
Faculty Senate Minutes of February 2nd, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathleen Wilson with the following Senators and visitors present:

College of Architecture & The Arts

Kathleen Wilson
Alice Read
Jaime Canaves
Nurhayat Bilge

College of Education

Teresa Lucas
Ben Baez
Eric Dwyer
Martha Pelaez

College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Amy Paul-Ward
Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo
Deborah Sherman

College of Arts & Sciences

Steven Oberbauer
Paula Gillespie
Thomas Breslin
Joan L. Baker
Gerardo Aladro
Laurel Collins
Oren Maxwell
Joerg Reinhold
Paul Warren
Tometro Hopkins
Krish Jayachandran
Alan Gummerson
John Makemson
Vernon Dickson
Victor Uribe
Dean Whitman
Eric Bishop Von Wettberg
Hassan Zahedi
Yesim Darici
Fenfei Leng
Ana Luszczynska

College of Engineering

Malek Adjouadi
Mark Weiss
Peter Clarke
Hesham Ali
Berrin Tansel
Osama Mohammed
Mohammed Hadi
Chen-Xian Li

Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work

Ray Thomlison
Mariana Baum
Nasar Ahmed

School of Hospitality

Nancy Scanlon
Nathan Dodge

Guests:

Kenneth Furton
Elizabeth Bejar
Philippe Bateau
Mike Creeden
Fred Blevens
Tiffany Troxler
Douglas Robertson
Alok Deoraj
Sara Lipman
John Stuart
Ana Estevez
Mike Flaunder
Jim Fourqurean
JoAnn Arnowitz
Marisa Salazar
Melissa Castriota
Damaris Valdes
Mary Cossio

School of Journalism

Neil Reisner
David Park

College of Law

Phyllis Kotey
Megan Fairlie

Library

Eduardo Fojo
Patricia Pereira-Pujol

College of Business

Delano Gray
Deanne Butchey
Elisabeth Beristan-Moreiras
Clark Wheatley
Cliff Perry
Dinesh Batra
Krishnan Dandapani
Kenneth R. Henry

Wertheim College of Medicine

Irina Agoulnik
Dietrich Lorke
Sabyasachi Moulik
Jimmy Santana
Ferdinand Gomez

**FACULTY SENATE AGENDA
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2ND, 2016 – 1:00 PM**

**WERTHEIM CONSERVATORY 130 – MODESTO MAIDIQUE CAMPUS
ACADEMIC CENTER ONE 317 – BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS**

- I. **Approval of the Agenda *Moved and approved***
- II. **Approval of the Minutes of the January 19th, 2016 meeting *Moved and approved***
- III. **Chairperson's Report**
 - **Carnegie I Highest Research**

Congratulations to all the FIU faculty who made this possible! VP for Research Andres Gil has been invited to give a full report on March 1 on Carnegie Highest Research as well as emerging pre-eminence and the reorganization of the University Graduate School.
 - **Legislative Update** see government.fiu.edu
 - **Budget Update**/The Senate and the House appropriations subcommittees released their initial budget proposals.
 - House Proposed Education Budget Highlights \$4.73 billion for State Universities 4.9% increase over last year's funding level \$100 million in new performance funding \$20 million for Preeminent Universities \$10 million for Emerging Preeminent Universities No tuition increase . Continued funding of Student Financial Assistance including Bright Futures and FRAG
 - Senate Proposed Education Budget Highlights \$4.68 billion for State Universities 3.8% increase over last year's funding level \$75 million in new performance funding \$15 million for Preeminent and Emerging Preeminent Universities No tuition increase . Continued funding of Student Financial Assistance including Bright Futures and FRAG
 - **State Group Insurance**

The House Health and Human Services Committee introduced a Proposed Committee Bill that is almost identical to the bill proposed during the 2015 Legislative Session. The bill makes changes to the State Group Insurance Program in several steps.

