

New College of Florida Faculty Meeting
Wednesday, November 8, 2023
Sudakoff

Recorded Attendance:

Faculty: Aguila-Ames, Barton, Bauer, Black, Clark, Clore, Colladay, Cook, Cooper, Crow, Danciger, Dean, Edidin, Ellis, Feldman, Gilchrist, Gillman, Gorup, Graham, Griffin, Harley, Harvey, Hernandez, Hicks, Hubbard, Humphries, Hustwit, Kottke, Labrador-Rodriguez, Levell, Li, Lopez, Manzur, McDonald, Myhill, Pedersen, Perez, Pirone, Portugal, Rohrbacher, Roy, Ryba, Rycyk, Serban, Skripnikov, Sharifian, Shaw, Shi, Soto, Tabatabaie, Toro-Farmer, Walstrom, Wyman, Young, Yu, Zamsky, Zhang

Staff and Guests: Charles, Heffernan, Lal, Jefferis, A. Jones, Smith, Vanderberg

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 PM, Alberto Portugal serving as Chair.

Approval of the Minutes

- Motion to Approve the Minutes (Barbara Hicks)
- Second (Sarah Hernandez)
- Minutes approved as amended

Announcements

- Nova Myhill provided information regarding upcoming theatre productions.
- Barbara Hicks provided information regarding upcoming talks.

Reports

- EPC Report
 - David Harvey: Work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Core Curriculum is moving forward. Work involving registration, GPA proxy, and the academic calendar is moving forward.
- PAC Report
 - Aron Edidin: Paper ballots for promotion and tenure will be distributed. Please note that the usual tenure and promotion ballots will be just tenure ballots. Divisional discussions of candidates for promotion and tenure are scheduled for the following Wednesday. The PAC will send reminders involving meetings and voting deadlines.
- FPBC Report
 - Alberto Portugal: The committee is following up on summer work. Progress is being made on salary compression and inversion. Details concerning retention bonuses are coming together; concerns have been voiced regarding timelines. There have been discussions involving Faculty Development Funds that include

conversations aimed at making earlier awards for summer research. Agendas for the committee meetings are available on Canvas.

- Provost Report

- Brad Thiessen: Written report was distributed in advance of the meeting.
- Questions and Discussion:
 - Barbara Hicks: There is concern involving academic coaches.
 - Brad Thiessen: Plan for academic coaches to address retention are in the early stages of development.
 - David Gillman: It could be that statistics involving first year retention are both true and optimized?
 - Brad Thiessen: Available data suggests that we can do better.
 - David Rohrbacher: Academic coaches/advisors might work well for administration. How do we make sure they work well for faculty and students?
 - Brad Thiessen: We will work closely with faculty to fit the program.
 - David Gillman: How do academic coaches get trained? What are the job requirements?
 - Brad Thiessen: Currently unknown. The plan is in its early stages. There are funds dedicated to getting it right.
 - Sandra Gilchrist: Are there honors colleges and places that require a thesis where academic coaches are used, or do faculty at such places do advising?
 - Brad Thiessen: People in the provost office are currently investigating this issue. Faculty input is expected.
 - Sarah Hernandez: Students are leaving for reasons other than academic advising. We won't solve the retention problem by just addressing advising.
 - Brad Thiessen: We must address many things, including a sense of belonging.
 - Emily Heffernan: We were told that this was happening and we worked hard to keep it in academic affairs. Colorado College switched from pure faculty advising to a hybrid model and got good results. We are studying them to determine if something similar will work here. We are also looking at other places. The NCSA presidents' survey indicated negative attitudes concerning first year advising.
 - David Gillman: There are reports from students concerning an unofficial policy of bullying students who are not athletes. This might be contributing to our retention problem.
 - Brad Thiessen: We will investigate.
 - Barbara Hicks: Please clarify whether the lines described in your report are in addition to current searches.
 - Brad Thiessen: The lines listed in the report include new lines (not replacements).
 - Gerardo Toro-Farmer: Coaches are advising some students regarding how many classes to take. This is concerning.

- Brad Thiessen: This should not have happened. We will work to address this. Coaches should not provide advice on courses or other academic things.
- Alberto Portugal: Administration should involve faculty on searches and other matters affecting the academic program. We need to use our organizational structures to shape process.

New Business

Motion to adopt early course choice and academic contracts (David Harvey for the EPC)

- Motion to append the Faculty Handbook section 6.4 (see text).
- The motion was read and a rationale was given. The rationale addressed concerns involving early registration and minicourses, as well implementation via Banner Version 9.
- Discussion:
 - Amy Clore: It is unclear what the relationship between early course choice and the contract is.
 - Rebecca Noss: Students select courses via an online system. These courses are preloaded to a contract which is later discussed with and approved by faculty.
 - Maribeth Clark: No widget to create tutorials.
 - Rebecca Noss: Technical details are being worked out.
 - David Rohrbacher: This seems like a step backwards for searching for courses.
 - Rebecca Noss: We are working on technical fixes. There is an advanced search option.
 - Aron Edidin: Thanks for your hard work on this: you did a good job splitting the difference between two conflicting desires. How will renegotiation be done?
 - Rebecca Noss: The same as before. We are working with IT on adjustments.
 - Sherry Yu: Can the registrar send a PDF of all available courses?
 - Rebecca Noss: This is possible.
 - Barbara Hicks: The only way to control enrollment is to set a low cap.
 - Rebecca Noss: There are other options, for example, prerequisites can be set. Please keep in mind that registration affects student academic status and financial aid. Students should have choices. We caution against being too restrictive early in the process. There are ways to address student needs. The primary instructor approves all prerequisites and caps.
 - Alberto Portugal: Are you ready to vote?
- Motion carries by a show of hands.

Motion to adopt a policy regarding academic integrity and AI (Jessica Young for the ad hoc committee)

- Motion to amend the Faculty Handbook section 6.20 (see text)
- Second: Barbara Hicks
 - The motion was read and a rationale given. The rationale noted the problem addressed is subtle and the motion focusses on plagiarism.
- Discussion:

- Barbara Hicks: Thanks to the committee.
- Jessica Young: Perhaps it is time to consider a standing committee on AI and the academic program.
- Alberto Portugal: The question has been called.
- Michelle Barton: The responsibility for a decision lies on the faculty member. December is ambitious for implementation.
- Jessica Young: There are sample templates/guidelines available. There is material gathered by faculty available in the library on related issues.
- Motion carries unanimously.

Special Reports

Proposal for a Master's in Marine Mammal Science program

- Heidi Harley presented material in support of a new master's program.
 - Idea originated in 2011
 - Discussion with President Corcoran in May 2023
 - Leverage strength in marine mammal program
 - All contingent on new money
- Discussion:
 - Ty Ryba: Thank you for your work on this.
 - Sandra Gilchrist: Does the program involve faculty who will only teach graduate students?
 - Heidi Harley: Yes. Because of grant support there will be graduate only faculty.
 - Amy Clore: I am concerned about losing faculty in the undergraduate program.
 - Heidi Harley: Faculty will be available for tutorials, ISPs, etc.
 - Barbara Hicks: I have concerns about the impact of graduate only faculty.
 - Chris Kottke: Are there plans for a 3+2 program?
 - Heidi Harley: No.

Move to Adjourn (Don Colladay)

Meeting ended at 2:00PM