

Faculty Assembly Meeting
October 29, 2018 2:00pm- 3:30pm
Engineering East, Room 106

- A. Call to order at 2:04pm: Welcome / Introductions by M. Arockiasamy, Faculty President
- B. Dr. Stella Batalama, Dean, COECS
 - a. Strongly recommend faculty stay involved in the assembly in order to make a difference
 - b. The strength of our College is our faculty. Very pleased to work with such outstanding faculty.
 - c. Welcomed 4 new faculty this academic year: Dr. Nayak, Dr. Merk, Dr. Verma, and Dr. von Ellenrieder.
 - d. We are the highest ranked undergraduate program at FAU
 - e. Most of the Dean, Associate Deans' and Chairs' time has been dedicated to activities that are focused on developing long term strategies that will impact our Key Performance indicators. (Provided detailed review of the metrics by which the SUS universities are measured) Strategic targets for these specific metrics need to be submitted this week.
 - f. Student recruiting and outreach efforts: aggressive plan; we have sent representatives for international recruiting for graduate and undergraduate. Explore FAU: High achieving students open house (150 students). Steve Swanson lecture to local HS and middle schools; live streamed to FL schools and live streamed abroad. STEM at Dolphins Stadium (with Steve Swanson) there were about 300 middle school students; Infrastructure Night (CEGE) 430 professionals, students, prospective students and industry.
 - g. Research: excellent research engagement (new research funding reached approximately \$8m in FY 2018, which brings us in the 2nd position and close to HBOI); mentoring of tenure track faculty
 - h. Industry Engagement: we are having discussions with FPL, Citrix, Magic Leap, Fort Lauderdale Alliance, FL-DoT, US DoT
 - i. UG/Grad Studies: thank you for working with our Associate Deans to make our programs at par with peers and well sought after. Examples: DFW rates, GRE requirements, MS credit hours, new specializations, new programs, etc.
 - j. Labs and Facilities: Davie Campus: Transportation Hub, Machine shop equipment: we are working to buy new equipment, Building 36: thank you to the Provost for helping us with the renovations.
 - k. Faculty growth: OME Chair search, faculty hiring (new season)
 - l. Marketing: social media conference attended by Cheryl and Tamsyn; hopefully we will have a complete strategy soon on how to approach social media. New brochures and post cards.
 - m. Development: FY 2018: \$1.3M raised. This year so far: \$138,000. 59 visits this quarter.
 - n. FL-Israel Institute- Seminar Series
 - o. COECS faculty textbooks (co-)authored: Thank you for your efforts
- C. Conversation with Dr. Bret Danilowicz, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - a. Working at a university where the State has very specific performance metrics is different than what I am used to.

- b. Our budget does not work for our institution. It is not an incentive-based model like other institutions. We are working to make changes and reward Colleges that grow. The COECS received extra funding from the Provost's Office this year.
- c. Trying to decentralize some decision making from Provost's Office to the Dean's Office of every College.
- d. Nobody outside of the Boca Campus has the authority to make decisions regarding CANVAS. We are working to decentralize and change that.
- e. Questions:
 - i. Dr. Zvi Roth: During your interview, you were asked how you felt about faculty assignments (making it uniform and having every College making their own decisions). What your views on that? Dr. Danilowicz: Not every College can have the same assignments when it comes to teaching loads because faculty may be at a different point in their career or research. I am a proponent of differential teaching loads where everyone puts in the same efforts whether it is through teaching load, service, research, etc.
 - ii. Dr. Raviv: In regards to education and security, is FAU planning on doing anything in response to the attacks in Pittsburg? Dr. Danilowicz: There is a Center for Holocaust and Human Rights: we in Florida are legislated to teach on the Holocaust. This center is the entity that trains teachers across the state to teach on that topic. Faculty should take the time to connect any major to current events and engage students.
 - iii. *(question not heard)* Dr. Danilowicz: The President's goal by 2025 is to go up by 25% in research expenditures. New funding for faculty is going to the Pillars because that's where the new lines were added.
 - iv. Dr. Abtahi: Our marketing is going very well. I was at an airport in NY and saw an FAU shirt. As teachers, we are more in that teaching sector, and we are getting bigger and bigger classes. In some departments, they are fairly well positioned for larger classes. In OME, we have machine needs, space needs, and that needs to go hand in hand with the marketing of the university. Students first complain to us (the faculty) and we do not know where to go with that. What would you do? Dr. Danilowicz: That kind of authority belongs at the College Dean's Office level. Which lines to hire for should be decisions made at the College level. Whether it's a new faculty line or a machinist, that should be decided on at the College level.
 - v. Dr. Fuhr: What if some faculty leave. What happens to these positions? Dr. Danilowicz: That doesn't happen anymore. Just because faculty leave (retire, resign) those positions don't necessarily remain open for the College to hire. The College has to apply for that block of funding all over again so that we can determine if those positions are still needed or if the funding can be allocated elsewhere. The decisions on that funding is made at the Provost's Office and may be allocated to a different College if needed. Our College benefitted from this model just this year because some faculty lines from other Colleges were removed and we received extra funding.

