

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2016**  
**3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Lee Hall Auditorium**  
**Dr. Bettye Grable, Faculty Senate President, Presiding**

**Officer's (Present)**

Dr. Bettye Grable, President  
Dr. Joe Ann Houston, Vice President  
Prof. Ann Marie Cavazos, Secretary  
Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian

**Senator's (Present)**

Dr. Lillie Brown  
Dr. Kyle Eidahl  
Dr. John Warford  
Dr. Allezo Owens  
Dr. Darius Young  
Dr. Merlin Langley  
Dr. Lekan Latinwo  
Dr. Musiliyu Musa  
Dr. Lavetta Henderson  
Dr. Hassiem Kambui  
Dr. David White  
Dr. Anthony Ananga  
Dr. Daniel Solis  
Dr. Jenelle Robinson  
Prof. Phyllis Taite  
Prof. Joseph Grant  
Dr. Tiffany Ardley  
Dr. Maurice Holder  
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku  
Dr. John Cooperwood  
Ms. Sheila Labissiere  
Ms. Thomasina Brock  
Dr. Yassir Abdelrazig  
Dr. Mark Weatherspoon  
Dr. Lon'Tejuana Cooper  
Dr. Lauralyn Burke  
Dr. Roscoe Hightower  
Dr. Michael Abrams

Dr. David Guthrie  
Mrs. Pamela Monroe

**Senator's (Absent)**

Dr. Courtney Micots  
Dr. Jenny Jones  
Dr. Michael Thornton  
Dr. Komalavalli Thirunavukkuarasu  
Dr. Desmond Stephens  
Dr. Rebecca Blankenship  
Dr. Glen Wright  
Prof. Craig Huffman  
Prof. Antonio Soares  
Dr. Clyde Ashley  
Dr. Hudson Nwakanma  
Dr. Richard Gragg  
Dr. Marcia Owens  
Mrs. Gloria Woody

**Senator's (Excused)**

Mr. Longineu Parsons  
Dr. Aretha Hill  
Dr. Sevilla Bronson

**EX-OFFICIO (Voting)(Present)**

Dr. Carl Goodman  
Dr. David Jackson, Jr.

**EX-OFFICIO (Voting) (Absent)**

Mr. Bryan Smith  
Dr. Robert Taylor  
Dr. Traki Taylor

**SGA (Voting) (Absent)**

Ms. Paris Ellis  
Kenidee Webster

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Senate President, Bettye Grable and at 3:10 p.m. Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian, announced a quorum.

**Remarks by President Betty Grable:**

*Good afternoon Senators. I am going to call the meeting of October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to order. Dr. Muchovej is checking on a quorum and we do have two things we need to vote on; the agenda and the meeting minutes but stilling waiting for a quorum. I would like to encourage you all to stay and participate in the Homecoming activities this week. Both Interim President Robinson and Provost Wright will not be attending the meeting today because they are out of town. However, I have been assured by both of them that it is their intention to attend as many meetings as possible. But we were also informed that someone from Academic Affairs will be attending the meeting and we are waiting for that individual to arrive.*

*Dr. Houston and I have discussed and we are attempting to streamline these meetings so we can complete the meeting within one hour, unless there is an agenda item requiring us to have further discussion. We urge you if you have issues that you would like placed on the agenda to please contact the faculty senate office and we will work to get the appropriate items on the agenda that you requested with the support of the Steering Committee and we will make sure that the appropriate person for each item will be invited to the meeting.*

*Just as a quick review of the agenda, we have two updates.*

- 1. Parking-parking rules have changed within the past year-new parking rules*
- 2. Athletic updates from Mr. Overton (particularly since we are on a winning streak. Congratulations on that.*

*We would like to thank all of the faculty senate delegates from the different schools that did send in nominations for the Steering Committee and for the Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees selects members or recommends members to me for various faculty senate committees. Those committees of the faculty senate are listed in the constitution and bylaws and you are welcome to review that as we will be meeting later this month once you ratify the selection of the nominees that was selected for the Steering Committee and Committee on Committees. Once that's done, Ms. Harris will on behalf of our office contact those members so we can set up a Committee on Committees meeting so we can select faculty members to serve on the various committees that the faculty are in charge off.*

**President Grable** asked Dr. Muchovji if we have a quorum. His response: no! I mentioned that we do need a quorum to approve the meeting agenda and meeting minutes. I don't see anyone from Academic Affairs yet; Ms. Harris please let me know. At this time I would like to know if any faculty members would like to share announcements. Since I see no hands we will move on.

