

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

Attendees (in alphabetical order): Syed M. Ahmed (CM), Jean Andrian (ECE), Ron Baier (CM), Yiding Cao (MME), Michael Christie (BME), Albert Gan (CEE), Osama Mohammed (ECE), Raju Rangaswami (SCIS), Geoffrey Smith (SCIS), Ibrahim Tansel (MME).

Guests: Associate Dean Yong Tao, Dr. Hector Fuentes (CEE)

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 "Report from Civil Engineering" to New Business.

2. Motion to appoint Dr. Michael C. Christie as the new secretary of the faculty Council, in accordance with the rules and bylaws of the council for calendar year 2010, was made by Dr. Ragaswami, and second by Dr. Mohammed. Dr. Christie was elected unanimously by the faculty council.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the February 11th, 2010 FCG meeting.

The February 11th minutes were distributed to attendees for review and corrections.

Correction: FEEDS "**practice**" employed in the document instead of "**policy**". Corrected minutes were approved by the faculty counsel.

4. Discussion of important FCG issues.

- **FCG Constitution**

The chairman proposed that the working document of the revised FCG constitution include all constitutional changes that have been enacted. Dr. Smith who heads the committee assigned to oversee the constitutional revision said that he was in discussions with Dr. Wu, and he was awaiting his response to certain issues contained therein, in order to clarify the latest revision of the bylaws. It was generally agreed that the latest revision of the document should be placed on the FCG website.

- **SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges) Analysis**

A SWOC document dated January 29th, 2010 and authored by the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) of the CEC was circulated to the council for discussion. Dr. Smith requested a clarification of the charge which was given to the SPC, and the number of committees which were involved. Dr. Ragawsami summarized that there were three committees, in charge of

Education, Research, and Service, respectively. Each committee was responsible for performing a SWOC analysis on their area of responsibility. The SWOC document contained the details of each analysis. There were discussions among the council, as to the appropriateness of the contents within the prescribed categories. In the end, the contents of all the categories and their classification were affirmed by the faculty council. The chair added that comments from the council will be added to the document in order to clarify operational definitions etc.

- **FEEDS (Dr. Fuentes)**

Dr. Fuentes gave a presentation to the council on FEEDS. He argued that the FEEDS process has excluded faculty input, and is therefore in violation of current faculty collective bargaining agreement. Dr. Fuentes said that FEEDS must be looked at from a standpoint of not compromising quality. Current practice, he argued, does not address several important issues. He said that there were four main issues to be addressed. The issues are;

- Qualification
- Impact on tenure and promotion
- Workload
- Resources.

Dr. Fuentes stated that he has three motions that he would like the council to consider.

- i. Policy on not to exclude faculty when implementing future “policies”.
- ii. FCG will work through standing committee to ensure that FEEDS comply with academic standards.
- iii. Place a moratorium on FEEDS until it is vetted and regulated through the proper channels

Dr. Smith asked the council to ponder the issue of whether new course proposals should address delivery mechanisms. Dr Fuentes responded in the affirmative.

5. **Report from Dean’s Office (Associate Dean Tao)**

Dean Tao joined the meeting at 4:30 PM. His contribution is summarized below.

SACS

- SACS preparation is on track. Work required by CEC in support of SACS is complete.
- There are issues concerning “Limited Access Programs”, which at this time impacts only the *Aerospace* track of Mechanical Engineering. The dean informed the faculty council that in order to implement any limited access program, documents must be filed with the university. The file must contain among other information, an analysis of the impact which instituting such program would have on enrollment. A limited access program is defined as

any program whose admission requirements exceed the general university admission standards.

Engineering Expo

- Engineering Expo will be held on February 19th.
- Sponsored by the Motorola Foundation.
- The Expo will feature the ribbon cutting ceremony on front of the solar house, and the official opening of the brick path.

Engineering center energy Conservation Project

- \$4M project whose objective is to upgrade the HVAC system of the Engineering Center, EC.
- Contractors have begun to perform energy and environmental audit of the EC.
- Design completion scheduled for May 2010, after which construction will commence.

6 Discussion of New Issues

Faculty Workload

Dr. Mohammed inquired from each department representative, as to the average teaching load in their respective departments. It was found that the load varied. He stated that there exists a state document on workload which he will send to the council members. The central question was whether the FCG wants to provide guidelines on faculty workload to the departments.

7 Reports from Standing Committees

- a. No reports.

8 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.