
Faculty Senate Special Meeting Minutes of March 8th, 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
Roberto Rovira
Gretchen Scharnagl
Peggy Nolan
Pip Brant

College of Arts & Sciences

Paula Gillespie
Thomas Breslin
Joan L. Baker
Laurel Collins
Rene Price
Patricia Houle
Amir Khoddamzadeh
Suzanne Koptur
Pete Markowitz
Rodolfo Reyo
Maureen Donnelly
Oren Maxwell
Ken Johnson
Philip Stoddard
Joerg Reinhold
Paul Warren
Tometro Hopkins
Krish Jayachandran
Alan Gummerson
John Makemson
Vernon Dickson
Victor Uribe
Dean Whitman
Eric Bishop Von Wettberg
Hassan Zahedi

College of Business

C. Delano Gray
Clark Wheatley
Elisabeth Beristain-Moreiras

College of Education

Teresa Lucas
Eric Dwyer

College of Engineering

Malek Adjouadi
Mark Weiss
Peter Clarke
Berrin Tansel
Mohammed Hadi
Mahadev Bhat

School of Hospitality

Nancy Scanlon
Nathan Dodge

School of Journalism

Neil Reisner
David Park

College of Law

Megan Fairlie

Library

Eduardo Fojo

Wertheim College of Medicine

Dietrich Lorke
Sabyasachi Moulik

College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Amy Paul-Ward
Carmen Caicedo

**Stempel College of Public Health
& Social Work**

Ray Thomlison

Guests:

Kenneth Furton
Elizabeth Bejar
Damaris Valdes
Rebecca Friedman
Philippe Bateau
Pioneer Winter-Honors College
John Cal-Facilities
James Wassenaar-Facilities
Tony Vu-Univ. Treasurer
Mary Cossio

Students:

Joanna Delorieux
Paulina Tantepe
Wendolynne Perez
Kimberly Ortiz
Joshua Munoz
Jeffrey Becon
Olivia Wills
Benjamin Armas
Grace Sarango
Kimberly Hahn
Carlos Dolz
Faizah Saber
Natalie Yagual
Juan Pinzon
Nathaniel Armas
Hassan Akvam
Janelle Fleites
Carolina Perez
Gabriel Rhenals
Ethan Rivero
Biana Polini
Katrina Gonzalez
Isra Ibrahim
Alec Colosi

FACULTY SENATE AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING - TUESDAY MARCH 8TH, 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. **Special Report:**
 - A. Special Session to discuss impact of practice fields on Nature Preserve – Roberto Rovira, Chair
- Minutes taken by Laurel Collins (Senator), substituting Faculty Senate Secretary
 - Statement by Kathleen Wilson (KW): Voted against building two practice fields at the December BOT meeting due to other priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. There seems to have been miscommunication on both sides. Charrette signed by Provost Berkman in 2006 that if certain conditions were met, including raising money for structures, the preserve would exist in perpetuity. Bruce Hauptli (then on senate) said the senate was in agreement with this.
 - Roberto Rovira (RR), Chair of Environment and Planning Committee (EAP):
Read Narrative section from 3/3/16 Memo from RR to EAP. Showed “Natural Preserve Charrette” figure, referred to 4 items (nos. 5, 6, 8, 11) having to do with building structures that have not as yet been accomplished to keep the preserve in perpetuity. Motion intends to take advantage of the administration’s willingness to talk about changes before the expiration of the agreement on May 6 2016. Goal of the EAP meeting last Thurs. was to try to create “something that was really win win.” Referred to the BOT-approved (Dec. 2015) plan, its high expense, inefficient layout and safety concerns (being close to the road) for construction of the practice fields. Showed proposed new plan to build the practice fields on the North part of the preserve. Referred to 3/3 RR memo’s resolution: read items 1 (limit removal of North preserve), 2 (allocate \$2 million). Mentioned Prof. Joel Heinen’s fundraising of \$100,000. Need the \$2 million endowment for leverage to fund maintenance and improvements. Read item 3 (develop a sustainability and connectivity plan), item 4 (mitigation measures). Referred to “Previous RESOLUTION language” document, items 1, 4a, 6.
 - Motion: The faculty senate recommends approval of the sports practice field construction in the northern Preserve area provided ...
 - Maureen Donnelly, Biology Prof. and Graduate Program Director, CASE: read letter on Facebook Page about ruining nature, by Bella Perez. Referred to 41 courses and research projects that use the preserve. Education trumps athletics. Students clapped.
 - Delano Gray, Instructor, School of Accounting (senator): IF spending 8.9 million \$, don’t we have a better use for it? The time to establish an endowment would take years. Why is this not in the budget? Aren’t there any other properties on the campus that we can use?

