

New College of Florida Faculty Meeting
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Sudakoff

Recorded Attendance:

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

Staff and Guests: Charles, Jefferis, T. Jones, Vanderberg

The meeting was called to order at 12:36 PM, Alberto Portugal serving as Chair.

Approval of the Minutes

- Motion to Approve the Minutes (Barbara Hicks)
- Second (Melanie Hubbard)
- Minutes approved as amended

Announcements

- Manuel Lopez provided information regarding the Mellon Grant, including a call for proposals (due October 20).
- Sandra Gilchrist welcomed VAP Vlad Serban.
- Maribeth Clark announced that the Division of Humanities had voted to retain lines in Digital Media, English, French, Gender Studies, Music, and Religion (Judaic Studies and American Religion).

Reports

- Presidential report
 - The College anticipates filling 30-40 faculty lines. Faculty are encouraged to work with the Provost.
 - The College recently obtained a 9 acres parcel of land from the airport. A call for ideas regarding use for the land was issued.
 - Foundation pitches are presently being developed.
 - New curriculum is currently under development.
 - Questions and Comments
 - Maribeth Clark: What is the relationship between the 9 acre parcel and the College's lease with the airport?

- President Corcoran: There is no relationship to airport lease. We anticipate that in 90-120 days there will be a long-term agreement with the airport involving leased land.
- Provost report (written report submitted)
 - Questions and comments
 - Amy Reid: Faculty recruitment has been discussed. Can you speak to staff recruitment?
 - Provost Thiessen: Administration is working on it. Retention is problematic.
 - Amy Reid: Censoring email may be having a negative effect.
 - David Gillman: Is there an update on faculty hiring?
 - Provost Thiessen: 18 lines have been approved (6 per Division). Ads have or are being drafted and faculty are asked to work with Communications and Marketing to include uniform, standardized boilerplate.
 - David Rohrbacher: A question regarding process: It seems like there are places in the process where the provost might drop people into the list of candidates being considered. Please clarify.
 - Provost Thiessen: We are following the Faculty Handbook. It is possible that people will be inserted into the list of candidates being considered, but the President has agreed to follow the Faculty Handbook.
 - Michael Gorup: Where do inserted candidates come from?
 - Provost Thiessen: Anyone being inserted must have already applied (i.e., they must have already submitted an application for the job under consideration).
 - Amy Reid: There will not be random CVs floating around?
 - Provost Thiessen: There may be random CVs floating around, but they will not be considered as candidates if they have not applied.
 - Sandra Gilchrist: To be inserted, do people have to apply for a specific job?
 - Provost Thiessen: Yes. To be inserted as a candidate for a specific job, a person must have applied for that specific job.
 - Alberto Portugal: Can you discuss the Core Curriculum Committee?
 - Provost Thiessen: I will defer to David Harvey, Nova Myhill and Carl Shaw.
 - David Harvey: The Core Curriculum Committee will consolidate the CYC and the new Core Curriculum. Four of six members are currently on the EPC. Carl Shaw is Chair, April Flakne and David Gillman are members from the EPC and Athena Rycyk is ex-officio representing Set-Sail.
 - Nova Myhill: Other people working with the committee include Rebecca Noss and Rob Zamsky. The Committee will report to the EPC. Any changes will go through the Faculty Handbook process. The Committee charge is in the Provost's report. The BOG will soon issue guidance on Gen Ed requirements in light of SB 266.
 - David Harvey: Draft BOG recommendations are already posted. The majority of things we already offer.

- Provost Thiessen: Issued a call for action to faculty re new faculty lines. Preliminary workload data has suggested certain lines be considered. Cluster hires are a possibility.
 - Sarah Hernandez: Voiced concern about soliciting lines without guidance. This approach has not worked in the past.
 - Provost Thiessen: We are following the previous proposal process. We should think carefully. The timeline is more than one year.
- AAC Report
 - Alberto Portugal: There is concern regarding budgeting for upcoming searches.
 - Provost Thiessen: There will be 8K for searches per Division.
- SASC Report
 - Jessica Young: Follow-up concerning staffing of Community Board: Call for participation is out and all interested parties are encouraged to apply (thanks to Chris Kottke, Emily Heffernan and Dean Rancourt). There is a plan to address conflict of interest for those on the SASC who want to volunteer.
 - Question and comment:
 - Chris Kottke: There is a rumor about updates to the Student Code of Conduct. Is there a process?
 - Provost Thiessen: Changes must go through full BOT approval.
 - Sarah Hernandez: We should consider having representatives from each Division.
 - Jessica Young: There will be a call to general faculty. An attempt will be made to represent all Divisions, but there will be no requirement. It is important to have a deep pool of potential volunteers. The required training is short and online.
 - Jessica Young: The committee is working on language involving athletics.
- FPBC
 - Alberto Portugal: An ad-hoc committee will meet to discuss Inversion/Compression
- IRB
 - Sherry Yu: November 13 is the deadline for full board reviews.
- FASC
 - Andrey Skripnikov: No report.
- PAC
 - Aron Edidin: Please respond to the Calls For Letters (tenure deadline: October 27; promotion deadline: October 31). We are still waiting on Administration to resolve technical details involving tenure files.
 - Questions and comments:
 - Carl Shaw: Can we just update previous letters?
 - Alberto Portugal: Please change dates.
 - Aron Edidin: Candidates have updated their files. Consider reading updates and responding accordingly.
 - Aron Edidin: In reference to technical question: Candidates can include what they want to include. The question to be resolved is: What must be included?
- International and Area Studies

