

1. An update on the Take Flight Research Fund awards:

The Grants and Research Team has skillfully completed the review of the Take Flight Research Fund applications. They have awarded 10 applications, totaling \$68,648.99. There was a 40% success rate for submissions (10 awarded out of 25 applications).

Of the original applications: 15 were from CAS, 2 from COE, 1 from MCHHS, 3 from LCOB, 3 from the Water School, and 1 from Entrepreneurship. 15 are Assistant Professors, 5 are Associate Professors, 4 are Full Professors, and 1 is an Instructor.

The awarded applications breakdown is: 7 from CAS, 1 from COE, 1 from MCHHS, and 1 from LCOB. 7 are Assistant Professors, 2 are Full Professors, and 1 is an Instructor.

2. Professional Development Funds are now being disbursed from the Fall 2021 application cycle. The total amount requested by applicants during that cycle was **\$87,045.76**. The amount budgeted was **\$55,000**. The Provost provided **an additional \$10K for this cycle** when asked for increased support. Unfortunately, that means that some applicants received nothing or a percentage of the total amount requested. I'm sure that demand will again outpace the supply in the Spring 2022 application cycle, so if you plan to apply, be sure to put your best foot forward in the application materials.

3. The Faculty Affairs Team continues to work tirelessly on several initiatives, including examination of the SPoI instrument. The team is looking at other SUS schools and their publicly displayed information amongst other things and will make recommendations for what questions to include in our public display. All faculty are invited to attend a online session with guest speaker, Angela Linse, a scholar in student assessment and perception of teaching on January 31 from 10:30-12 (check your email for that information). Thanks go to Provost Rieger for arranging for her visit.

4. BOT updates. The Board of Trustees met on January 11 for a half day meeting. Many policies and regulations were approved. You can look at the [agenda packet online](#) to see those. The Provost shared a presentation about our projected performance in the metrics for performance-based funding that was really helpful in understanding why our point total will be going down. You can find that presentation starting on page 19 of [these meeting handouts](#). The important thing to keep in mind when thinking about the metrics this time is that we are essentially holding steady in our actual performance, or even improving slightly in some. But the benchmarks have changed on a couple and the loss of improvement points has caused our overall score to decline. I invite you to look though the slides now and I would like to make some time at a future meeting to address metrics and performance at greater length. The BOT approved a new degree program in Physics. Finally, there was animated debate from some trustee about plans to partially fund an affordable housing development with FGCU Financing Corp dollars.

There is a workshop for the BOT next week on January 28 to talk about the strategic plan, the presidential search, and probably more about the workforce housing development.

5. The Legislative Sub-committee of the Faculty Senate met for the first time on 1/20. This a small but mighty group of dedicated faculty made up of Jennifer Sughrue, Morgan Paine, Jamie

MacDonald, and me. We just had a initial review of a couple of bills that have been filed regarding "individual freedom." Though the descriptions don't sound much like education bills, there are pieces that touch both employment practices and K-20 system. Our thoughts are that these bills do not add much to existing law, but are more for show than anything, but we will continue to be in contact with Jennifer Goen as these bills move through committee. I will share the information about these bills with you now, and keep you updated.

**SB 148: Individual Freedom**

GENERAL BILL by [Diaz](#)

Individual Freedom; Providing that subjecting any individual, as a condition of employment, membership, certification, licensing, credentialing, or passing an examination, to training, instruction, or any other required activity that espouses, promotes, advances, inculcates, or compels such individual to believe specified concepts constitutes discrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin; revising the requirements for required instruction on health education; prohibiting instructional materials reviewers from recommending instructional materials that contain any matter that contradicts certain principles, etc.

From <<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/148>>

**HB 7: Individual Freedom**

GENERAL BILL by Avila

Individual Freedom; Provides that subjecting individuals to specified concepts under certain circumstances constitutes discrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin; revises provisions relating to required instruction; prohibits instructional materials reviewers from recommending instructional materials that contain any matter that contradicts certain principles; requires DOE to review school district professional development systems for compliance with certain provisions of law.

From <<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/7>>