

PETITION TO INCLUDE THE ATTACHED MOTION TO THE SENATE MARCH 21, 2014 AGENDA

We the undersigned support the attached motion to be included on the Senate meeting of March 21, 2014.

1. Mary Deacon, Anthropology (Mary Cameron)
2. Marshall DeRosa, Political Science (Marshall DeRosa; signed by Mary Cameron)
3. Max Kirsch, Anthropology (Max Kirsch)
4. Terry Eggenberger, Nursing (Terry Eggenberger)
5. Susan Dyess, Nursing
6. Bernadette Lange, Nursing
7. [Signature]
8. Lester Embree, Anthropology / Philosophy (LESTER EMBREE)
9. [Signature], Political Science
10. Don Brodhead, ANTHROPOLOGY
11. Susan Love Brown, ANTHROPOLOGY
12. Ravi Behar, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
13. [Signature], School of Communication (Patricia Darlington)

MOTION

Preamble

Whereas: Article 9.5 of the 2012-15 Collective Bargaining Agreement speaks to specific conditions of Summer Assignments, thus providing principles that can be mutually supported by explicit office hours policy around Summer Assignments and which the FAU faculty, through the Senate, may decide and recommend to the FAU President as academic policy; and,

Whereas: FAU, through the Center for eLearning and over the past several years, has invested great financial and personnel resources in expertly training FAU faculty to develop and teach online courses, including as part of a Summer Assignment, and faculty have invested extensive time in developing said courses; and,

Whereas: The 2008 Provost's Office Hours Policy that addresses online courses has not been updated to incorporate and reflect the FAU faculty's progression over the past several years to the highest standards of online teaching and technological knowledge, nor to reflect the FAU student body's progressive experience with online courses and learning technology, nor to reflect advances in teaching, advising and communication technology, nor does the policy speak specifically to the unique conditions and faculty opportunities of Summer Assignments in general and those that include online courses, opportunities described below; and,

Whereas: Student demand for summer online courses is strong and summer online courses facilitate graduation rates; and,

Whereas: Research by the member finds that faculty report little to no attendance of summer online students during on-campus office hours, nor do they report student demand for such office hours; this can be attributed to the many and varied ways student and teacher are continuously and collaboratively connected and engaged in the online environment via email, chat rooms, discussion board, Skype, feedback through MyGrades, and more; and,

Whereas: Research by the member finds that faculty are concerned that online students living far from campus may feel disadvantaged by current mandatory on-campus office hours for summer online courses offered by some FAU colleges; and,

Whereas: Faculty teaching online courses as part of a Summer Assignment can potentially avail themselves of enhanced flexibility in travel related to research, off-campus collaborations, outreach, service and other professional opportunities; and,

Whereas: Research by the member finds that the 2008 Provost's Office Hours Policy related to online courses is being applied inconsistently across the colleges, leading to different opportunities for the above-mentioned summer research and other professional travel for faculty members; therefore

RESOLVED That the Senate recommends to the FAU President that the following office hours policy for online courses that are part of a Summer Assignment be adopted and added to the 2008 Provost's Office Hours Policy beginning Summer Semester 2014: "A faculty member teaching a distance learning or online course as part of a Summer Assignment shall conduct the normally expected total number of office hours. Faculty and instructors teaching fully online courses will not be required to hold on campus office hours for these courses. Faculty and instructors teaching blended courses (combined face-to-face and online) will hold on campus and remote office hours proportionate to the class schedule format: for example, a 50-50 face-to-face / online hybrid course will have 50% of the office hours on campus and 50% remotely, and in a sequence of the instructor's choosing. All synchronous and asynchronous office hours for fully online courses and for that proportion of a blended course that is online may be held remotely in a format of the instructor's choosing and as technology advances, including but not limited to email, Skype, discussion board threads, and chat room discussions. The syllabus and office door postings must designate the office hours and technology used."

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Peter Ricci

02/25/2014

Instructor; college of Business