

Faculty Senate Committee on Research, Scholarship,
Creative Activities and Engagement

Meeting on September 20, 2012 at 2:00 pm in PCA 254

Minutes

The meeting of the Committee was called to order by last year's Committee Chairperson Allan Rosenbaum. Committee members present included Alexander Agoulnik, Charles Bleiker, Orlando Garcia, and Berrin Tansel. In addition, Faculty Senate Chairperson Delano Gray was present.

The first topic on the agenda was the election of a Committee Chair for the year. Allan Rosenbaum was re-elected by unanimous vote. The second topic of discussion was the faculty questionnaire on research, scholarship, creative activities and engagement at FIU. The Committee concluded that the questionnaire was ready to be administered to the FIU faculty and voted unanimously for this to be done. Faculty Chairperson Gray encouraged the Committee to move forward in this regard as well. Committee Chair Rosenbaum indicated that he would now seek the assistance of a doctoral student graduate assistant in the Public Administration Department to administer the questionnaire electronically.

The next topic that the Committee discussed was its desire to, as has traditionally been the case, schedule a meeting with Vice President for Research, Andres Gil. It was noted that the meeting with him last year was very useful in terms of both getting some sense of the priorities of the Division of Research and also providing feedback regarding those priorities.

Finally, a general discussion ensued regarding the criteria which senior administrators (Deans and the Provost among others) utilize in determining the importance of specific journals in the tenure and promotion review process. There was particular concern in this regard as to the criteria used by the Provost since obviously, at that level of administration, it became less easy to readily identify key journals in all of the disciplines that exist within the University.

Further discussion ensued as regards criteria used for selecting individual institutions to be used for comparative purposes in discussing both departmental and individual productivity. Some concern was expressed regarding whether those institutions that were deemed as comparable to FIU actually were so. Faculty Chairperson Gray indicated that this was a matter of concern for him and that he was planning to raise these topics in a meeting with the Provost. The Committee agreed that this might be an appropriate topic to address more depth at a subsequent meeting and that it might be useful to invite the Provost to such a meeting, as well as to include appropriate representatives of the Faculty Union in this discussion.