**Florida International University**

**College of Engineering and Computing**

**Faculty Council on Governance (FCG)**

**Meeting Minutes November 19, 2009**

**Attendees** (in alphabetical order): Jean Andrian (ECE), Peter Clarke (SCIS, visitor), 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.

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the October 15, 2009 FCG meeting.**

The minutes were approved. Also, the correctness of the final version of the Seven-Year Review Policy (passed in the October 15, 2009 meeting) was verified; this policy will shortly be communicated to the CEC faculty.

1. **Discussion of important FCG issues.**

* **Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Guidelines**

It was reported that the draft document *Appointment and Promotion Guidelines for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty* has been revised; the revised version was approved by the Faculty Senate on November 17, 2009 and will soon be communicated to the CEC faculty for a ratification vote.

* **FCG Ad-Hoc Committee on Constitutional Amendments**

The Ad-Hoc Committee reported that it is considering possible changes to the current “two-thirds vote of the entire CEC faculty” requirement for amending the FCG Constitution, but it has not yet arrived at a recommendation. In discussion, it was argued that faculty members who do not vote on an amendment might be opposed, rather than simply indifferent, and that it is therefore the job of FCG members to convince the faculty to vote. The Ad-Hoc Committee will make recommendations in the next FCG meeting.

* **College Strategic Planning**

There was discussion of the appropriate role of the FCG in the ongoing strategic planning efforts. Dean Mirmiran joined the meeting at this point and discussed the ongoing efforts of the Strategic Planning Think Tank, which comprises three subcommittees: Education, Research, and Community Engagement. Dean Mirmiran agreed to send an e-mail to the CEC faculty to explain the structure and membership of the Think Tank and to encourage their early input in the process. A draft document is expected by January, which will then be discussed and refined through input from departments, students, alumni, the FCG, etc.

1. **Report from Dean Amir Mirmiran**
   * Processing of **Professor Emeritus** applications had been delayed, but the reviews will now go forward and should be completed by mid December.

* Six **NSF proposals** for research centers are currently under review and have done well in the early stages of the review competition.
* With respect to the possible **relocation of SCIS to EC**, feasibility studies are still underway. In a recent meeting with the Provost, Dean Mirmiran argued that the relocation would cause problems for CEC—regarding education, the space consumed by SCIS in EC would conflict with efforts to improve the EC infrastructure to enhance the student learning environment; regarding research, the relocation would tend to isolate CEC from the rest of FIU. He proposed instead mixing groups by for example bringing some faculty from the College of Medicine to EC to work with BME.

1. **Discussion of New Issues**
   * **CEC guidelines for faculty workload** and **course buy-out** were discussed, and it was agreed to seek data about the guidelines that are currently being used in the different departments, to see whether it would make sense to develop college-wide guidelines.
   * The possible **relocation of SCIS** was further discussed, and a resolution was proposed by Geoffrey Smith to be considered in the next FCG meeting:

*Proposed 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.*

1. **Reports from Standing Committees**
   * **Library Committee**: Peter Clarke reported that there are plans to enhance the facilities in EC 2780 and EC 2783. The Library Committee supports these plans, but favors some modifications, which it will submit to the FCG in its next meeting.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 PM.