

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

Recorded Attendance:

**Faculty:** Anderson, Bailey, Barton, Biswas, Black, Brion, Casto, Clark, Clore, Coams, Colladay, Cook, Cooper, Crow, Dancigers, Dean, Edidin, Ellis, Feldman, Fennie, Gilchrist, Gillman, Gorup, Gong, Griffin, Hamid, Harley, Harvey, Hernandez, Hicks, Humphries, Hustwit, Khemraj, Kottke, Labrador-Rodriguez, Leininger, Levell, Li, Lindberg, Lopez, Manzur, McDonald, Myhill, Page, Pedersen, Perez, Pirone, Portugal, Reid, Rohrbacher, Roy, Ryba, Rycyk, Skripnikov, Sharifian, Shaw, Shi, Soto, Tabatabaie, Thompson, Toro-Farmer, Walstrom, Wyman, Yildirim, Young, Yu, Zamsky, Zhang

**Staff and Guests:** Charles, Heffernan, Jefferis, A. Jones, T. Jones, Lal

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 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**

- Sandra Gilchrist announced that the Division of Natural Science had discussed the retention of vacated tenure track lines.
- Barbara Hicks announced that the Division of Social Science had discussed the retention of vacated tenure track lines.
- Maribeth Clark announced that the Division of Humanities had scheduled a meeting for September 27 to discuss the retention of vacated tenure track lines.

### **Reports**

- Chair of the Faculty Reid
  - Announced there will be brief periods for faculty to meet with candidates in the presidential search. Requests for additional meeting times were denied.
  - Division Budgets: Funding remains unclear with an expected reduction of up to 50% for Foundation money. This may impact the many searches anticipated for the Fall.
  - Business Plan (uploaded to Canvas): Reservations expressed on many details of the plan including growth of athletic programs, Campus Master Plan, proposed new Master's programs.
  - Concern regarding transparency and clear lines of communication going forward.
  - Question and Comments:

- David Harvey clarified that the Presidential Search Committee had no role in scheduling campus visits for presidential candidates. This was done by the BOT.
  - Alberto Portugal invited faculty to contribute to reports and participate in a proposed inversion/compression study. More generally, given diminished numbers and increased workload, it will be necessary to form special and/or ad hoc committees to get things done.
  - Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez asked: Who determines the status of NCF as an honors college?
  - Amy Reid replied: The State of Florida
  - Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez followed up with: What are the constraints?
  - Alberto Portugal replied: We do not know.
- Presidential Report
  - Thanks to those who worked during the summer to get things done.
  - Congratulations to those who performed well in response to the hurricane.
  - There will be much follow-up work to do in the year to come: faculty lines, student recruiting, curriculum development, build out of the business plan, etc.
  - We need to do well in the next Legislative Session:
    - Deferred maintenance targeted drop from 62M to 32M
    - Start new buildings
    - Start moving students to west side of campus
  - Foundation
    - Problems with incoming funds (2.5M/annual) and spending (3M/annual).
    - Forensic accounting at work.
    - Building new pitches with connections to business plan, new faculty, enrollment, etc., with the hope of 7 figure inflow in the near future.
  - Question and Comment:
    - Chris Pedersen expressed concern that the academic standards are declining.
    - Richard Corcoran: Expect improvements. Recruiting has already begun and numbers are good. Confident that numbers and scores will improve.
    - Katie Walstrom mentioned that faculty searches are time sensitive, that the Foundation plans sound good, and that SRTG money (through Foundation) is important for student success.
    - Richard Corcoran: Talk to Provost to get searches moving. Email president with important requests. There is money available from Foundation, but required audits won't be done until end of the month. Student-centered requests will come first.
    - David Harvey: In the short term, money for searches will be important. Perhaps possible to hold off on big ticket items and release funds for small ticket items.
    - Sandra Gilchrist: Faculty input to Foundation pitch packages is important. How will this be handled?
    - Richard Corcoran: Contact Nathan Allen.
- Provost Report
  - See submitted written remarks

- Special thanks to Maneesha Lal for getting Course Leaf up and running.
    - General applause
- IRB Report
  - Sherry Yu: Current members are: Yu, Graham, Perez. Need a humanities member and an outside member.
- FPBC
  - Alberto Portugal: A member from Social Science is needed.
- FASC
  - Steven Graham: PAC1 and PAC2 assignments were recently made
  - Sandra Gilchrist: Letters for promotion must go out soon.
  - Pat McDonald: Planning to address deadlines is already underway.
  - Barbara Hicks: The provost's office has standard form letters on file that can be used to prepare letters for this year.
- Student Representatives
  - Colin Jefferis: Introduction of the new student divisional reps
  - Maribeth Clark: Students are welcome in Division Meetings.