 - Currently an employee's health insurance premium is the same for a HMO or the PPO plan even though the HMOs have greater benefits. The bill directs the Department of Management Services (DMS) to develop premium rates for the HMOs and the PPO. If the rates are approved by the Legislative Budget Commission, the 2017 premiums for the HMOs will be different from the PPO premium to reflect the actuarial difference. The HMO premiums would be higher than the current employee premiums, but the PPO premiums would be lower than the current premiums. If the Legislative Budget Commission does not approve the rates, the rates will remain at the 2016 levels.
 - Also in 2017, new products will be added to the supplemental benefits currently available in the State Group Insurance Program. DMS is given wide authority to contract for any type of supplemental product that it deems is a good value.
 - Beginning in 2019, employees will have a choice of four differing health insurance benefit levels. The levels have the same names and values as plans sold under the Affordable Care Act. The levels are: platinum level, with at least a 90 percent actuarial value; gold, with at least an 80 percent actuarial value; silver, with at least a 70 percent actuarial value; and bronze, with at least a 60 percent actuarial

value. The state will make the same contribution toward premium for each employee in the same employee class and same coverage tier (individual or family). The employee must use the contribution to purchase health insurance. If the employee chooses coverage that costs more than the employer contribution, the employee must pay the difference. If the employee chooses coverage that costs less than the employer contribution, the employee may use the remainder to fund a FSA, a HSA, purchase additional benefits, or increase the employee's salary.

- **STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program**

The Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee heard SB 290 by Senator Chris Smith. The bill establishes the STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program to encourage and incentivize qualified college graduates to remain in Florida and to teach a STEM course at a public school. Qualified teachers could receive up to \$16,000 to pay off their student loans. The program is not funded in the bill; consequently, the program is contingent upon funding in the General Appropriations Act.

- **Computer Coding**

Last week the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education heard SB 468 by Senator Jeremy Ring which would allow high school students to substitute two credits in computer coding courses for foreign language instruction.

This week the House K-12 Subcommittee heard HB 887 by Representative Janet Adkins. The bill originally was identical to SB 468; however, the subcommittee adopted a committee substitute. The bill no longer allows computer coding to be substituted for foreign language instruction. Instead, the bill now directs the Higher Education Coordinating Council to develop recommendations to prepare students for successful postsecondary education and careers in computer science, information technology, and related fields. DOE is required to develop academic standards for computer science to prepare students for postsecondary studies.

- **Conceal Carry on Campus**

The press is widely reporting that Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, will not hear the bill allowing concealed carry on campus. If the bill is not heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee, the issue will likely be dead for the session.

Senator Diaz de la Portilla is quoted as saying, "We're not going to hear campus carry. I think there are better ways to address the issue of campus safety and security. I think the dangers outweigh the potential and perceived benefits of passing a bill." [Click Here](#) for more information.

- **Open carry** also may not pass this session (They will both come back next session, so let your legislators know your thoughts.)

- **Chancellor Criser/Performance Metrics**

Chancellor Criser has accepted an invitation to address a special session of the FIU Senate after the legislative session, specifically to address the issue of performance metrics as well as future BOG plans. Date TBA

- **Performance Funding**

Last December, Governor Scott announced his “Ready, Set, Work” Challenge. The Governor challenged the State Universities to attain 100 percent employment for recent graduates of each university’s top two programs within a year of graduating. FIU is among the universities that accepted the challenge.

Representative Erik Fresen offered an amendment to HB 7043 that would place the Governor’s challenge into law. The amendment directs the Board of Governors to develop a plan for a new Performance Funding metric for FY 2017-18 that addresses the full-time employment rate of 90 percent for each university’s top two degrees. The BOG must submit the plan to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2016. The amendment was adopted by the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

- **Trustee vacancies**

The terms of appointment for five (5) Trustees expired on January 6, 2016: Trustees Dr. Jose J. Armas, Mayi de la Vega, Gerald C. Grant, Jr., Albert Maury, and Claudia Puig. This created five (5) Trustee vacancies at FIU (two appointments by the Board of Governors and three appointments by the Governor of the State of Florida). Trustee Albert Maury has relayed his desire not to seek reappointment.

The Florida Board of Governors (BOG) has confirmed appointment of Leonard Boord and Natasha Lowell and reappointed Trustee Gerald C. Grant, Jr. to a second term to the FIU Board of Trustees.

BOG much more involved in overseeing Boards of Trustees. New staff person Paige Beles, from the Governor’s office, to oversee trustees, including agendas. Trustees now receiving more communications directly from the BOG.

