned for the approval and Sharon Darling seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval and no abstentions.

5. Senate Update

A statement on *academic freedom* was proposed and approved. It is important for us as a college to have discussions on what this means for us. The *Budget Model* was presented on January 13th. The link for submitting questions and accessing the slide deck was shared. *Presidential search updates* – at least one candidate is not an academic. At the present time, presentation options may not be virtual, but it has not been determined yet. Regarding *curricular proposals*: we are becoming more separated and need to start more interdisciplinary work. ADA Accessibility: Title II of the ADA was updated. This means that all web content, including online classes, must be fully accessible to all by April 24, 2026.

There is a lot going on in the Senate, and faculty members need to stay connected.

6. Dean Search Updates

Andres Ramirez provided an update on the dean search. The search firm reviewed over 20 candidates, with 10 interviewed via Zoom. Three candidates were selected for on-campus interviews, with the final interview scheduled for February 3rd. Questions were raised about the lack of virtual attendance options for town hall forums. It was noted that privacy concerns and candidates' preferences were factors.

7. Watermark Updates

Dr. Silverman updated faculty on Watermark's acquisition of LiveText. The transition to Watermark will be integrated into Canvas with no additional costs. Watermarks will be more efficient and have more capabilities. There is no price change for the updates to Watermark. Livetext will be phased out. Sheila Walden is available to discuss the changes with departments. Watermark also has representatives that would be happy to talk with each department and explain changes. Concerns over students having to pay for a program that is ultimately for our accreditation (which benefits everyone)

were raised. It was mentioned that it helps students who move to other states, and they can be certified in all states, which helps in that aspect.

8. Faculty Travel Funds

Faculty travel funds were discussed. Faculty receive \$1,100 for a conference when attending and presenting, while non-presenters receive \$800. Faculty may do one of each, totaling \$1,900 for two conferences. Additional funding requests for important conferences can be made but are not guaranteed.

9. CoE Social Get Together

The COE is planning a faculty get-together on April 3, 2025. Ideas and participation in the planning process are welcomed. A planning ad hoc committee of Drs. Mountford, Fulkerson, Ramirez, and Sita Ramanarace

10. Overview of FA Upcoming Plans

Andres Ramirez discussed upcoming initiatives, including a brown bag lunch series and mentoring forums to foster connections within the college. A small ad hoc committee will coordinate these efforts. The hope is that these efforts can be promoted and attended across the college.

11. New Budget Model

Concerns were raised about the budget model, particularly the equal weighting of graduate and undergraduate credits. Faculty input on this matter has been limited as well as the dean's input. Additionally, it puts R1 status at risk since it heavily favors undergraduate programs. This is something that may be an ongoing issue, but it also could go away with the new president and a new provost. This model was under a former president.

12. Dean's Talking Points

There are not many changes due to our new R1 status. We are doing what is needed and we need to consider who is coming into the administration.

We want to continue helping faculty move forward on research and the Center for Research Excellence will be open this semester to assist with consulting.

We recently acquired an NVivo license. All departments have funded lines, and will conduct searches.

Accreditation was the first priority with the new hires, followed by filling vacant lines.

There are no new updates regarding changes to the evaluation criteria. Our evaluation process has issues, particularly with deans signing off after faculty and chairs have done so. We are reviewing the procedure to find a new way to handle it, as there is a lack of consistency across the campus. Currently, we operate on a criterion-referenced system. More discussion may be needed

regarding differential teaching loads. We aim to maintain consistency between evaluations and PTR guidelines.

There are no new updates on PTR. It is assumed that a group of individuals will be chosen from the college with a short timeline to address this.

The dean will set his agenda for his last and final Dean's Talking Points report at the next faculty assembly meeting.

13. Adjournment

12:04pm

Meeting minutes recorded by Dr. Kelly Emelianchik-Key, FA Secretary
Approved: 4/11/25