

New College of Florida Faculty Meeting  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
Sudakoff

Recorded Attendance:

**Faculty:** Aguila-Ames, Anderson, Barton, Black, Brion, Carrasco, Clark, Clore, Colladay, Crow, Dean, Edidin, Feldman, Fennie, Flakne, Gilchrist, Gillman, Gorup, Graham, Harley, Hernandez, Hubbard, Hustwit, Jiang, Klingenberg, Kottke, Labrador-Rodriguez, Levell, Li, Lopez, Maass, Manzur, McDonald, Myhill, Page, Pedersen, Perez, Pirone, Portugal, Reid, Rohrbacher, Roy, Ryba, Rycyk, Serban, Sharifian, Tabatabaie, Thompson, Toro-Farmer, Walstrom, Young, Zambrano, Zamsky, Zhang

**Staff and Guests:** Charles, Heffernan, Wen

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 PM, Alberto Portugal serving as Chair.

### Approval of the Minutes

- Motion to Approve the Minutes (Steven Graham)
- Second (David Gillman)
- Minutes approved

### Announcements

- Jessica Young provided information regarding upcoming deadlines involving the SASC, course evaluations and contract certifications.

### Reports

- President's Report:
  - Campus improvements
    - A park has been developed behind Robertson Hall. There will be music, food, beer available Tuesday-Saturday.
    - Road from 58<sup>th</sup> Street is under construction
    - The jumbotron is/will soon be functioning
    - Softball field will be ready for the beginning of the season
    - Greenhouse and Landscaping scheduled for February/March
    - Pritzker construction is under way.
  - Questions and comments
    - Amy Reid: What is happening with Palmer C,E,B?
    - President: Things are complicated by the car museum. We are using the car museum for office space. Action was held up by the city/county. We will wait on B and C. We will take down B and the 58<sup>th</sup> Street house.
    - Amy Reid: Can you clarify whether B will be brought back.

- President: B may be usable. Car museum was given until March to vacate.
- Katie Brion: Will the *Band of Angels* statue be preserved?
- President: It will be preserved, hopefully as a centerpiece.
- Sarah Hernandez: Is the Child Care Center on 58<sup>th</sup> Street being taken down?
- President: No, just the first two houses on 58<sup>th</sup> Street, which are currently being used for storage. There are negotiation for a house owned by the Diocese under way.
- Sandra Gilchrist: What is the status of repairs for the strobic fans in Heiser?
- President: There is a stopgap in place: 100K to repair motors.
- Sandra Gilchrist: Will work be done by the end of December?
- President: The project is under way now.
- Jessica Young: Are there discussions concerning traffic control for 58<sup>th</sup> Street underway?
- President: Yes. Suggestions are welcome.
- Sarah Hernandez: What will happen to the two houses on 58<sup>th</sup> Street that are being demolished?
- President: That space is part of Campus Master Plan considerations. Nothing is set.
- Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez: Is parking for ACE under study? Perhaps a difference between parking for students and parking for faculty?
- President: Plans are being considered for parking east of 41.
- Legislative update
  - There is more money for NCF in governor's budget than last year. So far, money is nonrecurring, with total somewhere around 40M.
  - Meeting with Senate and House in hopes of moving money to recurring.
  - The College retained a federal lobbyist.
- Private fundraising
  - Talking to donors about green space and naming opportunities.
  - Foundation is up year-over-year: 5.5% spend rate is down to 3.5%, which corresponds to an extra 1M in scholarships.
  - Pitch packets are done.
  - A large-scale campaign will begin in January.
- Faculty hiring
  - President: State requirements are requiring adjustments to curriculum. Faculty are encouraged to call if there are questions.
  - Amy Reid: Earlier in the semester you gave written updates. Those work well. There are problems with individual communications.
  - President: There are many constraints and meetings with many constituencies. Email updates will be delivered. Texts help to keep things active. Any ideas to increase students and/or revenues that further the mission should be shared.
- Provost's report