- Jing Zhang: Applications due soon for new courses.
- Student Representatives
 - Colin Jefferis: Students have a statement with a request that the second Monday of October be recognized as Indigenous Peoples Day (see meeting materials). Short report regarding activities organized in recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day.

New Business

Motion to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day (Jessica Young)

- Motion request that the second Monday of October be recognized as Indigenous Peoples Day and the Faculty endorse a statement of support for Indigenous people (see text).
- Seconded: Sarah Hernandez
- The motion was read and a short justification was given
- Discussion:
 - Daniel Page: Why are we being asked to endorse a statement?
 - Jessica Young: We voted to accept a holiday as a bargaining unit. No one looked at the name of the holiday. We are asking that the name be changed.
 - Daniel Page: I have a problem with endorsing the attached statement. Why do we have to do this? It's not about content. It's about plurality.
 - David Rohrbacher: I was Chair of the bargaining team when the holidays were added. The faculty voted to accept the holiday. They are voting again to change the name.
 - David Harvey: The EPC will review the calendar. They will bring it to the BOT who will approve it or not.
 - Jessica Young: As a Native American, it matters. Students care about this. We lost all our Native American students over the summer. In addition, the motion just changes the name to be consistent with federal law.
 - Colin Jefferis: New College did not have Columbus Day. Administration added it.
 - Will Andrews: What is the objection?
 - Daniel Page: The motion contradicts the spirit of inclusivity.
 - Will Andrews: What is the proposed alternative?
 - Daniel Page: Modify the motion to read that the second Monday of October also be recognized as Indigenous Peoples Day.
 - Jessica Young: I would not accept this as a friendly amendment.
 - Alberto Portugal: Is there a second?
 - Alberto Portugal: Motion to amend fails for lack of second.
 - Amy Reid: Call the question.
- Motion carries on voice vote with Daniel Page voting against.

Motion to revise the policy concerning academic dishonesty (Barbara Hicks)

- Motion to revise the academic dishonesty policy to address concerns about AI (see text)
- Second (Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez)

- The motion was read “Unauthorized use of AI is a violation of the academic dishonesty policy”, and a rationale given.
- Discussion
 - Hasam Sharifian: I have concerns with the motion. I encourage the use of AI as a research tool.
 - Barbara Hicks: The policy will be “If students don’t declare their use, then it is dishonest.”
 - Amy Clore: There are false positives involved in testing for use. How will this be enforced?
 - Barbara Hicks: The problem is unauthorized use.
 - Bernhard Klingenberg: I have real problems with the motion. What do students think? How do we define boundaries?
 - Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez: We are already experiencing problems with unauthorized use and reporting.
 - David Gillman: Shares the concerns of Bernhard and Hasam. We should rewrite to specifically target plagiarism.
 - Fred Pirone: We must define “unauthorized”. Otherwise, we create vagueness.
 - David Rohrbacher: “Unauthorized” is ok. It is clear enough.
 - Bernhard Klingenberg: AI is much bigger than ChatGPT. The problem is scope.
 - Barbara Hicks: People are free to shape their syllabus to address the problem.
 - Amy Reid: Can we replace “unauthorized” by “unacknowledged”?
 - Chris Pedersen: It seems overly broad. Can we replace with “AI generated text”?
 - Barbara Hicks: The problem is more than text.
 - Hasam Sharifian: We are singling out AI in an unclear way.
 - David Harvey: Move to table.
 - Alberto Portugal: Motion to refer to committee.
 - Maribeth Clark: Refer to AAC for academic dishonesty?
 - Alberto Portugal: Motion to move to committee. EPC takes on the issue and forms an ad hoc committee to investigate.
 - Sandra Gilchrist: Point of order: There is a motion to table.
 - Motion to table fails
 - Motion to refer to the EPC
 - Sarah Hernandez, second Maribeth Clark
 - Motion carries

Presentation concerning new registration system (Rebecca Noss)

- A brief presentation with questions and answers followed.

Move to Adjourn (Sherry Yu)

Meeting ended at 1:59PM