



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020
FSU ZOOM
2:00 P.M.

I. Regular Session

A special session of the 2020-21 Faculty Senate was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Faculty Senate President Eric Chicken presided.

The following members attended the Senate meeting:

T. Adams, A. Ai, P. Aluffi, E. Alvarez, L. Anderson, J. Appelbaum, A. Askew, J. Atkins, J. Bahorski, E. Bangi, K. Barber, H. Bass, M. Becker, B. Birmingham, D. Bish, M. Blaber, M. Bourassa, J. Brown Speights, M. Buchler, G. Burnett, M. Carrasco, E. Cecil, E. Chicken, I. Chiorescu, P. Doan, J. Du, R. Duarte, M. Duncan, D. Eccles, S. Fiorito, V. Fleury, R. Goodman, S. Grant, E. Hilinksi, P. Hoeflich, C. Hofacker, P. Hollis, A. Huber, M. Hurdal, E. Jakubowski, K. Jones, C. Kelley, H. Kern, D. Kim, E. Kim, E. Klassen, T. Lee, S. Lester, V. Lewis, C. Madsen, P. Marty, C. Marzen, C. McClive, R. Morris, I. Padavic, J. Palmer, C. Patrick, D. Peterson, J. Proffitt, N. Rogers, E. Ryan, G. Salazar, A. Semykina, J. Sobanjo, J. Standley, R. Stilling, B. Stults, P. Sura, G. Tyson, T. Van Lith, A. Vanli, M. Ye, and I. Zanini-Cordi.

The following members were absent. Alternates are listed in parenthesis:

S. Aggarwal, I. Alabugin,, P. Andrei, , J. Ang, A. Barbu, P. Beerli, R. Brower, T. Chiricos, F. Dupuigrenet, D. Eccles, S. Foo, H. Gazelle, T. Graban, A. Gunjan, K. Harris, E. Hinchman, P. Iatarola, J. Ingram, I. MacDonald, T. Mariano, C. Moore, J. Munn, A. Muntendam, E. Peters, A. Rhine, L. Rinaman, K. Reynolds, R. Singleton, S. Stagg, L. Stepina, Q. Yin, and M. Swanbrow Becker.

II. Approval of the Minutes, April 29, 2020 meeting

The minutes were approved as distributed.

III. Approval of the agenda, June 16, 2020 meeting

The agenda was approved as distributed.

IV. Special Order: Announcements by President Thrasher

- The reopening plan was submitted to the Board of Governors (BOG) last Friday, June 12. The plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees (BOT) on Thursday, June 18.
- Staff and faculty members worked on the proposal, which contains many moving parts that are subject to change as the situation develops.

- Discussion about athletics programs will begin at a later time, as those decisions will require coordination with national organizations and conferences.
- President Thrasher acknowledged the ongoing civil discourse around racial tensions and spoke of how FSU is engaging in local response with the community. A letter from the black faculty on campus with 10 requests for the university has been received and responded to, and those requests will be acted upon in due time. In addition, several calls and conferences have occurred between President Thrasher, the Black Student Union, the Mayor, and the Chiefs of Police for both Tallahassee and FSU campus.
- Tom Jennings, Vice President for University Advancement, is leaving FSU on August 9th. A search committee has been formed to identify a replacement, but there is no timeline for that search as of yet.
- President Thrasher supported the proposal for the eventual renaming of the Law School building and reminded the Faculty Senate that the Florida Legislature will not officially meet until March of 2021.
- The Florida Legislature has not sent the budget to the Governor, but President Thrasher expects that once the budget is sent to the Governor's desk it will be approved before the June 30 deadline.

V. Report of the Steering Committee, Professor Erin Ryan

- Thanked everyone who is volunteering on committees throughout the summer. An ad-hoc committee was formed to address concerns about incorporating faculty input in the process of managing ADA accommodations.
- In late May, the Steering Committee began looking into the task of combating systemic inequality, beginning with a statement of solidarity and action put forth by the Steering Committee and adopted by much of the Senate. The June 16 special session of the Faculty Senate was called in part to immediately act following this show of solidarity by proposing a renaming of the Law Building.
- Worked with administration on reopening plans, brainstorming ideas to consider campus health, protective measures, and the role of faculty in the reopening measures.
- Members of the Steering Committee have attended BOG and BOT meetings and participated in closed conversations with the State University Systems Chancellor.

