

**Florida International University
College of Engineering and Computing
Faculty Council on Governance (FCG)
Meeting Minutes January 11, 2010**

Attendees (in alphabetical order): Jean Andrian (ECE), Yiding Cao (MME), Michael Christie (BME), Gene Farmer (CM), Albert Gan (CEE), Chenzhong Li (BME), Osama Mohammed (ECE), Raju Rangaswami (SCIS), Geoffrey Smith (SCIS), Ibrahim Tansel (MME).

Agenda Items and Discussion

1. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The FCG meeting was called to order by the Chair Osama Mohammed at 3:40; the quorum was achieved as listed above and the agenda was approved with the addition of a proposal by Dr. Li to discuss *Courtesy Appointments* in the New Business segment of the meeting

2. Approval of the Minutes of the November 19, 2009 FCG meeting.

The November 19th minutes were distributed to attendees for review and corrections.

Correction: Dr. Ibrahim Tansel was added to the list of attendees.

Corrected minutes were approved by the general counsel. Motion to approve was made by Dr. Farmer and second by Dr. Smith.

3. Discussion of important FCG issues.

- **Council Meeting Schedule 2010**

The chairman proposed the council meeting dates for calendar year 2010. All meetings will be held on Thursdays at 3:30PM. The chair added that the schedule was designed so as to prevent scheduling conflicts with departmental faculty meetings.

- **Faculty Council Website**

At the beginning of the meeting, the chair informed the council that Mr. Amado Gonzales from Computing Services will update the faculty council on the FCG website. Mr. Gonzales made the following points.

- FCG website will be located at the following link;
www.eng.fiu.edu/EFCouncil.
- Faculty Council link will be placed on the CEC homepage.
- He (Mr. Gonzales) is committed to assist all council members in uploading information to, and updating the FC website.

When asked by Dr. Farmer about updating departmental websites in general, Mr. Gonzales responded that it depends on which department, because he does not have webmaster responsibilities for all departments within the college.

- **Tenure and Promotion Guidelines**

Dr. Mohammed (The chair) asked the Ad Hoc committee on T&P to report on the *Appointment and Promotion Guidelines for Tenure-Track Faculty*. Dr. Smith reported that the draft document is still under review/ consideration but no decision has been made by the union or the university to date.

The chair asked Dr. Smith (vice-chair) to state what changes were made when the document was last revised. Dr. Tansel responded that the final version of the document must be brought to the council for discussion. The chair added that all changes to the document can be found in the minutes of FCG 2006-2008. He said that the minutes in reference will be available on the FCG website.

Asked by the chair to state the overall issues which were in the FCG document, Dr. Smith replied that it was complicated because the issues were many and there were several different positions on the issues. He recalled one issue of contention however, "solicitation of external letters" for T&P. The said that the university guidelines give the power in this process to the department chairs. Dr. Tansel added that in many cases, the university guidelines are somewhat different from departmental rules for soliciting letters. He gave a historical perspective on the evolution of "solicitation of letters", and the reasons why things emerged/evolved in the college in its current form.

The chair reiterated that the council is relevant to the process and serves the interests of the entire faculty in the college. He added that the council functions as an essential body to build, shape, and guide the development of the college.

Dr. Li inquired that since the university and the college has different guidelines, then which body has superior jurisdiction when T&P letter solicitation is being considered. Chair and Vice-chair explained that the process is not contradictory, as the provost defers to the chair and the department on certain expert issues when making a decision on tenure and promotion.

Dr. Mohammed asked Dr. Smith to summarize the final draft of the tenure and Promotion *Guidelines for Tenure-Track* faculty for the benefit of informing the council members of the key contents of the document. Dr. Farmer requested that a copy of the most recent version of the document be available to all council members so that everyone would have the benefit of a common reference.

4. **Report from Dean Amir Mirmiran**

Dean Mirmiran joined the meeting at 4:22 PM. His contribution is summarized below.

SWOC Analysis

- The strategic planning committee will complete their strategic plan by January 15th.
- Draft document will be vetted by faculty before February 15th deadline for submission to the university.
- Suggested that the council discuss the plan at 2/11 meeting before he submits it to the university.

New Classroom/lecture hall

- Room 1115 will be converted to a lecture hall with a 100 person capacity and had having state of the art video/ multimedia capabilities.
- Other ongoing improvement projects in EC, including renovation of certain sections of the third floor.

FEEDS

Per ABET & SACS, up to 60 % of programs can be on FEEDS. As applied to engineering, it suggests that up to 15% or five courses may be taught via FEEDS. Dean reiterated that the academic freedom of faculty must be maintained and preserved. Dr Fuentes is at odds with current university policy on FEEDS, and will make a presentation to the UPD in order to solicit their opinions. Dean Mirmiran stressed that FEEDS is a benefit to the programs and students.

Miscellaneous

- Engineering Expo will be held February 19th. The CEC brick path will be unveiled.
- All classrooms in CEC will be managed by the university's space and scheduling department.
- Expressed his appreciation of the council's work on the seven year review policy.
- There is a joint NIH proposal on building a Biomedical Engineering clean room at the college. The project, if approved, will grant access to our partner, the *University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine*. The building of the clean room will result in permanent loss of some parking spaces.
- CEC is implementing a security initiative which includes the installation of secure access after hours, and the installation of security cameras at strategic locations around the campus.
- Relocation of SCIS remains a continuing discussion.

5. **Discussion of New Issues**

- No discussions

6. Reports from Standing Committees

- No reports.

7. CEC Faculty Council Statement on Relocating SCIS

"The university administration is currently considering a plan to relocate the School of Computing and Information Sciences to the Engineering Campus. While details are unclear, it appears that the plan is to move SCIS faculty to EC, while leaving most SCIS students and classes in ECS. Such a plan would cause serious harm to the functioning of SCIS, as it would physically separate faculty from students, requiring frequent commuting that would waste faculty and student time.

More fundamentally it would hinder faculty/student interactions, with the likely consequence of hurting retention in the College. For these reasons, the Faculty Council urges the administration to seek other solutions to FIU's space issues, solutions that do not disproportionately impact the College of Engineering and Computing."

After a brief discussion, the chair opened the floor for a motion on relocating SCIS. The motion, (shown above) was passed unanimously by the council.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.