



College of Engineering and Computing

Faculty Council Meeting

March 25, 2021

Committee members in attendance (Zoom): Joshua Hutcheson (BME), Vladimir Pozdin (ECE), Jessica Ramella-Roman (BME), Mohamed El-Zomor (MSCIS), Ibrahim Tansel (MME), Albert Gan (CEE), Xia Jin (CEE), Alexandra Strong (SUCCEED, left at 3:00pm), Xuan Lv (MSCIS), Masoud Sadjadi (SCIS), Ning Xie (SCIS), Charlie Lin (MME)

Meeting called to order at 2:10pm by Dr. Jessica Ramella-Roman

1. Dean Volakis joined at the beginning of the meeting.

The Dean looks forward to discussing the 2025 CEC Plan with the faculty. Part of the plan is to prioritize budgets to increase graduate student enrollment. The Dean emphasized that budgets will be evaluated to ensure that they are being used appropriately and that certain requests (such as those to extend startup offers will be evaluated closely). The Dean stated that our student pool is strong, and top students are available. Therefore, we need to align our budgets to bring more of these students to FIU CEC.

The Dean mentioned that the gains that the college has made in the US News rankings are exciting and indicate sustained success across many metrics. One place that the College seeks to improve for future rankings is in alumni giving. Participation counts more than dollar amounts given, and individual units should encourage alumni to support the College.

The Dean congratulated SUCCEED on matriculation of the first PhD student.

The Dean focused on efforts to support our students. He mentioned that Departments should look for ways to utilize existing resources to provide financial support to current students. Chairs will need to report these efforts. This is especially critical in the current challenging environment. He also mentioned the establishing of a new effort (bookpack.fiu.edu), which will help students cover costs of materials needed for courses. Faculty should help spread the news about this effort.

The College and University will begin to evaluate collegiality amongst faculty and staff. Measures of collegiality will be included in the evaluation process for tenure and promotion. The goal is to promote collegiality and provide a welcoming atmosphere.

Dean Volakis left the meeting at 2:32pm.

2. The meeting minutes from February 25, 2021 were approved by unanimous vote at 2:33pm.

3. Finalize CEC courtesy appointment process.

FCOG members resumed discussion on a College-wide process for courtesy appointments. Previously, the BME policy had been used as a template. FCOG members felt that the CEC document should give a general framework and provide flexibility to individual units. FCOG members discussed whether faculty within a unity should vote to approve an appointee or should

only make recommendations to the administration. Ultimately, FCOG decided that faculty within units should have the ability to approve/disapprove of courtesy appointments.

FCOG members discussed whether the 4-year term limit should be a hard requirement. After discussion, the language of the document was changed to allow for other timeframes as determined by individual units/circumstances.

Some FCOG members suggested that the language concerning eligibility for a courtesy appointment was confusing. The language was changed to clarify that the appointments can be open to either internal or external candidates.

The finalized Courtesy Appointment Procedural Document was approved by unanimous vote.

Dr. Ramella-Roman will forward the approved document to Dr. McGoron.

4. Discussion on CEC General Meeting.

FCOG generally provides a progress report at this meeting, and Dr. Ramella-Roman will update the College on the Courtesy Appointment procedures. She will also affirm the FCOG focus on diversity and inclusivity. Finally, she will mention that FCOG will administer an evaluation of all CEC administrators in the coming weeks.

The Administration plans to use this meeting to discuss collegiality and community within CEC. FCOG does not have details on what issues will be addressed; however, FCOG members welcome discussions on how to increase collegiality within CEC. FCOG will particularly work to ensure that faculty are treated fairly and advocate for faculty rights and well-being.

5. Evaluation of CEC Administration.

FCOG drafted a letter to introduce and clarify the goals of the evaluation. Qualtrics will send an email to faculty with unique links for each email address. A later letter will provide instructions for accessing results. Dr. Hutcheson will obtain a list of emails from all eligible faculty.

Meeting closed at 3:35 PM