VI. Old Business

a. FSU Constitution

- Postponed to September 16, 2020.

VII. New Business

a. Resolution – Law Building Renaming – Erin Ryan (See addendum 1)

- The proposed resolution concerns the main classroom building of the law school, named after Chief Justice B.K. Roberts. Due to Chief Justice Robert's history of resisting racial integration of Florida's public law schools, there has been discussion for multiple years to rename the building.

- The building was named as part of an act of the Florida Legislature and thus requires legislative approval to change the name of the building. In 2019 the Florida Senate passed a bill to allow this change, but the House of Representatives did not consider the bill.
 - The faculty of the FSU law school signed a joint letter with administration requesting the House to reconsider their stance. The proposed resolution would formally have the Faculty Senate affirm the desire of the law school faculty to have the House of Representatives take up the bill to allow for the renaming of the law school classroom building.
 - **The resolution was seconded and unanimously approved.**
- b. Resolution – Senate Policy Abeyance – Gary Tyson (See addendum 2)**
- The transition to remote learning courses during the spring 2020 semester was not officially approved by the Faculty Senate. Typically, changes to course delivery methods would be first approved by the Faculty Senate.
 - Approval of the resolution would indicate the Faculty Senate’s approval of the changes to course delivery and that this approval will continue until the time at which normal operations are reestablished.
 - **The resolution was seconded and unanimously approved.**

VIII. Special Order: Reopening Plans – Provost McRorie

- The plan for FSU’s Fall 2020 semester is online.
- The plan worked with the requirements set forth by the BOG. The plan is flexible and will likely change.
- Most students will be taking some, if not all, courses on online. Efforts are being taken to ensure students feel welcome and supported during this process.
- Thousands of points of feedback were received from students and parents following the release of the FSU 2020 plan. Many were supportive and understanding of the compromises that needed to be made, although there was disapproval over the reduced number of face-to-face classes.
- 150 thousand face masks were received from the state for distribution to students.
- There are limited options for face-to-face classes, but the faculty is currently going through the fall schedule to determine which classes can be returned to face-to-face teaching.
- A testing center for COVID-19 will be opening on campus on June 24. Testing will not be mandated for employees or students but is encouraged.
- It is the belief that most students will return to Tallahassee.
- **Kathryn Jones, Arts & Sciences** – Inquired about a deadline for changing course material for the fall semester, specifically including increased usage of Honorlock. Provost McRorie responded that the schedule of deadlines will be up at some time before July 17 when registration reopens. FSU is likely to have a large majority of exams taking place online, so use of systems such as Honorlock may become more widespread.
- **Matthew Buchler, Music** – Asked about housing and density and whether housing will see reduced capacity. Provost McRorie responded that the standard suite doubles are analogous to family housing, and thus should not pose as many concerns about density.

- **Theresa Van Lith, Fine Arts** – Inquired about student ability to return to internships and practicums face-to-face in the fall. Provost McRorie responded that face-to-face internships and practicums will be allowed upon approval.
- **Robin Goodman, Arts & Sciences** – Inquired about the option to test for COVID-19. Provost McRorie responded that there are legal issues that prevent mandating that all students receive testing and that the hope is that students will proactively choose to test.
- **Brian Stults, Criminology** – Inquired about a date for which classes will be finalized as online or face-to-face. Provost McRorie confirmed that the schedule will be finalized before the July 17 reopening of registration and that the hope is that the schedule will be finished before that deadline, sometime in early July.
- **Jen Atkins, Fine Arts** – Asked how instructors will maintain the sanitization guidelines and enforce the mask requirement. Provost McRorie explained many of the steps being taken to ensure sanitization, such as sanitized air filters, increased access to sanitization wipes, and the possibility of having students assist in sanitizing classrooms after class periods. Students will be required to wear masks indoors at all times.
- **Cathy McClive, Arts & Sciences** – Brought up the concern of non-compliance of mask-wearing and concerns of systemic racism in policing. Provost McRorie recognized the importance of this issue and stated that there have been multiple meetings with FSU PD to take steps towards equity.
- **Amy Huber, Fine Arts** – Inquired if there is a plan for high-risk faculty to work remotely in the fall. Provost McRorie responded that such individuals should speak to their dean on the matter, and that if the faculty member's role can be fulfilled remotely such allowances can and should be made.
- A handbook for faculty will be sent out soon, answering common questions.

