



meeting minutes 1/23/26

Faculty Assembly – Hybrid meeting

Attendance: Melissa Antonelli, Eileen Ariza, Cynthia Bauman, Yash Bhagwanji, Jenny Bloom, Rina Bousalis, Joseph Brojomohun-Gagnon, Susannah Brown, Victoria Brown, Vicki Brown, Bridgette Cassidy, Nicole Contreras-Garcia, John Critelly, Sharon Darling, Ken Dawson Sculley, Michael DeDonno, Bessie Dernikos, Steve Diaz, Charles Dukes, Kelly Emelianchik-Key, Alex Fields, Lisa Finnegan, Deborah Floyd, Michael Frain, Carman Gill, Peggy Goldstien, John Hardman, Kelly Kearney, Robyn Klein, Joyce Krzeminski, David Kumar, Rick Laliberte, Susanne Lapp, Anne Lieberman, Mary Lieberman, Philomena Marinaccio, Patricia Maslin-Ostrowski, Katie Miller, Meredith Mountford, Ann Musgrove, Bryan Nichols, Ron Persin, Jillian Powers, Andres Ramirez, Sita Ramnarance, Rangasamy Ramasamy, Daniel Reyes-Guerra, Dilys Schoorman, Jack Scott, Sabrina Sembiante, Bob Shockley, Robert Shockley, Gregory Taylor, Ayse Torres, Ann Van Zelst, Anne van Zelst, Maria D. Vasquez, Michelle Vaughn-McGovern, Elizabeth Villares-Sacks, Dale Williams

I. Old Business

- Andrés welcomed everyone to the new semester and announced the agenda. He emphasized the importance of signing in, both for in-person and online attendees, to help track attendance.
- The November meeting minutes were approved with a motion and second. Andrés noted a specific summary of the AI discussion from the previous meeting, which the AI Faculty Collaborative would address later in this meeting.
- Reminder about suggestion link and there was a reminder for the brown bag lunches. Today's brown bag lunch was Dr. Rogers and Van Zelst.
- [FACULTY ASSEMBLY SUGGESTION FORM](#)

II. New Business

Recruitment Events and participation

- Sita Ramnarance requested faculty participation in upcoming recruitment events that will require brief presentations about the College of Education.
- Choose Florida Atlantic (Boca Campus Admitted Student Events): Dates: February 16, February 23, and March 20, 2026. Academic information sessions run from 10:00–11:15 AM at multiple locations. Goal: Provide a positive, detail-oriented day to help admitted students make their college decision.
- Discover Florida Atlantic (Mini Open House): Dates: March 27 and April 3, 2026. Goal: Provide an informative visit to encourage prospective freshmen and transfer students to apply.

AI Faculty Collaborative

- Andrés presented survey results from the fall semester. Approximately 41% of faculty participated in the survey, which was described as a strong response rate. The data revealed that roughly half of faculty feel prepared to use AI, and that faculty would like more training on AI tools and applications.

- The College of Education is leading the way at FAU by creating the first action plan to address AI in education. Three working groups have been established to develop AI guidelines, pedagogical resources, and research support.
- **Upcoming sessions:** Training events are scheduled for February 9 and February 16. Faculty who attend are asked to bring something to work on during the hands-on sessions. A Zoom option was requested and the team is working to make that available.
- **AI Faculty Collaborative meeting:** February 2nd – groups will be formed at this meeting.
- **Teaching with Technology Showcase:** March 23, 2026.
- The university-level task force is also developing guidelines, with a focus on research and ethical use of AI. Faculty are encouraged to disclose their use of AI in course development. Upcoming training sessions on Copilot and Google Gemini are also scheduled.

Provost Talk

Dr. Ken Dawson-Scully, the new Provost at FAU, introduced himself to the Faculty Assembly. He shared his background in biology and neuroscience, and his previous roles at Florida Atlantic University and Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Dawson-Scully expressed that he is still in the process of learning about the full scope of faculty and student needs, and that he wants to take time to understand before making changes. He noted that he believes the existing support for faculty and students are strong. His overarching goal is to bridge the gap between faculty and upper administration and foster a collaborative environment for the university's success.

Points emphasized:

- Wants to support faculty and is open to being approached directly.
- Changes will happen collaboratively, with faculty voices included along the way.
- Strong commitment not to forget faculty voices and to represent faculty interests to upper administration.
- Invested in FAU remaining strong and to keep accelerating.
- He is open to attending Faculty Assembly at least once a year and expressed this as a priority.

Deans Talking Points

- The Dean emphasized the importance of faculty participation in college-wide events, noting their significant impact on the university's public persona and student recruitment.
- Upcoming training is scheduled for the EdVision system, which will go live in the summer with Phase 3 implementation.
- Discussion was held about how deadlines are determined and identifying dates that are convenient for faculty.
- There has been a new staff member that will provide individual support for faculty members needing assistance with ADA accessibility compliance. She will show faculty how to do tasks themselves so they can become self-sufficient. It is not realistic to expect her to do all tasks for faculty. The goal for each class is to reach 75% accessibility compliance or higher.
- The Dean discussed inequitable pay within the college. There are plans to analyze staff pay as well. Compression studies have been completed but results cannot be shared yet.
- A new College of Education research and scholarship page is being launched and will feature faculty research interests and expertise. Dr. DeDonno will be distributing a survey soon to gather research interests and research application familiarity, which will be used to populate the page.
- The university requires graduate students to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher to graduate. Exceptions can be made through a petition process, though petitions may not always be approved. Michael DeDonno has created a GPA calculator that will be released very soon for use by both faculty and students. Departments will develop their own dismissal policies while following college procedures guided by a 2025 provost

memo. The need to consider student support and resource allocation when developing dismissal practices was discussed.

- A dissertation workshop is scheduled for March 3rd, aimed at sharing best practices and potentially standardizing some processes across the college. The National Home Scholars dissertation workshop was also discussed.
- Online programming and internships, including paid internships, were mentioned as areas of focus.

FAU strategic plan discussion

- Dr. Reyes-Guerra provided an update on FAU's strategic planning discussions. The conversation addressed the need for agility in planning and the importance of building on existing strengths. The group reviewed SUS goals and their implications for FAU, including areas such as economic impact, student success, operational excellence, world-class talent, and innovative research. Challenges in developing new programs due to resource constraints were also acknowledged. Key points in the discussion included the need to consider the future landscape of higher education in Florida and the potential for the College of Education to lead in AI-infused pedagogical delivery and assessment. The college is also developing a survey to gather research interests and potential collaboration opportunities, with plans to share it with other colleges. A vertically integrated projects (VIP) application strategy was discussed, with emphasis on strategic planning for VIP submissions.

Guest Speaker, Social Work, Virtual Lab

- Dr. Morgan Cooley, Associate Professor in the College of Social Work and Criminal Justice, provided updates on two key initiatives:
- Community Partnership School: FAU is involved with JFK Middle School and Lake Worth Community High School. Dr. Cooley highlighted opportunities for faculty collaboration and grant work to support these schools, particularly in areas of mental health, child welfare, and trauma.
- Vertically Integrated Program (VIP) Seed Grant: A vertically integrated project using generative AI to support child welfare systems is underway. Dr. Cooley invited faculty interest for future VIP applications and offered support for potential collaborations.

Meeting adjourned at 12pm and an announcement the brown bag lunch to follow.

Recorded: Kelly Emelianchik-Key

Meeting minutes approved: 4/10/26

****A special note of thanks to the Dean's office for providing and organizing lunch.





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