- **Enterprise Florida** Subject of BOG meeting in Jan.

Enterprise Florida, Inc., (EFI) is a partnership between Florida’s businesses and government leaders and is the principal economic development organization for Florida. EFI facilitates job growth for Florida businesses through recruitment and retention, international trade and exporting, promotion of sporting events, and capital funding programs to assist small and minority businesses. Trustees received more information on the marketing campaign on Feb. 1 directly from the Ms Beles. Marketing brand: **Florida – The Future is Here.**

- **Strategic Plan Implementation**

Ranking system based on Importance to Metrics, Resource Requirements, Time to Realization, Effect on Other Systems, Additional points for Provost’s stretch goals. Impact of cluster hiring/departments losing tenure-track positions?

- **Faculty Award Nominations** closed this past Friday the 29th at 5 pm. Senate Office and Honorary degree and awards committee, Eric Dwyer chair, in an effort to address declining nominations, used direct list

serve to notify faculty rather than univmail. Deadline to upload all documents by the nominee is Feb. 13. [58 nominations in AY 14-15 and 98 this year.]

- **Meet and Greet** This past Friday the 29th, was sponsored by College of Engineering and Computer Science. Nice turnout; as always chance to liaise with colleagues from across the university, but also some issues and ideas surface that the Senate can move forward. Next Meet and Greet on Feb. 26, sponsored by the College of Law. Faculty Club 4-6 pm.

IV. Action items:

A. Faculty Senate Undergraduate Council Committee Motion – Karen Fuller, Chair

i. **Motion:** Faculty Senate approves the New Undergraduate Degree: BS in Food Science **Tabled**

B. Faculty Senate Graduate Council Committee Motions – Alok Deoraj, Chair

i. **Motion:** The Faculty Senate approves the New Graduate Track: MS in Recreational Therapy (online program) **Moved and approved**

C. Faculty Senate Graduate Curriculum Committee Motions – Fred Blevens, Chair

i. **Motion:** The Faculty Senate approves the New Graduate Track: MS in Recreational Therapy (online program) **Moved and approved**

D. The Faculty Senate Gordon Rule Oversight & Writing Across the Curriculum Committee Motions – Michael Creeden, Co-Chair & Kimberly Harrison, Co-Chair

i. **Motion:** The Faculty Senate approves the following Gordon Rule Oversight & Writing Across the Curriculum Committee proposals from Curriculum Bulletin 3: **Moved and approved**

- SPC 3271 Rhetoric and Public Address
- SPC 3230 Rhetorical Communication: A Theory of Civil Discourse
- ARC 2701 History of Design from Antiquity to the Middle Ages

E. The Faculty Senate University Curriculum Committee Motions – Fred Blevens, Chair

i. **Motion:** The Faculty Senate approves the Curriculum Bulletin 3 **Moved and approved**

V. Special SEAS Report - Tiffany Troxler, Director, Sea Level Solutions Center, Research Associate Professor, Southeast Environmental Research Center (SEAS).

Reported on the impact of sea level rise on Miami Dade County and its implications for all of South Florida. The rising seas threaten low-lying, flood-prone coastal areas around the world. The ramifications will rapidly ripple through all societies, and the methods and means that allow for a successful adaptation to sea level rise are largely local in nature. It will take cooperation - from the local to international levels - to efficiently develop and implement the policies and strategies necessary to address this threat to resources and security.

VI. Special Site/Location Report - Pablo Ortiz, Associate Vice President, Administration & Institutional Development, and directors:

The Wolfsonian-FIU

Tim Rodgers, Director

- The next opening at The Wolfsonian is on May 5th. The exhibition, *Paradise Promised: Cuban Allure, American Seduction*, will examine the pre-revolutionary period in Cuba when Americans were flocking to Cuba and Cuban culture was infiltrating America. The material from the show is a recent gift from Vicki Gold Levy.
- The Wolfsonian holds 180,000 objects, the largest university held collection of Modern era material culture in the world. All faculty are encouraged to make use of this resource.

