

Florida Gulf Coast University  
Report to Advisory Council of Faculty Senates  
September 2009

General Information:

- FGCU's Fall 2009 headcount enrollment is approximately 11,000 students, which represents an increase of about 900 from last year. FTE enrollment for 2009-10 is projected to be just under 7,000 FTE.
- The university's overall budget (including auxiliaries, student fees, etc.) is more or less holding steady for 2009-2010, despite the cuts in state funding. This is mainly due to tuition increases (including the supplement), technology fee, and federal stimulus funds.
- New classroom/lab building (Academic Building 7) and Parking Garage 3 are scheduled for completion in Fall 2009. The university just broke ground on a music education and performance building. An expansion of the student union building is underway; planning for new Health Science building is underway, with actual construction to await restoration of PECO funds.

Major university initiatives for the current year:

- The university will be conducting a review and update of the five year strategic plan; new plan to cover 2010-2015. Information on the planning process and timeline is available at <http://www.fgcu.edu/Provost/SP2010/index.html> .
- The campus master plan is being updated this year as well. We are currently in the process of selecting a consulting firm to assist with the review process.
- Our NCAA Division I Certification self-study is being conducted this year, as part of our transition to Division I membership. The self-study report is due April 2010, with the NCAA visit scheduled for Fall 2010.

Senate/faculty issues:

- We managed to escape without any faculty or staff layoffs this year. FGCU currently has about 400 full time faculty, including out of unit positions (about 330 in-unit).
- In Spring 2009, the university administration created a committee structure to consider and make recommendations on all areas of campus operation and planning that cut across multiple areas of authority. The main group, the Planning and Budget Council (PBC), has representation from all areas of campus, including four faculty representatives. The PBC has six committees that report to it, with varying areas of responsibility. All six committees have faculty representation (for more information, see <http://www.fgcu.edu/Provost/PBC.html> ). This appears to create groups with interests paralleling those of the standing committees of the faculty Senate. As a result, we are conducting a review this year to see how best to facilitate communication across these groups, and to cut down on unnecessary duplication of effort.
- The proposed diversity requirement for general education is still under study, to determine a reasonable way to implement and assess it. Last spring, calls for proposals for specific courses to meet the outcomes associated with this requirement did not generate many responses—not enough to be able to cover the demand that would arise from a requirement. The general education council is being asked to revisit the issue to determine the reason for the lack of response.

- As part of the strategic planning process noted above, the faculty are creating a task force to review the university's core student learning outcomes, and to make any recommendations for revision. We currently have too many identified outcomes to properly assess on a regular basis, and this has potential to become a serious issue with respect to SACS.
- The UFF completed a climate survey at the end of Spring. The summary paragraph of the results reads as follows: *“Generally faculty are concerned with salary in general and inversion/compression noted especially, the increasing scholarship requirements for promotion with less time and little support, a general and growing disconnect between faculty and administration, workload issues – especially class sizes, and the intentions to leave FGCU if improvements in these issues are not made or when the real estate market improves.”* More details on the survey results are available at <http://www.uff-fgcu.org/breakingnews.shtml> .
- Unit promotion and annual evaluation criteria and standards documents are under review in all the colleges (at FGCU, the “unit” is defined to be the College rather than the department).
- The university has developed a new proposed policy on consensual relationships between employees (including employee-student relationships). It has been much discussed, and received a lot of attention in the local press. The document has gone to the President's cabinet for final recommendation on approval.
- Salaries for 2009-10 are still being bargained. Right now there is no proposal for general salary increases on the table (promotion increases have been awarded to faculty who were promoted during the past year), so it looks like there will be no raises or bonuses for the current year unless something changes. Salary compression/inversion is still a major issue for faculty, and a joint task force is currently studying the matter.

Submitted by C. Lindsey, President, FGCU Faculty Senate