

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2025, 3:30 p.m.

In person in the BOARD OF TRUSTEES' Room with ZOOM link: <https://fit.zoom.us/j/96003663249>

Senator Present:

Alan Brown(CCE), Gary Zarillo (OEMS), Patrick Converse(Psy), Jordan Poole (Aeronautics), Tolga Turgut(Aeronautics), Mehmet Kaya (BES), Tom Eskridge (EECS), David Wilder(BA), William Bowman(Library), Nakin Suksawang (MCE), Donald Platt (APSS), William Arrasmith (MSE), Marcus Hohlmann (APSS), Melissa Borgen (BES), Anna Muenchrath (SAC), Marshall Jones(Psy), Chiradeep Sen (MCE), Abram Walton (Business), Vipul Kishore(CCE), Pallav Ray(OEMS), Jessica Wildman(Psy), Csaba Palotai(APSS), Robert Deacon (SAC), Wanfa Zhang (SAC), Shawn Scott (Aeronautics), Joe Montelione (SAC),

Senator Absent: Angel Otero (Business Online), Georgio Anagnostopoulos (EECS), Sidhartha Bhattacharyya (EECS), Robert Weaver (OEMS), Charles Bryant(Business), Madhur Tiwari (APSS), Hamidreza Najafi(MCE), Shibo Liu(MSE),

Proxies: None

Other attendees: John Kiss, Raymond Bonhomme, Rian Mehta, Nasri Nesnas, Nick Daher, Ted Richardson, Tristan Fiedler, Lisa Steelman, Heidi Hatfield Edwards, Nancy Garmer, Jason Martin, Rudi Wehmschulte, Kaylee Erdos, Suzanne Odom

Call to Order

Meeting called to Order - 3:31 pm

Discussion and Q&A with University Leadership

Provost (Dr. Kiss) (Guest)

- Parking permit next year will include no decal; will be done digitally via license plate scanner.
- MLK event will be on Tuesday, January 21st at 7 pm.
- Employee climate survey will be coming out later this semester.

Committee Chair Election

Scholarship Committee Chair election

- Sen. Alan Brown was elected 21-2

The secretary position still needs to be filled as Senator Park is on a sabbatical leave.

Approval of meeting minutes

- The motion to approve the Minutes from the October and November meetings, moved by Sen. Turgut and seconded by Sen. Bowman, was unanimously approved.
- The motion to approve Minutes from the December meeting, moved by Sen. Zarillo and seconded by Sen. Turgut, was unanimously approved.

Committee Report

President – Sen. Suksawang reports

- Sen. Suksawang announced that departments need to vote for new Senators before the April meeting. Additionally, list of President-Elect candidates is needed by the March meeting.
- An agreement between PSFB and Florida Tech to offer grad classes on base has been agreed upon.
- Briefly discussed Thanksgiving break (possibly extending it for a full week), but probably cannot extend to Monday and Tuesday (students don't want to give up fall break, which would be required in this scenario), but will think about other ideas.
- There are growing interest in certificate programs for AI.
- Enrollment looks to hit the 2% target growth rate.
- New housing may begin construction later this semester

Academic Policy Committee – Sen. Kishore

The 0-credit course students could previously take during the summer will no longer be available for enrollment this summer. However, Senator Kishore is exploring options to reinstate or modify it for future offerings.

Administrative Policy Committee– Sen. Kaya

No report

Faculty Excellence Committee– Sen. Wildman

- Faculty Excellence Awards are open. The dateline for faculty to submit their dossiers is 5 pm on Friday, February 7, 2025.
- Need new chair of awards committee in April

Scholarship Committee – Sen. Brown

- Will recruit members
- Will ask the registrar's office to identify students with high GPA

TRI Committee – Sen. Poole

- Sen. Poole requested that any issues or concerns regarding technology be directed to her.
- Sen. Kaya inquired about IT's decision to replace faculty computers as he did not want his replaced considering the new computer is not as good as his old one. Sen. Suksawang replied that every 5 years or so, IT replaces each faculty member's computer through a refresh program. Sen. Poole said that she would follow up with IT regarding this matter.

Welfare Committee – Sen. Jones

No report

Old Business

Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

Resolution – AFTC charter changes to bylaws

Dr. Turgut suggested we suggest they incorporate our feedback and vote in future. Dr. Turgut made a motion to eliminate strike out and add in 3rd paragraph in the document – the line "faculty will have opportunity to nominate and vote" should be added. This refers to FH1.4 Bylaws, Article IV the faculty senate.

Second by Dr. Kaya.

Called a vote –

- 9 yes in person
- 12 yes online
- 1 no online
- 1 abstain

Yes have it.

Consolidating Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break

Dr. Turgut agreed with the student government council that not only the students who need a Fall Break by week 9 but also the faculty as well for faculty mental health and suggested we do not consolidate the fall break and Thanksgiving break.

New Business

Library Promotion Guideline and Criteria

Sen. Bowman said new promotion guidelines are needed since the current criteria are very rigid and do not reflect what the library faculty does. The new criteria are now more aligned with other units on campus. Dr. Turgut suggested voting on it at next meeting. Any senators with more questions can send them to Dr. Bowman before the next meeting. Faculty should read library promotion guidelines and have input.

Motion to adjourn 4:35 – Alan Brown, others seconded and was approved

Respectfully submitted,
Senator David Wilder