- Questions and comments concerning an online program with a pilot scheduled to begin the Spring.
  - Nova Myhill: Brickhouse and Allen suggest that this will be an NCF degree. Is that true? Are we hiring faculty for next year?
  - Provost Thiessen: I know nothing about hiring. The program is limited to the concentration in Liberal Arts. SACS constrains us to map all requirements to our current program.
  - Sarah Hernandez: This is a significant change to working conditions and requires negotiation with the union.
  - Provost Thiessen: I do not disagree.
  - David Gillman: This seems to be the pet project of a donor who wants to serve needy people of Florida. Is there any discussion of scholarships?
  - Provost Thiessen: I don't know.
  - Alberto Portugal: When will the faculty get a description of details of the program in writing?
  - Provost Thiessen: I have made a request in writing for more details.
  - Melanie Hubbard: Ricketts has a particular curriculum in mind.
  - Provost Thiessen: We must tell SACS what material will be used. Instructors will have choices.
  - Tarron Khmeraj: This seems to be creating a parallel program. There are questions involving cost: one-time big donation versus long-time cost to support the program.
  - Sarah Hernandez: You have been asked to answer questions about a program with no knowledge of the program. Who knows anything about this program?
  - Provost Thiessen: Nathan Allen and President Corcoran.
  - David Rohrbacher: There is a problem with MOOCs and online programs: they are not consistent with our mission as a great liberal arts college.
  - Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez: I worry that unqualified people will make curricular decisions on behalf of the College.
  - Provost Thiessen: It is our program. We have to demonstrate that we control curriculum. It is not completely out of our control. We should not settle for a curriculum forced upon us.
  - Heidi Harley: Prescott College has online courses. It might be helpful to look at what they do. Will this program include degree seeking students?
  - Provost Thiessen: I believe the model is: 1 year certificates, 2 year AA degrees and 4 year BA degrees.
  - Aron Edidin: This is about how decisions about academic programs are made. Who is the "we" controlling things? There are many ideas in the room addressing needs of students. This should draw on the expertise of faculty.
  - Provost Thiessen: We have limited control. There is a need for sign-offs involving CYC, etc. The College is required to comply with certain processes by SACS.

- Alberto Portugal: We have procedures – they should be used. We must decide whether we stand by our processes. We need written descriptions and we need to understand who is in charge of what.
  - Provost Thiessen: Requests have been made for details. There are internal problems with process to be addressed.
  - Alberto Portugal: There are division meetings in January.
  - Provost Thiessen: We cannot proceed without abiding by a process.
  - Amy Reid: SACS only allows 50% of the program to be online.
  - Provost Thiessen: Correction. Because of a pandemic adjustment, we can offer online degrees.
  - Alberto Portugal: The next faculty meeting is January 17, with lunch beginning at 11:30.
- Special Report: Update on QEP
  - Athena Rycyk:
    - Next year is the fifth year of the program. We have seen improvements in first contract, retention, and ability to navigate NCF.
    - Studying how QEP fits into the core curriculum. This includes considering module length first year courses and a unifying “Quest for Knowledge” theme.
    - There will be an early call for courses, with a need to declare interest in January/February.
  - Question and comments
    - Barbara Feldman: Can Sociology do one?
    - Athena Rycyk: Yes
    - Amy Reid: Why have semester long courses been reduced to module length courses?
    - Athena Rycyk: The intention is to keep the required load for first years low.
- EPC and Ad Hoc General Education Committee
  - Nova Myhill: (General Education)
    - There are multiple issues involving general education on campus.
      - We have LAC requirements being replaced by CYC requirements.
      - BOG has made changes to statewide requirements
      - BOT and President have additional constraints
    - There will be students coming in next year on CYC. We must make changes in how CYC is articulated to remain in compliance with BOG updates.
    - BOG updates are evolving and we must anticipate as much as possible.
    - Technical details were presented and descriptions of options available to address statute were described.
    - Must be in compliance by 2024-25
  - Nova Myhill: (Core Curriculum)
    - Core curriculum must have substantial overlap with Gen Ed requirements
    - First year shared experience
      - Mod credit courses aimed at thinking about/building community

- General outline of the current thinking: eight full term courses and three mod courses for a total of 38 credits.
  - *Odyssey*, *Intro to Techne* and *Quest for Knowledge* are intro one mod courses.
  - Six general education courses.
  - One intermediate “Techne” course and one intermediate “Logos” course.
- A narrative explanation of how this might work is in development.
- There will be a call for proposals
- This will be discussed in division meetings and in a special meeting.

Move to Adjourn (Don Colladay)

Meeting ended at 2:00PM