**Dr. Eidahl** do we have a curriculum committee report? Can you come to the mic? As he is working on getting his mic turn on, I would like to share that Dr. Eidahl is the new Curriculum Committee Chair. He was nominated by one of you, and it was the only nomination I got since our last meeting and I spoke with several other people including former Faculty Senate Presidents. Dr. Eidahl has longevity here and he has a crystal clear understanding of how our curriculums are built and he will be able to seamlessly move into that position replacing Dr. Neil James.

**Dr. Eidahl** stated "I am the new Neil James" (but no one could hear him so he had to change mic again.) I have met with Neil James and we have not had a committee meeting yet because the committee has not yet been selected but we will probably be meeting in the next couple of weeks to start the process. So if anyone has curriculum changes it can be sent to Ms. Harris at the faculty senate office.

**President Grable** also stated that she knows that you should be getting some matters from the College of Sciences.

**President Gable** asked the Senators whether they had any questions, concerns or comments with respect to what was shared by Dr. Eidahl.

A question was asked but the person did not identify herself nor could she be heard. However, Dr. Eidahl responded and stated that he would try to hold the curriculum committee meetings at the same time.

Dr. Eidahl provided his contact information. Phone number is 850-599-3447 and e-mail is [kyle.eidahl@famu.edu](mailto:kyle.eidahl@famu.edu)

President Grable noticed Attorney Taite .....Committee on committees will make recommendations.

**Secretary Cavazos** stated that the Curriculum Committee at the law school is planning on sending to you curriculum proposal, what time frame will you have to review the request?

**Dr. Eidahl** responds- normally what James Neil said is that the committee, meets the first week of the month and that gives us time to review the materials.

**Secretary Cavazos** reiterated what Dr. Eidahl stated “that the curriculum committee should send curriculum proposals by the first week of the month.

**Dr. James Muchovej**, Parliamentarian, announced that there was a quorum.

**President Grable** addressed the following matters on the agenda.

**1. Approval to adopt the October 18 Meeting Agenda**

Motion made by Senator .....and seconded by Senator..... Called for vote. Motion passed.

**2. Approval of September 20 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Senator.... and seconded by Senator..... Called for vote. Motion passed.

\*(Please note that the Senators who made the motion and seconded the motion did not identify themselves.)

***President Grable** stated that at this time I would like to recognize **Secretary Cavazos of the faculty senate. She has done an excellent job with this tedious job of taking the minutes and presenting them timely to the faculty. Let’s please show her our appreciation and gratitude. (Applause) Thank you***

**Administration Remarks**

**President Grable** introduced Dr. Carl Goodman, Associate Provost of Academic Affairs. He is here to give our administrative remarks from the Provost Office instead of Provost Rodner Wright.

**Provost Goodman:**

Good evening everybody. Good afternoon responded the Senators and Provost responded “good afternoon”. Thank you all for allowing me to be here. I am a voting member for Academic Affairs. This is my sixth (6) week here at Academic Affairs. I am pleased to work with you in whatever capacity. Whatever I can do please let me know.

**President Grable** asked if there are any questions for Dr. Goodman.

**Question from Dr. Michael Abrams from the School of Journalism:**

What challenges are you facing this year?

**Response by Dr. Goodman:**

There are several challenges-

1. We are particularly looking at our graduation rates for our 6 year students;
2. We just had to actually turn in a report on Friday where we are looking at our performance metrics performance. This past academic year we were actually projecting to be at least 43% as far as our graduation rates for our 6 year students. However, we are actually at about 40%. So we are looking to put in place different mechanisms to make sure all of the academic schools and colleges actually have guidelines as far as how we can progress and graduate our students in a timely fashion. But I think #1, is our graduation rates of our students and that is a big issue for us.

