



**College of Engineering and Computing  
Faculty Council Meeting  
December 07, 2017**

**Committee in attendance:**

Jacob McPherson (BME), Jessica Ramella-Roman (BME), Walter Z. Tang (CEE), Albert Gan (CEE), Ahmed Ibrahim (ECE), Shubhendu Bhardwaj (ECE), Jiuhua Chen (MME), Yiding Cao (MME), Nipesh Pradhananga (Moss SCIS), Bogdan Carbutar (SCIS)

**Absent:** Jose A. Faria (Moss SCIS - excused), Shu-Ching Chen (SCIS - excused)

**Guest:** John Volakis (Dean, College of Engineering and Computing)

- The meeting was called to order at 3:33 PM by Dr. Tang
- The Minutes of the November 09, 2017 Faculty Meeting were approved upon motion of Dr. McPherson and seconded by Dr. Chen; the current meeting agenda was approved upon motion by Dr. Chen and seconded by Dr. McPherson.
- Dean's brief
  - *Engineering Education Department:* The Engineering Education Department will be approved very soon. The idea is to hire a chair and begin to work on curriculum. This department will also help our students graduate faster.
  - *College Reorganization:* Dr. Malek Adjouadi, on behalf of the Transition Committee, will make a presentation on reorganization options for the College in Jan and will open up for feedback. The departments will stay the same and faculties will not be subject to any changes. The bigger units will have common faculty meeting and the aim is to have Dissertation Advisory Status (DAS) that will be valid across the departments within the College. Cross disciplinary collaboration will be promoted.
  - *Expansion:* As many as 15-20 new faculty members will be recruited by the College. Five faculty members each in computer science and electrical and computer engineering are very close to be approved. Five faculty positions, preferably at associate levels in mechanical and material are in the process of approval as strategic cluster hires.

- *Research:* There is a need to grow rapidly in research. Well established senior level faculty members from other universities are welcomed. The college will aim to send out big proposals involving multi-disciplinary work that leverages our strengths and investments.
- *Graduate students:* The number of graduate students must increase. As the College aims to reach the top 100 in the nation, our goal is to increase funded graduated students by 1000 and to concurrently satisfy the metrics set by the FIU Board of Trustees.
- *Administration:* Three Associate Deans have been appointed. A new appointment has been made towards student access and diversity. Emphasis will be made on graduating students by leveraging logic models to predict student outcomes systematically.
- *Panel of Administration:* A pattern of administration needs to be formed within the College. It will also govern Tenure and Promotion and DAS related issues, among other topics. Faculty Council is working with Associate Dean for Academic Affairs on 12 policies across the college.
- *Other topics*
  - The passing of Mr. Hernan Bormey is a big loss to the college.
  - New ideas including more interactive website, Alumni Wall to appreciate the alumni will be implemented soon
- The meeting has a productive discussion on the drafts of following CEC College Policies
  - *Differential Assignment Policy:* The meeting agreed that (i) course release for training grants and career development awards, that already pay salary of the faculty members, need to be listed as an exception in the bylaws, (ii) some fund are donations (foundation funds), so only dollar amounts from the research office will be considered for differential assignment policy. The motion to pass the policy was made by Dr. Ramella-Roman, seconded by Dr. McPherson and passed unanimously.
  - *Merit Policy:* The motion to pass the policy was moved by Dr. Gan, seconded by Dr. Chen and passed unanimously.
  - *Sustainable Performance Policy:* The motion to pass the policy was moved by Dr. Tang and seconded by Dr. Ibrahim. The motion was agreed by all except Dr. Bharadwaj, who abstained.
  - *Faculty Evaluation Policy:* The motion to pass the policy was moved by Dr. McPherson, seconded by Dr. Ramella-Roman and passed unanimously.

- Dr. Gan made the motion that “Faculty members with DAS status and appointment in the college will be allowed to become the primary advisor in any department within the college”. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bhardwaj and passed unanimously.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM.

Prepared by: Nipesh Pradhananga

Reviewed by: Walter Tang and Jessica Ramella-Roman