FIU Miami Beach Urban Studios

John Stuart, Director

- The Miami Beach Urban Studios is a 16,000sf facility in the College of Architecture + The Arts that serves about 100 students in classes each semester, with nearly 20 faculty researchers and instructors, and hosts several thousand visitors who attend over 100 events annually in one of the four galleries and three classroom spaces.
- The Urban Studios features the Knight-sponsored CARTA Innovation Lab, which, with 33 MakerBot 3D printers offered for use free of charge at each student's work area, is the largest and most active hands on maker space in the United States to be housed in an arts and design environment.
- The creative environment of the Urban Studios was selected as the site of the new FIU Sea Level Solution Center and will serve to facilitate out-of-the box life hacks for a wetter world. It is also the home to ARC+, an independent 501c3 dedicated to enhancing student success by supporting connections between classroom learning and field experiences in areas of sustainable building practices.

FIU at I-75

Marisa Salazar, Director,

FIU at I-75 is conveniently located in the Broward County city of Miramar just off of I-75 in between Miramar Parkway and Pines Boulevard. FIU at I-75 is part of a public-private partnership with Broward College in an 89,000 square feet, four-story, LEED certified building. FIU at I-75 is housed on the third and fourth floors. It is comprised of 14 classrooms – 9 case-study, 3 multi-purpose, and 2 instructional computer labs – as well as an administrative suite, executive conference room, open computer lab, private study rooms, open lounges, and a shared commons/dining area located on the first floor.

Select undergraduate and graduate programs are available, as well as non-credit courses. Although most courses are offered in the evening (5 - 10 p.m.) during the week and all day on Saturdays (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.), more departments are adding daytime courses to meet student demand. Visit

<http://broward.fiu.edu/future-students/index.html> to view a complete list of our program offerings.

Additionally, limited enrollment services are available at this location, including accepting/processing residency documents, non-degree paperwork, change of name/address, senior citizen fee waivers, and immunization paperwork. Academic advising for business majors is available on both an appointment and walk-in basis. We also offer a wide variety of student activities both on- and off-site through the BBC/FIU at I-75 SGA. Visit <http://broward.fiu.edu/about/services.html> to view a complete list of our services.

We do rent out space for internal and external events. To learn more about our meeting spaces and rates, please contact Melissa Castriota, Assistant Director, via e-mail at mcastrio@fiu.edu or via telephone at (954) 438-8609. To discuss academic program offerings, please contact Marisa Salazar, Director, via e-mail at msalazar@fiu.edu or via telephone at (954) 438-8615.

FIU Downtown on Brickell

Sara Lipman, Executive Director of Operations & Strategic Initiatives

Conveniently located in the heart of Downtown Miami, FIU Downtown on Brickell offers a number of professional programs through its College of Business and the Steven J. Green School of International and

Public Affairs. These programs are designed specifically to meet the needs of today's working professionals, with an accessible location and convenient schedules. At our FIU Downtown on Brickell location students receive a high level of personal service including course registration, advisors, financial aid, course material, light meals and parking.

Brickell programs:

- College of Business, Chapman Graduate School
 - Executive MBA
 - Health Care MBA
 - Master of Science in International Real Estate
 - Master of Science in Finance
 - Professional MBA Flex
 - Professional MBA Downtown
- Green School of International and Public Affairs
 - Executive Masters in PA
 - MA in Global Affairs
- College of Business Centers
 - Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center
 - Small Business Development Center
- Other Offices/Centers
 - Office of the President
 - Metropolitan Center

Graduate student count:

- Fall = 564
- Spring = 678

60,000 Square Feet of Space

We house the administrative offices for the SBDC. In 2014 SBDC provided 4,489 consulting hours for 547 entrepreneurs. (2015 data not yet available).

After the February 2014 demolition of the parking garage, a new fully functioning parking garage is expected in early 2016.

Construction of [Panorama Tower](#) is scheduled for end of 2017 completion.

The Kampong

Michael Maunder, Associate Dean of Research Engagement

- The Kampong is an historic house and botanic garden in Coconut Grove.
- The estate was bought in 1916 by plant explorer and economic botanist Dr. David Fairchild.
- Today The Kampong is part of the portfolio of gardens and reserves owned by the National Tropical Botanic Garden.
- The Kampong is managed in association with Florida International University.
- The Kampong provides a venue for informal education activities, retreats and symposia.
- Adjacent to The Kampong, on land given by NTBG, FIU is building the new International Center for Tropical Botany.