- Ken Jessell, CFO FIU: BOT already approved money for the project. 2 weeks after BOT meeting we started seeing problems with plan. Will make \$80,000 available annually and will adjust as it goes along.
- Orin Maxwell, Physics Dept. (senator): Already a proposal approved by the BOT. None of the 4 reasons given to change it seems valid. (high expense, high infrastructure accessibility, inefficient layout for athletic team use, safety concerns of practice fields being next to road)
- Jessell: Students will be crossing 17 Street if fields there (safety concerns). Other issues as well.
- Eric Dwyer, Foreign Language Education (senator): Is a troubling educative message here: If the football team barks, the environment jumps. 7000 students signed petition, and we are showing that athletics trumps education.
- Roberto Rovira: Have to balance needs with protecting what we value. Looking at the realities and offering mitigation.
- Eric Von Wettberg, Biology (senator): There was a hostile provost at the time the charrette was made, and it is unusual to have faculty tasked with raising money (for the preserve). Are the charrette goals still in place?
- Hassan Zahedi, Mathematics & Statistics (senator): Give my time to Prof. Koptur?
- KW: No
- Tom Breslin, Politics and International Relations (senator): Grave concern about implications in light of other things happening at university. Put together building plan for 10 years, proposed building use was for 37k students. We are proposing stuffing many more in our campus, which is not growing. This proposal interrupts our research. We are not doing a good job of managing and stewarding our space. Would be unhappy and convinced there is no wisdom in this move, an improvident use of space across both campuses.
- Laurel Collins, Dept. Earth and Environment, and Dept. Biological Sciences: 2 questions: How much acreage will the preserve lose? The preserve and organic garden are different: the organic garden is essentially farming, growing vegetables, etc. It is human-made. The preserve is natural, with native plants (and invasives). Will people outside FIU such as the Miami Football Club be able to use the athletic practice fields? The MFC has a contract with FIU to use the stadium.
- Roberto Rovira: Overall, EAP thinks organic garden and preserve are complimentary. No answer on acreage.
- Jessell: The practice fields will only be available to students and student athletes.
- John Cal, Facilities Management: Measured preserve. OG= .65 acres, of that .21 are inside boundary of preserve, .34 are outside. Preserve was 10.8 acres originally, will be 10.9 acres (???) – does that include the organic garden, which is not natural.
- Dean Whitman: Does the 50% use by student groups mean 24 hours around the clock?
- Elisabeth Beristain, College of Business (senator): What are consequences of the decision made today?
- Roberto Rovira: read from the 2006 memorandum.
- Kathleen Wilson, Faculty Senate Chair: We are advisory, but I will vote with the majority of the senators.
- Ken Jessell: This is not for my personal benefit. I have taken great care with the preserve when planning new housing and jogging trail. My area funds the Office of Sustainability.
- Olivia Wills, Biology student: Home to endangered and threatened species. Administrators have not contacted the regulatory authorities who have authority over

endangered/threatened species. Pine Rockland is globally endangered. Proposed practice fields will endanger about 3 of the 10 acres of the preserve. Will be fined if not given permission to build.

