

September 25, 2020

President Mike Martin  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
10501 FGCU Blvd South  
Fort Myers, FL 33965

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Statement on Election Day

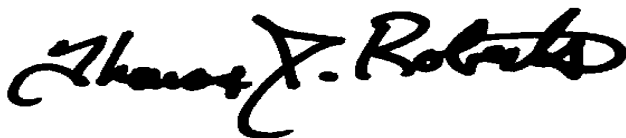
President Martin:

The right to vote is the foundation of our representative democracy. In recognition of this right, and FGCU's commitment to civic engagement, the FGCU Faculty Senate strongly suggests that faculty and others engaged in instructional activities at FGCU refrain from assigning coursework, giving exams, or requiring other time intensive activities that would be scheduled for Election Day (November 3, 2020).

This would free students' time and would encourage students and faculty to exercise their fundamental right as Americans — to choose who represents them in local, state, and federal government, as well as to approve or reject initiatives that require a vote.

Furthermore, as future academic calendars are planned, the FGCU Faculty Senate would support establishing the first Tuesday after November 1 of each year as a "Reading Day," for the purpose of freeing students and faculty to exercise their civic and constitutionally protected right to vote.

Thank you for your time,



Dr. Thomas J. Roberts  
Professor of Educational Leadership



Dr. Jennifer Sughrue  
Professor of Educational Leadership  
Ed.D. Program Coordinator



Dr. James H. MacDonald, Jr.  
Professor of Geology  
Faculty Senate President

CC: Provost Llorens, Susan Evans, Andi Clemons, Lisa Johnson, and Sue Meyers