D. Dr. Khaled Sobhan, Interim Dean, Graduate College

- a. The Graduate College is steadily thriving.
- b. All academic Colleges are not doing well in the 4-year graduation rate.
- c. We are presenting to the Board of Governor's on November 19th on the metrics.

- d. The Graduate College's key indicators are: doctoral degrees awarded, total graduate degrees awarded and the 4-year graduation rate.
- e. Graduate College services and programs: recruitment workshops, open house, information sessions, new student orientation, GTA orientation, thesis and dissertation manuscript reviews, thesis and dissertation formatting workshops, professional development workshops, 3 Minute Thesis, Graduate and Professional Research Day, eNews, degree certification, Master's En Passant, Graduate Pathways, graduate admissions.
- f. We are looking for great commencement stories: we want to highlight students and their advisors. Please send us an email and the Graduate College will interview you.
- g. If you have a student that needs help financially, contact the Graduate College. We always try to help the student.
- h. Dr. Zvi Roth: As you know, a point of contention between COECS and the Graduate College was the tuition waivers. For years, students working 10 hours would get full tuition waivers. Will there be any change under your leadership? Dr. Sobhan: The tuition waiver policy is under serious discuss and revision. One year from today, I may be able to tell you that we have a revised tuition waiver policy.
- i. The President's Office, Provost's Office and Office of Advancement are working towards offering Health Insurance to student's receiving waivers: FIU offers 75%, UF offers 100%, we offer 0%.
- j. Dr. Fuhr: Are there funds for students for traveling to present in professional conferences? Dr. Sobhan: When students approach us about a great opportunity where they are presenting, we see what we can do for them. There is no formal application process for funds to pay for conferences or publication fees. GPSA has funding available for students who travel; students should inquire about those opportunities. Dr. Kaisar: The GPSA makes the process to apply for funds difficult for students. The maximum is \$800 per year. Only \$600 if they are traveling within the US. Dr. Sobhan: Please approach us because we can work with GPSA to match funds and help the student.
- k. Financial support is available to students: Presidential and Provost Fellowships. Our website has all the details.
- l. McKnight program: we will pay 5 years of tuition waivers, an outside agency pays full stipend. We have 5 at FAU, 3 from COECS.
- m. We are an HSI institution. To be an MSI institution we need to have 50% minority students.
- n. Dr. Zilouchian: as an HSI institution, we qualify for many grants, not necessarily for Hispanic students.
- o. Recruitment grants: we have funding available for travel to recruit students, or to bring students to campus or other recruiting activities.
- p. Tuition waiver policy: it is being continuously reviewed A workshop with College fiscal/budget coordinators and managers was held on July 19, 2018.
- q. We have no scarcity of applications. About half of students who applied were offered admission, much less actually enrolled. We need money to offer students so that they accept our offers of admission. Colleges make admission decisions. The Graduate College does NOT make admission decisions.
- r. Headcount and graduate degrees awarded have not increased over the years. The five-year trend is an almost flat line.
- s. 3 Minute Thesis Championship is this Friday, November 2nd. Out of 28 students, 4 COECS made it to the Championship.
- t. More than 230 students have RSVP'd for the Graduate College Open House on November 1 at 4:30pm.

- E. Dr. Jason Hallstrom, Professor & Director, I-SENSE
 - a. Update on ISENSE
 - b. Our team is focused on developing the technology of sensing and smart systems.
 - c. Research infrastructure: identified program leaders across Colleges
 - d. Administrative team: responsive, individualized support for pillar members, customer service oriented culture
 - e. Engineering team: end to end hardware and software design capability, significant commercial experience
 - f. Research team: folks that are recruited usually bring in their own funds and resources

Meeting adjourned at 3:26pm

F. Committee Chair Reports

1. Dr. Valentine Aalo (Personnel Committee & Graduate Studies Committee)
2. Dr. Amir Abtahi (CP & D Committee)
3. Dr. Manhar Dhanak (Research Committee)
4. Dr. Daniel Meerooff (Undergraduate Studies Committee)

G. Open forum

H. Adjournment