**Question continues from Dr. Abrams-....graduating rates 38%.**

**Response by Dr. Goodman:** Our graduation rate was 38% last academic year but this year our graduation rate is about 40.7 %. The following year, we have an aggressive schedule and I think for next year we are projecting close to 60%.

**Question continues from Dr. Abrams:** He states, with journalism and may be other disciplines that if a student does not have the GPA to maintain to stay within the program that the University offers another type of degree or another degree. Is that working out well?

**Response by Dr. Goodman:**

*Yes, but not just for us, this is the interdisciplinary study degree which is in the College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. That is working effectively for most of our students who actually have been lingering around with more than 150-160 credit hours but this is an alternative means in terms of allowing our students to graduate. There are other institutions around the State that also have the interdisciplinary study where they are allowing students who have been around for four, five, six, seven years to enter that program as well. From a students' perspective though if some of those students have actually been in school say for 5 years and they want to get a degree lets' say in Journalism or in another major, because of the funding from the State, more than likely we will have to make a decision. There are some students actually where their particular department may allow them to finish up that one class or two classes before they reach their 6 year cohort. But there are those departments that are a little more aggressive and would let the student know that you are in your fifth year and you will probably need more than 30 credit hours, so you will be beyond your sixth years, so with proper advisement and giving them an alternative; if the student is going into their sixth year, then it's best for them to go into an interdisciplinary study program.*

**Question by Dr. Maurice Holder:**

Hey Carl, how are you doing? I guess you would call this incoming class yours. I know you must feel a certain allegiance to those we have taken in as freshman year. As you look at those numbers comparatively to say last year or even two years ago. How does the number look in terms of total class size and GPA? What is your expectation for your class because this is your very first class? Can you say something about that?

**Response by Dr. Goodman:**

*I think everyone realizes that one of the issues we have always had is profile admits coming in. I think this year we actually accepted 200 students-summer access bridge program. Approximately 109 of those students actually accepted and attended the summer session. Of those 109, I think only 98 I believe who actually completed the summer program and received better than a 3.0 GPA. So those students were able to move into this fall semester. So with those special admits that we do have now, we only have 90, so I think we have a better handle on those students. When we look at our student success program I think we have the developmental courses for those individual students; I think we have the support in terms of advisors to handle the 90 students. I don't think this is a lot of students when you compare that to*

*other institutions. So I think by having a solid foundation for our student success program, the tutors we have as well, and our tutoring labs those things we can have a better handle, better care for them as we manage them to make sure at least for their first year experience they would have an opportunity to progress and move forward. I think this year that everyone realizes that this is one of our smaller overall attendance/enrollment this year. We have about ninety-three thousand (9300) students. The freshman class coming in I think it is about 2000 as freshman coming in. If we look at all of our successes that we have had over the past, our success center we have, or tutorial centers we have, I think we have pretty good....our students' progress and moving forward. I believe that right now the foundation is there. I think that is what's most important, that is the foundation is there when we look across the board, we can look at all our schools and colleges.*

*President Grable inquired if anyone else had questions for Dr. Goodman. Seeing that there were no more questions she said, "Let's thank Dr. Goodman". At this time I will ask if anyone has announcements. If you would look in your package you will see an announcement about FAMU's Benevolent/Condolence Committee.*

**Announcement:**

Dr. Deidre Powell stated that this Friday, October 21 at 6:00 pm, FAMU's Benevolent/Condolence Committee and the Faculty Senate will be hosting a candlelight vigil acknowledging and honoring all Fallen Rattles. Please see insert in your folder.

**President Grable announced** that a student in the School of Journalism died and it was a great loss. This was one of my students and she asked for a moment of silence for him and his family.

**President Grable** asked Ms. Allison McNealy to come forward to give us an update on the application/implementation of our parking rules. We want to thank her for graciously coming to our meeting today.

**Ms. Allison McNealy:**

Good afternoon everyone! I think it would be a lot easier if you all could ask me the questions.

