

Faculty Senate President's Report

2/4/2022

1. The [Board of Governors \(BOG\) held a meeting in Tallahassee to a limited audience on Jan 25-26](#). The major news for FGCU was that the BOG was pleased with our 100% compliance with the textbook adoption deadline for this past semester and let us go with that. Another item worth noting is the BOG's recommendation that university faculty senates "vital role and should participate early and often in the development, implementation, evaluation, and support of civil discourse programs and initiatives." This includes a specific recommendation that faculty senate leadership "annually review and endorse the Board's Statement of Free Expression and commit to the principles of civil discourse." There were also recommendations for the Board of Trustees to take on a more thorough review of student orientation programs, student codes of conduct and employee policies and procedures to ensure consistency with the Board Statement and principles of free speech and civil discourse. This is still new, but I'm sure we will see some action down the road.
2. The **Board of Trustees had a "workshop" meeting on January 28**, at the Arthrex campus. This was billed as a chance to get more in-depth on some issues that were not allotted time to address at the regular meeting in January. Two main areas of focus were a workforce housing project proposal that may be funded by the FGCU Financing Corporation and the Presidential Search process to be started this spring. I can attempt to oversimplify the workforce housing proposal, and say that FGCU owns some land next to West Lake Village, and the university could offer the land to a third-party to build housing units that would be rented at a set "below market" rate to employees (eligibility to be determined) of FGCU, as well as employees of Lee Health. To make this happen, however, the FGCU Financing Corporation would need to provide a loan of 7-10 million dollars. This is money that is current held in reserves, and the loan would be unconventional and possibly more risky than other potential uses. I am over simplifying this for sure, but I am trying to communicate to you the major talking points from an agenda item that took up quite a bit of our time during this meeting.

Our discussion on the presidential search was primarily focused on the procedure- how a search firm would be selected, how quickly, and how a search committee would be formed. The goal to have a search firm selected by April was established, and a search committee will be formed in the interim. The Faculty Senate Appointments Team solicited nominations for a Presidential Search Committee back in May of 2021. I still have those names and will confirm with those people that they are still interested and I will forward those on to the Board Chair for consideration. The Board Chair has indicated his interest in keeping the committee small and focused, so I expect that room for faculty appointments to the committee will be limited.

3. **FGCU Day:** February 12 promises to be a fun-filled day for us to showcase what makes us great to our community. Encourage your friends and neighbors to come out and visit us on this special weekend! I know my family is planning to come out and see me and the campus, since they don't often get to see where I work since they all usually have work and school during the week. I know the library will be hosting several activities in the building for all ages during the day, including a book talk from Faculty Senator and Alternate Senate Sim Komisar and Win Everham.

A full list of activities can be found at: <https://www.fgcu.edu/fgcuday/>. Also, if you are around campus that day, come over to the library and wish me a happy birthday- it is a big one.

4. **Chairs and Deans Survey:** I have confirmed that we should expect to have the opportunity to complete a survey on our perception of our chair's and dean's performance shortly before Spring Break. This is the survey instrument that was designed and approved by Faculty Senate in 2012 or so. It was not sent out last year, so we requested that it be made available again this year. There are certainly limitations to this instrument, but it is the only venue at this moment to provide feedback on chair and dean performance. I would encourage all to fill it out as you are able, and I hope to have a thorough reexamination of the instrument and process next year.
5. **Commencement planning:** Stakeholders and various authorities have started meeting to plan graduation festivities for Spring 22 and beyond. For the Spring 22 graduation, it has been established that Alico Arena would not be adequate for a traditional commencement ceremony and a larger venue such as Hertz Arena is not available. So, it seems that the "Grad Walk" format will be used again for Spring 22. Faculty involvement in the "Grad Walk" format has been limited thus far. Two options for faculty are on the table: A) a tent for informal mixing and mingling with students and family and B) a more traditional receiving line indoors as student exit the arena. Organizers are leaning toward option B. Let me know if you have thoughts on this as soon as possible so that I can communicate with the event planners.
6. **Academic Policies:** Senate Leadership (President and Vice-President) have met with Associate Provost Dawn Kirby, Vice-Provost for Strategy and Program Innovation Aysegul Timur, Director of Academic and Curriculum Support Lucero Carvajal, Assistant VP of Innovative Education and Partnerships Kristen Vanselow and Undergraduate Curriculum Team Chair Joe Ross, to talk about how to better identify processes for modifying or creating new academic policies that are not part of the curriculum but touch student's progress to degree or determination of academic standing. We are working on a proposal for a university policy that will codify faculty governance involvement in the process.
7. **Next Senate meetings:**

We do plan to hold an in-person meeting on February 18 in Marieb 100. I encourage everyone who can to attend in person! We will give you coffee and bagels and it will be a great opportunity to commune with your Senate colleagues once again. We will, of course offer a virtual option for attendance and that will be offered freely during this semester of transition. Our first hybrid meeting might be a little rough, but we will do our best to do it as well as possible. Prior to the Feb 18 meeting, I will send out a survey asking you to tell us how you intend to attend the meeting (in-person or virtual) so that we can plan accordingly.

Virtual meeting guidelines: In anticipation of affirming the proposed changes to our Governance Document to allow for virtual attendance at Senate meetings, I plan to call for volunteers for an ad hoc taskforce to write guidelines and procedures for virtual attendance in the Faculty Senate. This is probably overdue, but needed especially as we look toward the long-term use of virtual meeting platforms. Please consider whether you might be able to contribute to this initiative.

March 4 Senate Meeting: Arthrex will give a presentation to the Faculty Senate on current partnerships between FGCU and the company and as well as ideas for further collaboration in research and workforce development.