- Victor Uribe, College of Law (senator): Would vote for this to make sure that nothing worse would happen.
- Joshua Munoz, representing concerned students: Have >8000 signatures. Oct. 28 2015 Miami Herald: Miami Football Club strikes deal for team to pay for using FIU stadium beginning in Oct. 2016. This may explain the fast track for the project. Why are we giving up academic resources for external interests?
- Erin Berry, International/Political Science, senior: This proposal only happened after the threat of practice fields. Why couldn't we reach the charrette goals by the date? Why not use soccer fields at engineering campus with shuttle service?
- Ken Jessell: That is the location of the wall of wind on E side of campus. Also no support facilities there.
- Teresa Lucas, College of Business (senator): The Faculty Senate seems to be between a rock and a hard place: whichever way we vote, the fields will be built.
- Kathleen Wilson, Chair of Faculty Senate: I believe the administration will respond and we will make a difference.
- Adonis Alvarez, Environmental Studies graduated 2014: How can a natural area be established over gravel and high salt content? Invasive grasses were just cleared in the North part by hand last month. Why were students kept in the dark about this? Students come here foremost to learn, and athletics should not get in the way of this. Concussions are serious problem. Our preserve is the smallest of all the state universities. Quote from "The Synthesis of Yoga."
- Philip Stoddard, Biology Prof.: Trees in the North preserve mostly invasive. Wetland can be recreated easily.
- Victoria Rivera, Science major: Instead of spending \$9 million on this project, why not focus on getting more students to graduate?
- Kristie Wendellberger, Biology student: Is there any federal funding paying for this (Jessell says no)? Is there still a preserve manager? Is it her job to do this? Mitigation with faculty, ground crew, etc. is complicated and a full-time job, and is a whole other position.
- Roberto Rovira: These are the kinds of details we need to address. Office of Sustainability is in charge. Details of how much is organic garden and how much is preserve needs to be sorted out.
- Ken Jessell: The \$80k is incremental – we will add it to whatever we have now.
- Liz Fuentes, Philosophy Dept. (spoke at previous FS meeting): Forest provides unique USDA experience. Is this area going to be preserved or will there be further construction? This would be a great opportunity to work with the students.
- Alexis Calatayud, SGA President: SGA supports both preserving the preserve and building practice fields. We have not discussed dollar amounts. Students need to get behind this project.
- Roberto Rovira: Voices of students have been heard and details that have emerged include student input.
- Amy Estevez, Agrosience "major": Faculty and students are incredibly concerned about status of education. Need to look at long-term loss of reputation and preserved forest. The area at N end of preserve is a great learning ground for invasives.

- Ken Jessell: Use of stadium by Miami Football Club will not interfere with use of practice fields by students.
- Philip Stoddard, Biology Prof.: We can make a great wetland and will get an endowment if we take the deal. I want to thank the administration for working with us.
- ❖ VOTE IN FAVOR OF EAP RESOLUTION, including absentees:
 - Yes 16
 - No 10
 - Abstention 2
 - Do we have a quorum?
 - Alan Gummerson, Parliamentarian/Senator: Technically no, but it's too late to call for a quorum – it should be called before a vote. A quorum was established at the beginning of the meeting.
- Briany Hernandez, Biology student: Preserve is also open to the community as a whole, including outside the university. The sports fields would only be available to students and FIU. If the pond is removed, how long would the plans take?
- Ken Jessell: Would start a new pond when the practice fields are started.
- Joey Bassna, Religious Studies alumnus: Do we need to destroy the preserve to help other ponds around campus, or to provide locker rooms and bathrooms? Need a buffer zone for all chemicals and will degrade quality of a new pond.
- Ana Rojas, Environmental Studies major and intern at Nature Preserve: I have done restoration in N portion. All of our work will have gone to waste, and we are unpaid. Could the structures be built with \$10k/year?
- Laurel Collins (senator): Yes, a tiki hut type structure could be built quickly.
- Matthew Serra, Religious Studies/Philosophy major: Do not see the purpose of this meeting. We need to hold someone, perhaps President Rosenberg, to the deal. We must commit to restoration on campus. We have to make an ideological change for the students who will one day be the leaders. We should integrate nature into this campus.
- Jack Parker, Prof. Emeritus Earth and Environment, and Chemistry: I started the preserve in 1978. Extremely important that there be follow-up on this. We have had 35 years of administrative neglect of the preserve, which was student- and faculty-driven. The endowment is an unprecedented opportunity for education, research and student internships.
- Ken Furton, Provost: I love the preserve. We will continue to listen to this discussion. The only thing that can live in perpetuity is an endowment. I am passionate about the preserve and about agroecology.
- John Secura, Liberal Studies alum: Most jobs are in construction and real estate. If the deal goes through, the administration's first priority was to build athletic fields. We should assume the role of being stewards of the environment.
- Stephanie Alvarez, former agroecology intern: Wouldn't the agroecology shade house and gazebos count as the required structures?
- William Sanchez, Environmental Studies major: Why is it so easy to gather \$9 million for this project when other things like Philosophy Dept. don't have sufficient resources?
- Ken Jessell: We are trying with legislature to meet student objectives. ...
- ❖ Laurel Collins (senator): move to adjourn
 - Motion is seconded.

- Kathleen Wilson, Faculty Senate Chair: adjourned meeting.

Announcements

The next regularly-scheduled Faculty Senate meeting is on March 29th, 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.

Marshall Criser III, Chancellor, State University System of Florida

April 4, 2016

Time-TBA

Location: CBC 232 Special Events Center

Faculty Senate Meet & Greet

Hosted by the College of Architecture + The Arts

Friday, April 15, 2016 from 4:00-6:00pm at the Faculty Club Lounge-MMC