



**College of Engineering and Computing  
Faculty Council Meeting  
February 8, 2018**

**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), Jose A. Faria (Moss SCIS), Nipesh Pradhananga (Moss SCIS), Bogdan Carbutar (SCIS), Shu-Ching Chen (SCIS)

- The meeting was called to order at 3:31 PM by Dr. Tang
- The Minutes of the January 11, 2018 Faculty Meeting were approved upon motion of Dr. Ramella-Roman and seconded by Dr. McPherson; the current meeting agenda was approved upon motion by Dr. Ramella-Roman and seconded by Dr. McPherson.
- Dr. Ramella-Roman informed the faculty council that the faculty members of BME had met and unanimously expressed their disagreement with the proposed merger with MME. All the faculty members in the department are strongly against the reorganization and do not believe that the merger will benefit the department. Dr. McPherson agreed with the statement and emphasized that the merger is against the current model of growth and the new trend for BME to work jointly with medical schools. They believed that the proposal is a step backwards, and proposals to NIH can potentially be hurt because of the merger. For example, The University of S. Florida recently leveraged a portion of their \$5M State of Florida emerging pre-eminence funding to create a joint medical engineering department between the College of Engineering and the School of Medicine (<http://www.usf.edu/engineering/bme/>).
- Dr. Faria reported that the faculty of the Moss SCIS, during their last faculty meeting discussed the reorganization and identified the following issues: (i) integrity of the unit, (ii) decision on tenure and promotion of the faculty members, (iii) curriculum, (iv) faculty lines and decision to hire and (v) the gift from the Moss family along with its terms and naming of the school are critical to the faculty members. The school will prefer to retain its independence if given the choice, and would oppose it if any of the issues is threatened by the reorganization. Dr. Pradhananga agreed with the statements.

- The meeting had a productive discussion on the planned college reorganization. Considering the gravity and urgency of the matter, Dr. Ramella-Roman moved the motion to have a faculty council meeting before the reorganization, seconded by Dr. McPherson and unanimously agreed by all members.
- **The motion, “The CEC Faculty Council on Governance is not convinced that the proposed college reorganization presents enough advantage to the college and can potentially hinder the growth of individual departments” was moved by Dr. McPherson and seconded by Dr. Faria. The motion was passed with 10 members for yes and 2 for abstain.**
- **Dr. J. Chen moved the motion that “Combining departments into a school should be agreed by the majority of faculty in each involved departments”. The motion was seconded by Dr. McPherson and was passed unanimously.**
- **Council members also voted unanimously that the department chairpersons and school directors of any new units be appointed preferably through a national search, or following a free, fair and secret vote by all faculty in the unit, in accordance with the Faculty Senate Bill of Collective Rights and Principles of Governance, and Article VIII Faculty Bill of Rights of the FCG.**
- Dr. Bharadwaj informed that the faculty meeting at ECE voted that the recommendation letters for tenure and promotion should be open. He mentioned that it was approved unanimously by all members present in that meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Prepared by: Nipesh Pradhananga

Reviewed by: Walter Tang and Jessica Ramella-Roman

Attachment:

1. FIU Faculty Senate Constitution: Article V: Governance Practices and Procedures
2. FIU Faculty Senate Constitution: Bill of Collective Rights and Principles of Governance

Attachment:

**1. FIU Faculty Senate Constitution: Article V: Governance Practices and Procedures**

A. The faculty of each college and free-standing school enjoys the right to self-governance under the Bill of Collective Rights and Principles of Governance. The right to self-governance includes, but is not limited to, the opportunity to democratically adopt and be governed by a constitution and by-laws.

B. The Faculty Senate reserves to itself the authority to investigate alleged violations of either the Senate's or Unit's right to self-governance. Violations may include the absence of a democratically-adopted constitution and by-laws, the failure to follow constitutional principles and by-laws, violations of the Bill of Collective Rights and Principles, or any practice or policy that interferes with the right to self-governance.

C. The Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate shall establish policies and procedures for investigating violations of the right to self-governance.

D. In the event that the Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate determines there to be a violation, it may submit for Senate consideration and adoption of a Findings of Fact and Recommendations for Remedy.

## **2. FIU Faculty Senate Constitution: Bill of Collective Rights and Principles of Governance**

The Florida International University Faculty Senate holds that faculty have collective rights that are set forward here. Every academic unit in the University shall guarantee explicitly these rights in their governance documents and observe faithfully these rights in the future.

A. Academic freedom is the freedom of faculty members to present and discuss all relevant matters in the classroom and in the public forum; to select instructional materials and determine grades; to pursue all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression; to speak freely on all matters of University governance; to speak out in matters of controversy; and to write and act as individuals, all without institutional reprisal or restraint and unhindered from internal or external groups.

B. Through collegial self-governance, university faculty members decide and develop the curriculum that will be offered to students within the limits established by state rules and regulations. Faculty members are the academic authorities of the University.

C. Each free-standing school or college must have a democratically established collegial governance system. These governance systems and their governing documents may only be revised by democratic vote of the college or school faculty.

D. The faculty of each unit of the University have the right to participate in the selection and appointment of their administrators. In particular, department chairpersons and school directors may only be appointed following a free, fair and secret vote by the faculty of the unit.

E. The faculty of each unit of the University have the right to participate in the evaluation of their administrators. This right includes participation in the creation of evaluative criteria. Evaluations shall be conducted annually in a process that protects the anonymity of the evaluators. Those to be evaluated include department chairs and school directors, deans, the Provost and the President. Faculty have the right to see the results.

F. The faculty of each academic unit, including departments, schools or colleges and the University as a whole, have the right and responsibility to conduct a vote of confidence in their leadership at any time they see fit.

G. The Faculty Senate may censure individuals and any formal, organized units when it determines they have violated these rights and principles.