IX. University Welfare

a. United Faculty of Florida, Florida State University Chapter, Matthew Lata

- Provided updates on union endeavors and affirmed that the union will continue working with the administration to ensure that faculty are safe and secure.
- Called upon union colleagues, especially in police unions, to take a closer look at policies that promote the lack of transparency and accountability that produces behaviors such as those surrounding the death of George Floyd.
- The union is in the process of bargaining to expand benefits in two areas: tuition scholarships for dependents of the union members and expanding child leave pay to caring for sick family members.
- There are also talks of tapered employment, which would allow faculty members of a certain age to be able to move to part-time employment while still receiving full benefits.
- There will be a forum to discuss changes to the definitions and process of layoffs in the bargaining agreement.
- Bargaining is open. Union members can reach out to Matthew Lata or Irene Padavic to get access to the meetings, which have seen an increase in attendance coinciding with recent events.

X. Announcements by Deans and other Administrative Officers

No announcements were given.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

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Eric Chicken
Faculty Senate President

FSU Faculty Senate Statement on Renaming B.K. Roberts Hall

The FSU Faculty Senate supports outstanding University efforts and the College of Law's current campaign to remove from its main classroom building the name of B.K. Roberts, a man who steadfastly resisted the racial integration of Florida's public law schools as Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. We affirm the unanimously shared hope of law school faculty that their building be renamed to reflect our shared values of justice, equality, respect, compassion, and advocacy.

In 2018, the President's Advisory Panel concluded that although Chief Justice Roberts had been instrumental in the creation of the College of Law, the university community is not well-served by so honoring a segregationist who openly defied the United States Supreme Court's application of core constitutional principles. However, because the law building was named by an act of the legislature, legislative action is required to change it. In 2019, following request by the President of the University, the Dean of the Law School, and vast numbers of interested students, alumni, faculty, and staff, the Florida Senate passed a bill that would enable the University to change the name—but the House of Representatives failed to act.

The irredeemable contradiction between the name of the Law School's main building and the principles for which it stands can no longer be justified. On June 12, 2020, nearly every member of the Law School's faculty and administration formally called on the House of Representatives to complete the outstanding legislative process that will allow the name of the building to be changed. In this statement, we hereby join in their petition that the House of Representatives partner with the Senate in enacting the needed legislation without delay. As the law school faculty and administrators declared in their letter to the Speaker of the House,

"It is shameful that our main building continues to bear the name of B.K. Roberts. That the building that houses most of our faculty offices and classrooms carries the name of someone who persistently resisted the racial integration of Florida's public law schools is deeply painful and offensive. As a Florida Supreme Court justice, Roberts openly defied the U.S. Supreme Court in his quest to maintain segregation. The battle for racial integration was waged during a gruesome time in our country's history. B.K. Roberts was vehemently and unmistakably on the wrong side of that battle. The time has long since come to stop celebrating segregationists. ... As faculty and administrators, it is our moral responsibility to advocate for our students and our community."

We share in that moral responsibility, and we echo their demand for decisive action.

FSU Faculty Senate Statement on Curriculum Approval During Pandemic

In Spring 2020 Florida State University was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic necessitating significant changes in the normal academic activities. Classes transitioned to a remote learning mode of delivery and grading requirements were modified in many courses for the Spring 2020 Semester. Remote learning continues through summer terms, with an expectation of limited face-to-face courses restarting in fall 2020.

As we continue to navigate through this crisis, course delivery must continue to conform to the limitations imposed by social distancing guidelines. To this end, the faculty senate will suspend enforcement of some academic course and degree requirements on content delivery and grading requirements, to enable the safe and timely delivery of instruction to our students. Courses utilizing remote delivery will be accepted for all courses until normal operations resume. Requests for online delivery for courses will continue to be processed as normal, but will be allowed to be taught in an remote delivery manner until normal operations are restored and the request for approval is decided.

These changes take effect immediately and terminate at the end of semester in which normal operations are reestablished.