



**College of Engineering and Computing  
Faculty Council Meeting  
October 12, 2017**

**Committee in attendance:**

Jacob McPherson (BME), Jessica Ramella-Roman (BME), Walter Z. Tang (CEE), Albert Gan (CEE), Jiuhua Chen (MME), Yiding Cao (MME), Jose A. Faria (Moss SCIS), Nipesh Pradhananga (Moss SCIS), Shu-Ching Chen (SCIS)

**Absent:** Ahmed Ibrahim (ECE - excused), Shubhendu Bhardwaj (ECE), Bogdan Carbunar (SCIS)

**Guest:** Dr. Mark Weiss (Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, College of Engineering and Computing)

- The meeting was called to order at 3:34 PM by Dr. Tang
- Dean's brief by Dr. Weiss
  - *CEC Ranking:* Dr. Weiss informed the Faculty Council that the Dean aims to move the college to Top 100 Engineering Colleges in the nation. The college had not been ranked till last year because of inaccurate collection and reporting of data. Metrics for ranking included amount of research funding, number of PhD students, and graduation and retention rates among others. The college has not made significant improvements in the metrics in last 5 years. More graduate students need to be supported by bringing in more research funds. This will, in turn, encourage better students to apply to the university. FIU's performance compared to other universities with similar research, teaching and demographic status was discussed.
  - *CEC College Policies:* The council is invited to discuss and recommend the faculty members' opinions on the new CEC College Policies proposed by the Dean. The uniform policies will enforce the same process and not necessarily the same standards in the different departments/schools.
  - *Interdisciplinary Collaborations:* Collaborations among different departments/schools and outside the college are encouraged. Research in one discipline is not enough to receive big grants.
  - *Dissertation Advisory Status (DAS):* The DAS should be portable inside the college and a faculty member with DAS should be allowed to supervise students in any department/school.

- *New department:* A new department focusing on Engineering Education has been proposed. The department will hire new tenure track faculty members, especially senior faculty members with excellent track record. The department is different from College of Education and will seek people with expertise in engineering education. FIU's location and student demographic will attract very effective faculty members that will result in a successful department. A legislative budget request has already been made for the department.
- *Other topics:*
  - Dr. Tang pointed out that Miami-Dade lacks an Industrial Park which is crucial for startups, student interns and overall economics of FIU as well as the area. Dr. Weiss informed that he will mention the matter to the Dean and discussed the challenges, in terms of space and political interest, that need to be addressed to proceed with such an idea.
  - Dr. Jihua Chen mentioned that the university's policy might affect the college's policy and ability to meet the target metrics. He emphasized that a consistent policy should be in place throughout the university for admissions. Dr. Weiss discussed about the student enrollment and encouraged the departments/schools to explore alternatives to facilitate student graduation.
- The Minutes of the September 21, 2017 Faculty Meeting were approved upon motion of Dr. McPherson and seconded by Dr. Faria; the current meeting agenda was approved upon motion by Dr. McPherson and seconded by Dr. Faria.
- The meeting had a productive discussion on the CEC College Policies. The members agreed that the policies should be made by the faculty members, and not administrators, so that they can reflect the faculty members' voices. The meeting discussed on each policy separately. Dr. Tang proposed to distribute the policies to different committees/members who will articulate the policy. The written policies will be shared through Faculty Council Members to their respective departments/schools. Any comments or suggestions will be reported back to the Faculty Council by December 7. The policies were assigned to CEC Committees based on their pertinence. For policies that did not pertain to any committee, members of Faculty Council volunteered to draft the written policies. The policies will be developed with University Faculty Senate Policies and the United Faculty Bargain Agreement as references. The distribution of policies is as follows
  1. *Instructional Overload Policy:* Curriculum Committee
  2. *Online Course Compensation Policy:* Curriculum Committee
  3. *Tenure-Track Faculty T&P/Third Year Review Policies:* Tenure & Promotion Committee

4. *Non-Tenure Track Faculty Promotion Policy*: Tenure & Promotion Committee
5. *Clinical Faculty Promotion Policy*: Tenure & Promotion Committee
6. *Research Faculty Promotion Policy*: Tenure & Promotion Committee
7. *Differential Assignment Policy*: Dr. Albert Gan
8. *Faculty Annual Evaluation and Merit Raise Policy*: Dr, Albert Gan
9. *Sustained Performance/Evaluation Policy (every 7 Yrs after tenure)*: Dr. Jessica Ramella-Roman volunteered to look into school equivalent policies that could be adapted by the school of engineering.

The three other policies listed below are already in place and can be found here, <https://cecfc.fiu.edu/wp-content/uploads/CEC-Faculty-Council-Constitution-and-Bylaws.pdf>

10. *Evaluation Policy for Chairs & Directors*
11. *College Bylaws*
12. *College Constitution*

The policies are expected to be drafted by October 30.

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Prepared by: Dr. Nipesh Pradhananga

Reviewed by: Dr. Walter Tang and Dr. Jessica Ramella-Roman