Engineering & Computing

1. National Rankings:

1 BS & MS Hispanic Graduates, # 1 Online Engineering Graduate Programs, # 5 Black/African American BS Graduates, #33 BS Graduates (including CS)- 86% above National Average, 48% above National Average in MS Awarded, and 9 % above National Average for PhDs Awarded , # 45 Women BS Graduates
National Science Foundation Higher Education Research and Development Rankings (NSF HERD):
#91 for the College of Engineering and Computing, #16 for Civil Engineering, #45 for Computer Science, #71 for Biomedical Engineering, #91 for Electrical Engineering.

2. Office of Student Access and Success:

- a. K – 12 Outreach
 - Engineering expo
 - Engineers on wheels
 - Dual enrollment
 - Summer transportation program
 - Enlace
 - Miami Prep
 - Research Experiences for Teachers (RET)
- b. Undergraduate Students:
 - Scholarships
 - Tutoring
 - Research Experience for Undergraduate Students
- c. Student Organizations – Nationally Recognized:
 - Tau Beta Pi (TBP)
 - Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
 - National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
 - Aerospace Engineering (AERO)
 - Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE)
 - Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)
 - Eta Kappa Nu (HKN Delta Chapter)
 - Theta Tau (Omega Gamma Chapter)
 - Panther Robotics (PR)
 - Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)
 - Alpha Eta Mu Beta (AEMB)
 - American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
 - Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES)

3. Academic Affairs:

- a. Academic Success Initiative Program (ASI)
- b. Early Alerts

4. External Programs:

- a. Full Online Programs
 - Master of Science in Construction Management
 - Master of Science in Computer Engineering (Track: Cyber security)
 - Master of Science in Engineering Management (Track: Systems Engineering)
- b. Online Courses
 - FEEDS
 - FIU Online
- c. Dual-Degree, Pipeline and Inbound Programs
 - Undergraduate Dual Degree Program
 - Graduate Degree (Pipeline) Programs

- Inbound Programs
- d. Executive and Continuing Education Courses
 - Executive courses and certifications offered in different disciplines
- e. Professional Programs
 - Professional MS in Information Technology (Hybrid and Accelerated)
 - Professional MS in Engineering Management (Accelerated)

5. Signature Research Facilities:

- a. Wall of Wind (WoW) – National Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) Experimental Facility
- b. ABC- UTC Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) – University Transportation Center (UTC)
- c. FPL Solar Panels
- d. Advanced Materials Engineering Institute - Motorola – Nano Fabrication Lab
- e. Smart Grid Test Bed
- f. Cyber Security and Privacy (CaSPR) Lab
- g. Human Subject Studies
 - Biophotonics
 - Kinetics & Kinematics
 - Neuro mapping & Cognition
- h. Tech Station
- i. I-CAVE
- j. Moss and Associates Built Environment Informatics Lab (BEIL)
- k. Lehman Center for Transportation Research
- l. Discovery Lab

6. Faculty Accolades:

- a. 13 NSF Career Awardees
- b. Fellows (IEEE, AAAS, AIMBE, ASME, ASCE, ACM, NAI, ASM)

Aquarius Reef Base

James W. Fourqurean, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences and Southeast Environmental Research Center, Director, Marine Education and Research Initiative for the Florida Keys, Principal Investigator, Aquarius Reef Base, School of the Environment, Arts and Society

- The centerpiece of FIU's programs in the keys is the Aquarius Reef Base (ARB) and the Medina Aquarius Program. ARB is the world's only underwater habitat and laboratory for research and training. The habitat is 60' long and sits in the bottom in 60' of water on Conch Reef, 4.5 miles offshore of Key Largo. The habitat provides air-conditioned work and living space with AC and DC power for 6 aquanauts and is connected to land by a high-speed wireless link that allows for full internet connectivity. A fleet of 5 vessels from 35' to 55' long and a dedicated staff of 6 support the activities in the habitat.
- The shore facility is a 3000 ft² waterfront building that houses the compressors, dive locker, recompression chambers, workshops and office space for the staff. It also has a small classroom for training aquanauts and teaching FIU classes.
- ARB supports fundamental research on oceanographic and marine biological questions, as well as training programs for underwater professionals. ARB also connects the underwater realm to outer space: NASA uses the facility as the world's best space flight analog for training astronauts from NASA, as well as the Japanese and European Space Agencies, for trips to the International Space Station, asteroids, Mars and beyond. Most ISS astronauts trained in Aquarius.

