

FIU faculty senate research and creative activities committee, annual report

1. We met 3 times this academic year. In one meeting we discussed the state of research at FIU with Andres Gil, VP for ORED.

2. Our discussion with VP Gil touched on many of the same points made in his presentation to the full senate in November.

A. This is a uniquely challenging funding environment, with federal support being cut, moved, and being generally unpredictable. State funding also has its quirks, with the metric system having a particularly big impact. There is some potential for some fields to benefit, with a few proposed state initiatives perhaps creating big funding in engineering or particular centers that have state line item funding.

B. ORED integrating the grad school should create efficiencies, but the rearrangement is still being completed. But it should speed some center proposals and large training grants, along with saving \$1M.

C. Changing nature of research at the university- push towards doctoral production (in fields that have it), more postdocs (including teaching postdocs), and more preeminence funding.

D. Concerns remain for those affected by funding shifts, particularly those in fields without terminal PhDs and those in non-preeminent fields.

For those interested, our minutes have more details.

After our last discussion, we are currently focused on what it means for the university to be shifting away from a faculty that is majority tenure and tenure track, with mostly faculty governance. We would like to

a. Ask the senate the form a committee to look into tenure at FIU. This includes looking at the treatment and status of instructor/lecturer lines, who often feel like second class citizens. It also involves what it means to have a greater proportion of faculty who do not have as part of their assignment some form of "knowledge creation", ie, research, scholarship, creative activities, and broader engagement outside the classroom and its virtual extension. I hope this committee (of which I would not be a part due to sabbatical) would include a range of faculty, including some with instructor titles).

b. We are initiating a conversation with the administration to better understand what the faculty will look like in the future. We seek insight on four questions:

- What proportion of faculty lines (both tenure/tenure track and other) has been lost in non-strategic (or in the future, non-pre-eminent) areas?
- What proportion of resources is being allocated to pre-eminent programs?
- How have resources been distributed to FIU Online under the old and new budget models?
- What is being done to protect non-PhD terminal degrees?

- To what extent is the university committed to development/advancement for humanities, arts, and other non-preminent disciplines? What are the best examples of this commitment?