

BBC Campus Senate Meeting 9-8-2011 at 3 PM Minutes taken by Pablo Simon.

Attendees: Professors David Talty, Thomas Breslin, Pablo Simon, Neptune Srimal and Lauren Christos were in attendance.

- 1) David Talty is stepping down as Chair of the BBC campus senate and Lauren Christos accepted the position and was elected as Chair. John Berry will continue as secretary.
- 2) Senate President Breslin provided us with a report of the Board of Trustees meeting earlier today. The following are some of the items discussed:
 - a. The BBC campus was in the agenda of the discussion regarding the implementation of an Academy for Advanced Academics similar to the one already established in the Maidique Campus. The academy deals with high school students coming to FIU to take both college and high school level courses.
 - i. Professor Christos raised the question of the potential impact for our campus: colleges and faculty that might be impacted.
 - b. The Trustees were complimentary of the faculty activities dealing with research and others areas.
 - c. Trustees also expressed concern about the need for infrastructure to support research, particularly within the next 18 months since the new science lab will not be completed until 2013 and the fact that the current facilities will have to be shared by both the Medical School and Arts and Sciences.
 - i. Professor Talty expressed concerns regarding the School of Hospitality and the hiring of new PHD level faculty since one of the areas of interest will be food research where the school might want to establish a niche as it expands its research.
 - ii. Professor Breslin confirmed that the BBC campus is short of Lab space much like the Maidique Campus
 - iii. Professor Talty will talk to Provost Moll regarding the potential locations for food research labs and perhaps even the Academy for Advanced Academics.
 - d. The Trustees want to increase support for internships for students in order to increase opportunities for future jobs and to extend the reach of the University.
 - i. Professor Srimal questioned how the University will implement this new initiative to increase and promote the internships.
 - ii. Professor Talty also mentioned that there is an internship committee made of approximately 20 members who study among other things the legal ramifications of the effort. He added that based on the School of Hospitality's experience with internship placement, between 50% and 70% of the students placed in internships get full time jobs with the companies they worked as interns. Talty will send Breslin the emails he has received from the Committee.
 - e. The Trustees also want FIU to increase the student retention rate. The goal is 1% increase per year:
 - i. First to second year from 86% to 87%

- ii. Second to third year from 74% to 75%
- iii. Third to fourth year from 65% to 66%
- iv. Some in our meeting asked if the percentage was from the original freshman class or if the percentage is based on the immediate prior year population. Professor Breslin will double check the numbers.
- v. Professor Srimal mentioned that the overall graduation rate has decreased somewhat and now stands at 45%.
- vi. Some ideas were suggested in order to raise funds for the increased retention efforts:
 - 1. Athletic fee might be capped and spread the funds raised over a broader base.
 - 2. Study the possibility of a tuition rebate option if the student graduates within a specific time.
- f. The Trustees approved the hiring of 47 new faculty and 11 new advisors.
- g. Reminder that the Faculty Convocation will be held on 9-22-11 at 3 PM at the Wertheim Performance Arts Center.
- h. The Board of Trustees wants to increase from 10% to 13% the percentage of Alumni who donate money to FIU.
- i. The Board also wants to concentrate recruiting efforts on certain high schools including some relatively close to BBC: Northwest High School.
- j. The Board also wants to increase the auxiliary revenues from 5.2 to 6.0 million. They also want to increase the foundation revenues from 34 to 36 million.
- k. Based on Professor Breslin the overall tone of the meeting was positive.
- 3) Professor Breslin also brought our attention to the negative feedback from some faculty regarding the suggestion by Patrick O'Keefe, President of the Student Government Association, regarding the online faculty evaluations. The negative feedback has to do with the publication of the written comments by the University itself.
 - a. Some comments were raised regarding grade inflation and the fact that FIU's average GPA has been 2.75 for the last 10 years and FIU ranks as a "tough" school but we have transitioned from a normally distributed GPA among the student population to a more bimodal distribution.
- 4) The next Senate meeting will be 9-13 at BBC Wolf University Center at 1 PM. It will be transmitted to the Maidique Campus as well.