**Questions from Dr. Michael Abrams School of Journalism:**

The last time we had a representative here who could speak to these issues, I brought up the subject of being able to park at FSU and having an agreement with them for them to park at our school as we park at their campus. I was wondering if that is feasible. I know when I first came to Florida A&M University, this was the case. FAMU faculty were able to park at FSU and I suspect that FSU faculty were able to park over here. This would alleviate the burden of having to pay a lot of money to park over there if you have to conduct business over there. However, I realize that it will require some sort of up-dated agreement. I guess it would have to be in the best interest of the University. So I am just mentioning that. I know that there may be other big problems perhaps others want to discuss but I do want parking to remember that it is an issue for at least one faculty member.

**Response by Ms. McNealy:**

*We have been in contact with the director of parking service from FSU. There was a time that FAMU and FSU had an agreement that permitted registered FAMU students' vehicle to park on FSU campus and likewise registered FSU students' vehicle can park at FAMU. Now both schools are using this new software called "License plate recognition". So now we have no way of knowing whether an FSU student is registered or if a FAMU student is registered because of the new software. So in my conversation with the director, he has told me that they are charging students and faculty \$3.00 per day to park and they need to stop by their parking center and get a visitor parking permit if they come over to FSU to conduct business.. We at FAMU are doing the same thing. So we are charging their students and faculty, if they have to come over to use the library or anything, we are charging them as a visitor.*

**Question from Dr. Maurice Holder:**

I have a couple of questions. First of all, I would like to thank you for what you have done in my own personal parking situation. I was quite happy with what you did- the administrative and police portion of parking. I came back to see you last week but you weren't there but I got a ticket (laughing) for parking in a spot where I was registered to be parked in. I don't understand that but I will come back. It is \$50.00 ticket but you know that I paid a lot of money last year. But here is what my real question is. There are two aspect to this parking situation.

1. We have the policy portion of those individuals who build the policy of both parking; and

2. Administration of the parking services-( the police ticketing persons which is another aspect of parking)

The Faculty Senate by design has a parking committee which is long standing, has been there for years, that sets up parking policies in conjunction with the other aspect of parking. This time I don't remember hearing anything about a meeting of that parking committee and parking services. So I am at lost as to how the new regulations came to be without involvement of an operative committee of the University; and not knowing how the two mesh. You probably cannot answer my question but I am hoping in going forward that you take into consideration the parking committee/the standing committee of the University is involved in the policy that is brought to the Faculty Senate and then to the Board of Trustee for approval prior to implementation.

**Response by Ms. McNealy:**

Thank you. Being new to the position, I did not know of the parking committee that you all have at the Faculty Senate. However, I was told that I needed to make sure that when we are making changes or implementing changes we needed to have someone from the faculty to be in our meetings and from student government. So when we had our meeting we had your very own Dr. Joe Ann Houston as well as student government president to be in those meetings with us and to tell them what we are trying to do, the changes we are trying to make and that is the route that we took. Now I am very open and willing to meet with your parking committee in a future effort as we make other changes down the line. I am very open to meeting with them.

**Question from Dr. Roscoe Hightower from School of Business & Industry:**

Good afternoon! I want to thank you all for your hard work. My questions are-

1. Where are the outcomes or policy stored so we can refer to them when we get in trouble or get tickets? Where are the new policies? Am I just not aware of them? How do we look them up or find them because we are always getting tickets. I just wanted to know where they were so I can refer to them or make that location available for all of us to follow. Then you mention software.
2. My second question is with respect to the software. How many different vehicles can we have in the new world? What can we do?

