



**College of Engineering and Computing  
Faculty Council Meeting  
April 13, 2017**

**Committee in attendance:**

Jessica Ramella (BME), Chenzhong Li (BME), David Garber (CEE), Walter Tang (CEE), Gang Quan (ECE), Chengxian Lin (MME), Ronald Baier (SC), Nipesh Pradhananga (SC), Shu-Ching Chen (SCIS), Deng Pan (SCIS)

**Absent:** Armando Barreto (ECE - excused), Yiding Cao (MME)

**Guest:** Ranu Jung (Interim Dean, College of Engineering and Computing)

- The meeting was called to order at 3:41 PM by Dr. Chen
- The Minutes of the March 09, 2017 Faculty Council Meeting were approved upon motion by Dr. Chen and seconded by Dr. Ramella. The current meeting agenda was approved upon motion by Dr. Chen and seconded by Dr. Ramella.
- Dr. Chen informed the council about formation of the budget committee. Since the committee was formed at the end of the academic year, the council agreed on continuing with the same members next year. Dr. Tang commented that one-year membership might be too short to achieve significant outcomes for the budget committee. The council decided to discuss on the responsibilities, continuity and policy of the budget committee in the next meeting. Dr. Chen moved the motion to include budget committee in the faculty council bylaws. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Dr. Chen made the motion to include voting for chairs and deans (to start it from 2021) into the faculty council bylaws. The motion was seconded by Dr. Li and was passed unanimously.
- The council had a productive discussion on the college awards and the members proposed suggestions to make the application process simpler, remove requirement of recommendation letters, revisit the criteria and request department chairs to nominate the candidates.
- The council discussed on merit-based salary and pointed out the strategies that might be needed to implement such a system. The members agreed that increase in the base salary is a bigger incentive compared to bonuses.

- Dean's report
  - *Performance Matrix*: The performance matrices are generally positive with all indicators moving up. The matrix was changed in the middle of the year. The major changes were in excess hours and graduation rates. Six-year graduation rate has gone down. Four-year graduation rate is going up but is still not enough to compensate. FTICs can be encouraged to declare dual majors if they create excess hours.
  - *University Statistics*: Analysis and Information Management (AIM) has all the university statistics available at <http://aim.fiu.edu/dash/>. Individual departments need to check their statistics. The data is available to everyone. Improvements cannot be made by advisors alone, faculty need to learn about the statistics and participate.
  - *Students*: Students enjoy faculty engagement and events like town-hall meetings where faculty meet students. Students at Engineering Center (EC), sometimes, do not feel connected to main campus so there is a need to have some events there and more events here at EC. The students need to be more informed about internships, research and other opportunities.
  - *Faculties*: Faculty are encouraged to participate in the Ignite campaign. Accounts can be created as per need and making individual donations matters more than the amount of donation.
  - *New Dean*: Dr. Volakis will officially assume office from August 1 as the new dean.
  - *Budget Committee*: Budget Committee meeting has been scheduled for April 21.
  - *Hiring*: There are new faculty hired (or in the process) in SCIS, ECE, CEE, MME and SC.
  - *TA allocations*: University Graduate School (UGS) looks into time to graduate, ratio to number of Research Assistants, students per DAS faculty, courses with large number of students and compares to same major nationally to decide on the number.
  - *Engineering Deans Council*: Engineering Deans Council meeting was held at Coral Gables which was attended by around 250 Deans of engineering and computing colleges. Over 100 participants visited FIU's Wall of Wind (WoW) and School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). It is expected to help with college ranking.
  - *Donation from Alumni*: Chad Moss, an FIU Alumni, donated \$10 M (\$5M is planned gifts and \$5M endowment) to FIU. The money will be used for student scholarship, faculty research and activities and director's budget.
  
- Dr. Chen, on behalf of the Faculty Council, handed the certificate of appreciation to the Interim Dean Dr. Jung and thanked her for her strong support during her tenure as the Interim Dean.



- The meeting discussed about the US News' Methodology for “2018 Best Engineering Schools Rankings” (<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/engineering-schools-methodology>) and decided to continue the discussion in future meetings.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Prepared by: Nipesh Pradhananga

Reviewed by: Shu-Ching Chen, Walter Tang and Ranu Jung