

Faculty Senate Meeting
April 1, 2025

In – Person Attendees – William Bowman, Jordan Poole, Robert Weaver, Alan Brown, Patrick Converse, Scott Ferguson, Zen Campbell, Jared Campbell, Nakin Sukswang, John Kiss, John Nicklow, Munevver Subasi, Jessica Wildman, Yakov Berchemco-Kogan, Robert Deacon, Marcus Hohlmann, David Wilder, Adam Prinkey, Thomas Eskridge, Tolga Turgut, Mehmet Kaya, Gary Zarillo.

Online attendees – Ted Richardson, William Arrasmith, Kaylee Erlos, Anna Muenchrath, Charles Bryant, John Harris, C. Palotai, S. Scott, Tristan Fieder, Angel Ortero, Chiradeep Sen, Wanfa Zhang, Rudi Wehmschulte, Nick Daher, Siddhartha Bhat, Rick Addante, Nancy Garmer

Meeting started – 3:30 PM

Dr. Nicklow –

- Asked if we needed additional info from State of University address – none needed
- 3 ceremonies on May 10th, commencement speaker will be Mike Moses, CEO at Virgin Galactic, and we will award him an honorary doctorate.
- Thanked senate for feedback on faculty appointment letters.
- Appointment letters out today – April 1.
- The already established ad hoc committee will look at conflict of interests.

Question – Sen Hohlmann on appointment letters - in the future will they only go out when there is a change in status?

Answer - All faculty will get a letter this year.

- President took two of 3 of our recommendations in contract letter – he did not add line “will not deprive faculty of accrued monetary changes” said he cannot include that due to employment laws.
- Senator Turgut asked if that statement is needed; president replied that this statement is redundant and not needed (and we cannot include bc of employment laws).

Dr. Rassoul Chief Research Officer – provided update on research at FI Tech.

- Said we do research to advance human condition – sets us apart from community colleges; it also attracts faculty, students, also brings peer recognition, and brings in \$ through funded research.
- Research expenditures should increase to 45 million to make us profitable with respect to research, right now we are 18 million.
- If we hit 51 million, this is one criterion to become an R1 university.
- Must invest \$ in faculty - 40% of tenured faculty salary is dedicated to research.
- Additional research costs to the university include space, liability
- Florida Tech also employs incentives for faculty research (e.g., DGRATS)
- DGRATS II will stay, at least for next few years.
- Things may change in future because of federal government changes.

- Facilities & Administration is 45% for Florida Tech – this is for federal grants, for foundations it is often lower - covers utility, maintenance, admin, assistant support – right now this is about 3 million per year.
- We spend about 2.5 million for research travel, publication costs, etc.
- Goal is by June 2026 we increase research funding by 12%.
- 94% of FI Tech's funding comes from COES and 3% COA, 3% COPLA.
- US Defense Department is top funder for Florida FI. Tech, FL Department of Education #2.
- Compared to last year, we have seen a 15% increase in proposals, \$ amount has also increased. Compared to last year, we have received 18 fewer awards, but dollar amount is higher.
- Proposals submitted is also up.
- Also, some awards are not included yet for this year.
- Dr. Rassoul then described some research initiatives
- Noted Hanover grant recipients – 11 across campus.
- Research consultant (Dr. Shelton) suggested we have great faculty, but they need time and support to submit grants.
- Research consultant concerns include our culture, budget, lack of grad student support.
- Currently we have about 150 tenured or tenure track faculty at Florida Tech 100 non-tenure, 100 instructors.
- RSS is a fund delivered to faculty who are research active & consultant suggested this be increased.
- Dr. Suksawang will send out Dr. Rassoul's slides to all faculty and senators later today.
- Dr. Kiss noted that all types of research will be encouraged at FI Tech– even non-funded research.
- Questions from senator – how does current political affect our research?
- Dr. Rassoul replied that President Nicklow said we are committed to supporting research, but student research support (e.g., DGRATS) may be paused eventually, if necessary.
- Sen. Hohlmann said faculty will be unhappy with a DEGRATS cut.
- Sen. Zarillo suggested moving funds from RIR and RSS and give to DEGRATS.
- Dr. Rassoul said he is open to ideas, but this needs more discussion.
- Provost said we do need to increase Ph.D student support, but not sure how to do it yet.

IT report –

- Scott Ferguson (FI Tech CIO) said it is making progress. Help desk is improving in terms of calls, wait time, calls resolved at help desk, etc.
- By April 2026 wants to get to 85% first call resolution, now at 52%.
- Survey reports suggest IT gets ratings of 4.5 out of 5.
- IT is investing in technology – all will be improved in next 5 years – now we have wi-fi everywhere
- Classroom technology is being replaced more slowly but is still being replaced.

Election of officers

- Sen. Turgut suggested we need to vote on officers now.
- Dr. Suksawang said we just get nominations and should postpone vote.
- Sen. Turgut made a motion to vote now.
- Seconded by Sen. Keya.
- Discussion – some senators suggested to wait.

- Voted on whether we vote now. – 5 yes, 19 no, so we postponed vote.
- Sen. Brown – motioned to adjourn.
- Sen. Turgut said we violated our by-laws by not voting today.
- Dr. Suksawang or Dr. Wildman will try to call a special meeting later in April to vote and approve minutes.

Adjourn at 5:10 pm