**Florida International University**

**College of Engineering and Computing**

**Faculty Council on Governance (FCOG)**

**FCOG Minutes for Meeting on March 6th, 2014**

**Attendees:** Jose Faria, Mohammed Hadi, Anthony McGoron, Nezih Pala, Nagarajan Prabakar, Sharan Ramaswamy, Walter Tang, Ibrahim Tansel. Meeting minutes taken by A McGoron,

1. **Agenda and Minutes of last meeting approved**
2. **Dean Mirmiran made the following announcements:**
   1. There do not appear to be any budget cuts in 2014-2015. But, there will be no increases to keep up with increasing expenses either. The college will be assessing priorities considering the flat budget (i.e., faculty hires, etc).
   2. There is a strategic planning Town Hall set for March 7th.
   3. New recurring funds have become available from the state for IT related programs and activities.
   4. Merit bonuses will be distributed soon.
   5. DoR is in discussions on recovery of left over money on fixed cost grants so that some or all can be returned to investigators.
   6. Approval given to attach cash to the staff awards.
   7. Summer teaching was discussed. Summer teaching has been kept in place to satisfy needs of the students. But, there are budget constraints. The money is distributed to the departments to use as needed. There have been no changes in policy as to the way summer teaching has been allocated over the past few years.
3. **The memo regarding recommendations to improve quality of PhD student training, research and dissertations was discussed.** A suggestion was made to remove negative statements. It was tabled for the next meeting.
4. **The IT Committee** met and will provide a report at the next meeting.
5. **Draft to improve graduate student recruiting** was distributed and will be discussed and voted on at the nest meeting.
6. **Staff awards.** Discussion was made of an award for “technical staff”. However, the definition of who would be identified as such was not clear. Decided on 3 awards. Two awards will be open to Administrative (A&P) as well as USPS staff members and a 3rd award limited to USPS staff only. Dr Tansel will get the # of A&P and USPS staff members and a final decision will be made at the next meeting. Decision was made to allow nominations from faculty and staff but not dean’s or chairs. Decided not to allow self-nominations. The application will be limited to two pages maximum. The categories proposed were:
   1. Faculty Council Excellence Award (A&P and USPS)
   2. Knowledge and Achievement Award (A&P and USPS)
   3. Outstanding Service (USPS only)
7. **Motion was made and unanimously accept not to allow self-nominations for faculty awards in the future. A faculty member outside of the *chairman* is expected to nominate the candidate.**