FIU MERI/Aquarius Continuing Education/Non-Credit Courses in the Keys:

- **Flora and Fauna of the Florida Keys:** This ten-week class features guided field trips through natural communities of the Florida Keys archipelago to introduce participants to native species diversity and local ecology. Twelve (12) students participated in this course during the winter 2014 term.
- **Diver Medic Technician Training (DMT):** This 48-hour NBDHMT-approved program provides focused didactic and practical training that addresses recognition, stabilization and treatment of decompression and other diving-related injuries. Upon successful completion of the course, students may apply to NBDHMT for certification as a Diver Medic. This class has attracted first responders from as far away as Panama City, FL and Corpus Christi, TX.

VII. Reports:

A. Provost's Report—Provost Furton

Update from Board of Governor's Meeting

- Board of Governor's meeting was held at FSU in Tallahassee 01-20 and 01-21
- President attended cabinet meeting on "Ready, Set, Work" challenge. The Governor challenged the State Universities to attain 100% employment for recent graduates of each universities top two programs within a year of graduating. FIU is among the universities that accepted the challenge, top programs being Psychology & Business
- Common opt-n LMS unanimously selected to be Canvas with Master Agreement. Universities to tell BOG if and when they will opt-in.
- Discussion of changing the metrics, still considering AA transfer graduation rate. Last 5 years have seen a decrease in enrollment at all "SUS stand-alone regional campuses" e.g. BBC, FAU Jupiter, FSU Panama, USF Sarasota/Manatee

Strategic Plan Implementation:

- Strategic plan implementation update presentation was given at the faculty senate meeting on 01-19-2016.
- The presentation is being made available to the senate steering committee for detailed discussion.

New Faculty Boat Tour

- On 01-20-2016 a memo was sent inviting New Faculty to our annual boat tour which will take place on Saturday February 20.
- This annual event is open to all new faculty that joined the university since last Fall 2015 and includes their respective deans and historian Dr. Paul George.
- This year we will sail Biscayne Bay and visit Stiltsville and surrounding areas instead of sailing up the Miami River

International Education by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

- On Monday 01-25-2016, it was announced that FIU received an award the IIE Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education.
- The award distinguishes our Global Learning for Global Citizenship initiative as a best practice for successful campus internationalization and FIU is one of 17 institutions.
- The Faculty Senate has conferred global learning designation to 160 courses across 71 academic departments and more than 550 faculty and staff have participated in global learning professional development.

Remembrance for President Wolfe

- Former FIU President Gregory Wolfe passed away on 12-12-15 and remembrance is scheduled for today 02-02-2016 at BBC from 2pm to 4pm.

- Remembrance is being attended by the President, VP Elizabeth Bejar, several VP's and faculty
Golden Panther Express:

- Provost and CFO have agreed to do reimbursements to faculty that travel on the Golden panther express because of teaching assignments that require them to be on both BBC and MMC.
- The mechanism for reimbursement is being developed and Faculty will be notified on how to get reimbursed for this Semester and for other semesters moving forward.

Center or Advanced Teaching

- Isis Artze has been appointed the Assistant Vice President for Teaching and Learning

First Folio

- Would like to invite all faculty to attend the Shakespeare First Folio event.
- This month-long celebration features educational programming for Florida schoolchildren, an academic symposium, staged readings, open-mic events, film screenings, a family day and more throughout February.
- The First Folio is being held by Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, CARTA, CASE and FIU Libraries, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, FIU Foundation and the Steven J Green School. More Information can be found at folio.fiu.edu

FIU Research Designation

- Yesterday (02-01-2016) the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Announced that FIU is in the top category – R1: Doctoral Universities – Highest Research Activity.
- FIU is now in the same research category as UF, FSU, USF and UCF.
- Special thanks to our faculty for all the hard work and impressive scholarly activity produced within the last few years.