## New Business

### **Motion to continue the Co-Chair of the Faculty arrangement (Don Colladay)**

- Motion to affirm the arrangement of Co-Chair of the Faculty for the 2023-24 Academic year (see text)
- Seconded: David Gillman
- The motion was read and a short justification was given
- Discussion:
  - Barbara Hicks: There could be other options for solving the problem
  - David Rohrbacher: Are there State Laws and/or BOG regulations?
  - Alberto Portugal: Yes. Amy Reid is the Chair of the Faculty and as such sits on the BOT.
  - Maribeth Clark: Recognition of the effort of Amy Reid and Alberto Portugal.
  - Alberto Portugal: Called the question
- Motion carried unanimously

### **Motion to create an ad hoc committee to revise and streamline elements of the CYC curriculum (Carl Shaw)**

- Motion to create a committee to study the CYC (see text)
- Second (Heidi Harley)
- The motion was read and a short history of its evolution was given.
- Discussion
  - Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez: Why is a committee necessary? What about people who worked to put together the CYC?
  - Carl Shaw: Faculty who put together the CYC were contacted, but are unavailable for the reshaping effort.

- Sonia Labrador Rodriguez: Faculty voted to adopt the skills that appear in CYC for multiple reasons. Are skills being revisited for administrative reasons?
- Carl Shaw: There are a number of issues, for example, whether the current system is manageable and whether skills attributes should be an impediment to graduation. The committee is to be formed in order to produce an informed study on these issues.
- David Gillman: How will the committee get information?
- Barbara Hicks: Skill assessment is important. What are the constraints? How are results normalized?
- Alberto Portugal (Point of Order): Please restrict comments to the motion, which involves the creation of a committee.
- Jenn Wells: As someone who served on the first and second CYC committee and who takes assessment seriously, the email sent to faculty regarding the CYC was disrespectful.
- Carl Shaw: I was encouraged to be more straightforward. There are problems with students graduating.
- Rebecca Black: Also found the email disrespectful. The program was approved by the faculty. What is needed is more training, better communications, etc.
- Carl Shaw: There are emails from professors with complaints of 15-20 hours/semester to comply with assessment.
- Melissa Crow: Rubrics don't fit perfectly, additional work is required. Investigating questions moving forward is important.
- Chris Kottke: I support the text of the motion.
- Heidi Harley: We should iron out things that are problematic.
- Katie Walstrom: The AAC approved the idea of a committee to improve CYC.
- Alberto Portugal: The motion concerns the creation of a committee.
- Katie Brion: What is the composition of the committee?
- Carl Shaw: Yet to be decided. I don't want to exclude people. Suggestions are welcome.
- Sarah Hernandez: Friendly amendment: Formation of a committee to make necessary improvements to CYC.
  - Amendment accepted. Final motion: **Motion to create an ad hoc committee to make necessary improvements to the CYC.**
- Amy Reid: Called the question.
- Motion carried.

**Presentation concerning summer work on the curriculum** (David Harvey, Chris Kottke, Nova Myhill, Carl Shaw)

- David Harvey: There are three reports available. The reports include the following information: The Odyssey will run in the Fall; a Data Visualization course is planned for the Spring. There were many good ideas and potential pilots. We are expecting a robust, year-long process.
- Carl Shaw: We don't know timeline for new additions to the curriculum.
- Amy Reid: The BOT is expected to provide guidelines.
- David Rohrbacher: There are constraints from the BOT coming.

- Chris Pedersen: what is the Techne plan for the Spring?
- Chris Kottke: There will be a call for involvement. There are developments underway and there will be a call for participation in Spring.
- Sarah Hernandez: I am concerned that we are silencing ourselves.
- Chris Kottke: To have curriculum in place for Fall 2024, we will need to know details soon.
- David Harvey: Everything is in flux but it is more important that things be done right as opposed to quickly. We have a brand/framework we have been asked to follow. We must act within time/framework constraints. Everything will come back to the faculty for discussion. We welcome input.

#### Other business

- Chris Kottke: Concern regarding students being disciplined for their behavior at the recent BOT meeting. There is a need for clear communication. There are technical problems with the way the process works. There are concerns regarding process clarity and proportional response.
- Jessica Young: who are the faculty reps?
- Amy Reid: The language is vague as to whether faculty are required.
- Jessica Young: Faculty teach at 2PM
- Jenn Wells: Remember to talk to student supervisors when asking for student help.
- Barbara Hicks: Language concerning Community Board is vague.
- Pat McDonald: There is a written request for clarification of the language.

Move to Adjourn (Rebecca Black)

Meeting ended at 1:58PM