FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE
Minutes
November 10, 2025
2:00 PM – 3:00PM
Virtual – ZOOM

1. Attendance:

   a. Members: Kim Dunn (Chair), Stacie Rossow, Meredith Mountford, Zhijun Yin, Sharon Darling, Christopher Beetle, Fred Hoffman
   b. Guest(s): Marie Claire DeMassi, Maria Jennings, Iselgis Garcia, Jayson Iroff, Dan Meeroff, Dawn Rothe, Hari Kalva, and Nicholas Baima

2. Call to order at 2:01 PM by Chair, Dr. Kim Dunn

3. Approval of the APBC Minutes from October 10, 2025, meeting.

4. **Update on SPOT response rates – Dan Meeroff**

   - Dr. Meeroff reported that SPOT response rates had fallen below 35% in past terms. In Spring 2024, FAU implemented two changes—a longer SPOT window and a single sign-on reminder requiring students to view, but not complete, SPOTs before accessing apps like Canvas. A third idea, adopting a third-party vendor with incentives, remains unimplemented in OIT's review queue. Following the Spring changes, response rates rose above 50% across colleges, approaching pre-pandemic levels, though summer terms continue to lag.

   - Significant concerns were raised about how SPOTs are being used. Several faculty reported that low response rates are being used punitively in evaluations, creating pressure to "incentivize" student participation. Members requested clear guidance prohibiting the use of response rates as negative evaluation criteria. Question #6, the global rating item, was repeatedly identified as problematic due to susceptibility to bias and disproportionate impact in small classes. Older analyses suggest it deviates from Questions 1–5, raising questions about whether it should remain in evaluative use. Additional concerns emerged from one college where faculty were reportedly required to meet or exceed college means on Question #6 to earn a "Good" teaching rating—an approach members noted may conflict with the CBA's ban on norm-referenced evaluation practices.

   - The committee also discussed the SPOT administration window. The current 21-day period may allow students in shorter terms to see final grades before completing SPOTs, weakening validity. Members debated shortening the window to the last week of classes or considering a 10–14-day compromise, while retaining the SSO reminder. SPOTs cannot overlap exam week or

open before the withdrawal deadline. No recommendation was made, and the issue was deferred.

- For next steps, the committee will seek an updated IEA validity analysis, particularly whether Question #6 is an outlier, how class size affects results, and how individual items behave statistically. Members will submit specific questions to Dr. Meeroff for IEA. The committee will also invite Provost Russell Ivy (or a designee) to a future meeting, likely in January, to clarify administrative expectations regarding SPOT usage in evaluations, including response rates, Question #6, and alignment with CBA provisions.

5. College of Engineering and Computer Science – Proposal for New Degree Program, Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence with Philosophy, Dr. Hari Kalva

- [Proposal](#)
- [Additional Support Letter 1](#)
- [Additional Support Letter 2](#)
- [Additional Support Letter 3](#)

The committee reviewed the proposed AI & Philosophy program solely for economic impact. Although the documentation listed an estimated first-year cost (~$135,000), Engineering clarified that no new sections will be created, and existing faculty and courses will cover program demand. Therefore, costs reflect a reallocation of existing instructional resources rather than new expenditures.

The chair requested completion of missing faculty degree/discipline information and encouraged pursuit of Program of Strategic Emphasis designation.

Motion: A motion was made to move the cost-neutral program forward with a positive recommendation to Steering. **Motion carries.**

6. **Calendar – Tentative**
The Steering Committee sent the question of designating Yom Kippur as a no-class day back to APB for further review. Administration is still evaluating the issue, so no decision has been made yet. Because the academic calendar must be submitted to the Board of Governors by March 1, the committee will revisit this item at an upcoming meeting to ensure a recommendation is made in time.

7. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.
Closing & Next Steps
- Committee will:
  - Develop precise questions for IEA's validity analysis of SPOTs.
  - Prepare questions for the Provost regarding SPOT policy and use in evaluations.
  - Revisit SPOT window and Yom Kippur calendar questions at a future (January) meeting.
- Meeting adjourned with closing thanks and holiday well-wishes.