

Research, Scholarship, Creative Activities & Engagement Committee

Minutes of November 1, 2016

Date and Time: November 1, 2016, 1PM

Present:

Eric Bishop-Von Wettberg ebishopv@fiu.edu <<mailto:ebishopv@fiu.edu>>, Biological Sciences, new committee chair

Berrin Tansel tanselb@fiu.edu <<mailto:tanselb@fiu.edu>>, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Enrique Villamor villamor@fiu.edu <<mailto:villamor@fiu.edu>>, Mathematics and Statistics

Allan Rosenbaum rosenbau@fiu.edu <<mailto:rosenbau@fiu.edu>>, Public Administration

Michael Gillespie mpgilles@fiu.edu <<mailto:mpgilles@fiu.edu>>, English

Fenfei Leng lengf@fiu.edu <<mailto:lengf@fiu.edu>>, Chemistry

Jacek Kolasinski kolasins@fiu.edu, Art and art history, past chair

Eric vW was a bit late, and was appointed as the new chair. I accepted, with the caveat that I expect to be on sabbatical in 2017-2018 and unable to continue the following year.

Introductions:

Allan Rosenbaum: Public affairs, former dean.

Jacek Kolasinski: Art and art history, current chair

Enrique Villamor: mathematics and financial

Berrin Tansel: - civil engineering, water surfaces

Michael Gillespie: Professor of English, past director of the - here since 2009. James Joyce and Oscar Wilde

Fenfei Leng- chemistry - DNA structure and topology, drug development, FIU since 2001

Our tasks last year were the following. We spent a few minutes reviewing them.

1. Performance based metrics and their impact- STEM education as the focus, but its impact across the university. What is the future of non-STEM units
2. postdocs. For non-stem, Fulbright's. We discussed ways these could be counted to not punish non-STEM departments so much.
3. Patents. Last year this was a conversation Fenfei led.
4. Museums - run in different ways, not fully utilized for research, for fundraising
5. Masters students - removal of GAs for them. Still a concern. MFAs as well- where those are terminal degrees.

We then discussed this year. We assume our tasks are the same, as we don't know of new tasks from the Faculty Senate. We still spent the rest of the meetings discussing a few upcoming items.

New tasks:

1. We should try to get Andres Gil to speak to us. He has in the past. EvW will schedule this, hopefully next month.

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2. The increasing use of non-tenure track positions to staff the university - online professor, professor of practice, clinical professor, instructors, lecturers, research professors

This may need to bring in UFF- they have data

The "teaching assistant professor" designation- discussion of it. Mostly instructor vs lecturer is just a title
Advisors are also an issue- they have degrees, but do not teach. Advisors do have a role in advising and may in some cases teach a bit.

Other notes:

Evaluating faculty in art- not all are book faculty- some are studio-based. In our new system this makes that type of department look weak. This is a broader concern to many departments. EvW has seen this in African Diaspora studies with which he's affiliated.

This led into a discussion of philanthropy and giving low funding departments a chance a philanthropy. We then discussed ways to find out how the administration is doing on its fundraising promises.

We also discussed the commitment to the matrix- our administrators caring about nothing else. Given the loss of funds this is perhaps understandable, but often seems to miss the point of the university's purpose. This was also phrased as a "Return on Investment" emphasis, in fields where the return is impossible to measure - or where measuring it as books overlooks the real purpose of the activity. Has the administration done its duty on raising endowment. There was some following discussion of a synthetic point- what is our "niche" as a university- what can we do that no one else can? What is our "money-ball" approach? For some departments, this might be a study of creolization, or of international art as the "capitol" of Latin America, etc. For STEM, this might mean the Everglades and the nearby Caribbean.

Also, we discussed inviting Mark Rosenberg and VP Lippman to the senate for an update on how their fundraising is going. Ask them how much of the university's research, creative activity, and engagement is supported by Philanthropy.

EvW left with two scheduling tasks for upcoming meetings. One with VP Andres Gil, hopefully in early-mid December. A second to take up non-tenure track issues, perhaps in early 2017.

meeting adjourned, 2:10PM

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