B. Governmental Liaison Report – Teresa Lucas

- Guns on Campus tabled

It seems that **SB 68**, a bill that would require that guns be permitted on college and university campuses, will not go forward this year since Senator Miguel de la Portilla, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, will not put the bill on the committee agenda. Unless Senate President Andy Gardiner elects to bring the bill to the floor, the bill will not be considered this session.

- Sunshine Law weakening possible

Legislators tend to chip away at Florida's Sunshine Law every session. This year, a one-word change in an existing clause could severely affect public records requests. Chapter 119 of the Florida Public Records Act states: "If a civil action is filed against an agency to enforce the provisions of this chapter and if the court determines that such agency unlawfully refused to permit a public record to be inspected or copied, the court shall assess and award, against the agency responsible, the reasonable costs of enforcement including reasonable attorneys' fees. **SB 1220 / HB 1021** would change "shall" to "may", possibly leaving individuals and organizations who request public records liable not only for the cost of obtaining such records (which is often in the thousands of dollars), but also for attorney fees, even if the public agency is found at fault.

- University employees' health insurance
HB 7089 by the Rep. Jason Brodeur/SB 1434 by Senator Jeff Brandes. These bills impact the State Group Health Insurance Program, which serve our faculties at the state universities. The House had proposed this legislation last session, but now a Senate sponsor has been found. The bill modifies parts of the current plan and establishes different level health insurance plans in the future. UFF is working with a coalition of state employee unions to address the bill so it is favorable to our members should it pass.
- Living Wage Ban DEFEATED in Committee!

Earlier today in the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee, SB 598 the bill that would BAN living wage, prevailing wage and other key working family ordinances in public works projects was voted unfavorably in a 3-2 vote. A special thank you to the three Senators who voted against this bad bill: Senator Jack Latvala, Senator Jeremy Ring and Senator Dwight Bullard.

C. UFF Report—Benjamin Baez, UFF-FIU President

- Collective Bargaining Agreement Information Meeting – Wednesday, January 27, 2016 -- 10:00 AM – Noon – Wertheim Conservatory, WC 130 (MMC) and Marine Science Reading Room, MSB 105 (BBC via Polycom teleconferencing).
- Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification Vote – Wednesday, February 3, 2016, and Thursday, February 4, 2016 – 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM –MMC, BBC, and the Engineering Center. Locations TBA.
- UFF-FIU Executive Committee Meeting – Friday, February 12, 2016 – Noon – 2:00 PM – 309 Labor Center.
- UFF-FIU Chapter Meeting – Wednesday, February 24, 2016 -- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – Wertheim Conservatory, WC 130 (MMC) and Marine Science Reading Room, MSB 105 (BBC via Polycom teleconferencing).
- “UnKoch our Campus, Student Debt Crisis” Event – Thursday, February 25, 2016 – 5:00 – 7:00 PM – 110 Labor Center. [See here](#)

Legislative Update

The Florida Legislature convened for the 2016 session on Tuesday, January 12. House Bill 4001 requiring colleges and universities to allow guns on campus passed all committees during fall meetings and is ready to be taken to the floor. Companion Senate Bill 68 was introduced into the Judiciary Committee on the first day of session. If it passes, it will go to the Rules Committee.

Senate Bill 524 would establish university performance funding as law, with additional provisions that establish wage thresholds for graduates, and reinforcing provisions that withhold funding from universities who fall in the lower tier in the comparative point system.

Of Interest

- 2nd Annual Library Fair for Faculty & Staff – Thursday, February 11, 2016 – 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – GL 220.
- Please complete the 5-question survey, “Online environments and collective bargaining,” in cooperation with UFF Senator Damon Davis from FAU, who is studying the impact of online teaching on university campuses and unions.

D. SGA Report— Alexis Calatayud, SGA-MMC President

- Not in attendance; no report given

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

Announcements

The next Faculty Senate meeting is on March 1st, 2016 at 1:00PM in WC 130 in MMC and AC1 317 in BBC. All are invited. Go to facultysenate.fiu.edu for regularly updated information on the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate Meet & Greet

Hosted by the College of Law

Friday, February 26, 2016 from 4:00-6:00pm at the Faculty Club Lounge-MMC