**College of Engineering and Computing**

**Faculty Council Meeting**

**October 31 2014**

**In attendance**: Dr. Dr. Ron Baier (OHLSC), Dr. Peter Clarke (SCIS), Dr. Mohammed Hadi (CCE), Dr. Anthony McGoron (BME), Dr. Nagarajan Prakabar (SCIS), and Dr. Walter Tang (CEE).

**Absent:** Dr. Arvind Agrawal (MME), Ali Mostafavi (OHLSC – out of town), Dr. Gong Quan (ECE), Dr. Li (BME)

**Guest:** Dr. Amir Mirmiran (Dean College of Engineering and Computing)

* Dr. McGoron called the meeting to order at 1:00pm
* Minutes for the meeting held on 10/10/14 were not approved since there was no quorum.
* Dr. Mirmiran presented the following Dean’s report:
* Six programs in four units in CEC are currently preparing for an ABET accreditation visit from November 16 to the 18th, 2014. It was recommended that faculty can reach out to the units going through the self-study to provide feedback where possible. It was also stated that if there are any last minute issues arising regarding the ABET visit the faculty should inform Dr. Norman Monroe (Associate Dean Undergraduate Studies & Academic Affairs CEC).
* The President of the NAE, C. D. (Dan) Mote Jr. will be giving a presentation on November 20th and the faculty is encouraged to attend the presentation. It was stated that this would be a good opportunity to showcase the college.
* The college recently celebrated its 30th anniversary at Jungle Island on October 30th and from all reports it was a very good event. The college needs to continue to publicize the good work it is doing.
* FIU is currently going through the strategic planning process for the next five years and the college needs to get technology as one of the core strategic themes. Currently the themes are Environment, Health, The Arts and Globalization. We need to make a case for why Technology should be one of the themes. We could highlight STEM education (with a big T and E). It is expected that the university strategic plan should be completed during the spring of 2015. The CEC faculty council (FC) should lead the effort to coordinate a plan that can be integrated into the university’s plan. The objective should be to create a college strategic plan that forges a partnership with the university plan. Below are the dates for the university’s Strategic Plan 2015-202 (form university web page):

Action Date

University feedback from iReal March 7, 2014

Town Hall meeting April 2, 2014

Committee selections June 2014

Committees charged June 2014

Committees develop plans June –October 2014

Community forums November 2014

Preliminary strategic plan December 2014

Community discussion January 2015

Final strategic plan February 2015

BOT review and approval March 2015

* The budget is expected to continue as projected. However, there is currently no knowledge of what to expect for next year.
* Currently there is no unified procedure for Tenure and Promotion in CEC. The FC should strive to get this done as soon as possible. The important issue is to have consistency across the units in the college. Examples of different procedures include:
  + Limitation on access to the solicited letters.
  + In SCIS all faculty can review candidate files, in other units this is not the case. There are arguments for and against this procedure but it should be consistent in the college across all units.

Privacy is another issue that needs to be considered. For example, who can see the chair’s evaluation letters?

The faculty needs to start a dialog to discuss the tenure and promotion guidelines for the college including the issues mentioned above.

* At this point in the meeting Dean Mirmiran opened the floor for questions.
  + There was a question regarding if all the units in the college should have an Industry Advisory Board (IAB). It was stated that currently there was no IAB for the Civil Engineering department. Some of the advantages of having a IAB were identified, including: importance to faculty and students with respect to research collaborations and jobs. There was a question addressing who should push to have a departmental IAB, should it be the FC or the Dean’s office. There was also some concern regarding the membership money required to be on the departmental IAB.
  + The Dena replied saying that the faculty should have a voice in deciding the membership of the IAB. Currently there is no requirement to have an IAB in the CEC units. At the college level there is a fee of $2500 to serve on the IAB. It was further stated that the IAB should contribute to the unit in some way.
  + The question was then raised if there is a requirement to have an IAB for accreditation purposes and the answer was yes.
  + It was stated that in SCIS every candidate was required to give a presentation of their work at the SCIS Colloquium series in the year they are coming up for review and prior to the review of the files by faculty. It was suggested that some aspects of the file should be kept private, while other should be seen by the faculty.
  + The Dean replied by saying that there are arguments for both sides of the privacy issue, which would need to be hashed out by the faculty.
* At this point in the meeting Dean Mirmiran left.
* The chair of the FC stated that there is a need to update the dates in the FC constitution. It was stated that currently there is no Tenure and Promotion manual for CEC. In the previous meeting the vote taken by the FC on a motion to follow the university guidelines for tenure and promotion was currently in the constitution.
* The chair stated that the website should soon be updated.
* Some of the council members suggested additional action items for the 2014-15 academic year, including the following:
  + Increase the number of faculty parking spots at the Engineering Center. There is usually a problem to find parking between 11am – 3pm. It was suggested that a study be undertaken to identify how many parking spots are currently available for faculty at the Engineering Center.
  + This is a need to find the Engineering Management program a home, currently it is under the Dean’s office.
* The faculty senators who are also members of the FC gave a brief report from the last Faculty Senate meeting.
  + There was concern that faculty were not being involved in some of the decision being made by administration.
  + There is a push to remove GRE scores as part of the application process for some graduate programs.
* It was suggested that if FC members missed two meetings without valid excuses then they should be replaced.
* There was a call for the CEC Awards committee to starts the awards process. It was stated that the committee needs to elect a chair before the process can start.
* The meeting ended at 2:05pm.