**Response by Ms. McNealy:**

*Great question, your first question is policies and procedures are in the parking manual and we are also in the process of updating them so we are going to switch them out. But most of the rules are still the same and it's on the website. Secondly, the rules for multiple vehicles, how many vehicles can you register per permit to park. You can register two (2) vehicles. However, you can only have one vehicle on campus at a time. So the software is set up for example, you park at SBI and you have another car that someone else is driving is park at the pavilion, that same parking patrol then goes over to the pavilion it will beep for a second time to let him know that there are two vehicles registered to Dr. Hightower and are on campus at the same time. So the second car will be ticketed.*

*Dr. Hightower stated that "makes perfect sense, there is only one of me, so that won't be my issue. "My issue is that I have tag # X, tag # Y and tag # Z, and tag X is fine, because tag X is the one I fill my parking permit paperwork on. But Y and Z are not parked at the same time, they are parked one at a time. I have to try and figure out how to get them connected to me so I don't get a ticket.*

***Response by Ms. McNealy:***

*She stated that, "you would have to just call the office and let us know and before I sit down I will give you my telephone number and my email address. You can have two cars registered. You can register vehicle X and vehicle Y but when you happen to drive vehicle Z, you have to call and let us know and we will register that vehicle for that day.*

*Dr. Hightower said "thank you"*

*Ms. McNealy states if there are no other questions, my e-mail address is [Allison.mcneay@famu.edu](mailto:Allison.mcneay@famu.edu) I can be reached at 850-561-2210. Thank you. (Applause)*

***President Grable*** thanked Ms. McNealy. Now we have our Athletic Director Milton Overton please come forward and give us an update.

***Athletic Update presented by Mr. Milton Overton:***

*Good afternoon! My assistant will provide updates as well. First, thank you for having us. We want to make sure that we are doing our part as part of the family.*

We hopefully would like to continue to add students to our campus. When our athletes do well in the classroom it improves our branding and our recognition goes up and our admission goes up. One of our missions for the athletic department is to improve admission. Not just to get players on the field. Since the last time I spoke with you the NCAA awarded us again the grant-academic success grant in the amount of \$675,000.000 which is really good for us. The single purpose is to enhance what we are doing academically. I want to share with you some results so far because this is a result orientated group. The first thing we did last year was to reorganize our staff. Ms. Joyce Ellenwood is the Associate Athletic Director for Academics and Compliance Service. There is a very specific reason for this position because we want to make sure that we are always abiding by the rules. So the person who is in charge of academic is also in charge of compliance, we want to make sure we follow the rules. Allow me to introduce Ms. Ellenwood.

Ms. Ellenwood says: Good afternoon esteemed faculty, how are you? In this very short time frame we have as Mr. Overton indicated, we did receive in 2015-2016, an NCAA comprehensive grant that has its primary mission and focus is around academic success for our athletics and this ties into the overall mission of the University. We have some initiatives that will assist in our athletics success. The three years comprehensive grant awarded for \$675,000.000 is contingent on our continued success. We were awarded for the second year the \$225.000.000 that amount will be rolled out each year. Some of those initiatives in that grant we had for the first year, the overall impact is to –

- Increasing academic success,
- Increasing our eligibility and progress towards a degree,
- Increasing our retention points,
- Increasing graduation success rates, and
- Increasing our multi-year NCAA academic progress rate

A lot of those terms of faculty kind of weave into the University's overall performance metric system. Our agents holds us accountable agents that hold us accountable to how our student athlete performs, holds us accountable for how our coaches treats student athletes, and it holds the University accountable for how overall the institution is in support of our mission for our student athletes to succeed. So some of those numbers that flow into our first year are just looking at graduation rates as compared to the student athlete report and the overall institution report. As Dr. Goodman mentioned that 30% of the overall institution graduation rate when we look at that and the subset of student athletes, student

athletes are graduating at a 57% graduation rate. Again, some of those ....bench marks that NCAA holds us accountable to drives us to a time-line where we are required to accelerate the academic progress of our student athletes. So the information you provide, what you do in your classroom, your scholarship, research and your service definitely is going to contribute to assisting the athletic department meet its overall goals.

Some of those immediate points in terms of hot issues we have our three teams that are academically challenged within the NCAA structure: the football team, men's basketball team and our men's track team. Of our fourteen (14) teams, we have three (3) that are not meeting those metrics. The other teams are meeting those metrics consistently every year above that is required. For the three (3) teams that meets those challenges, they have made improvements over the past year in 2015-2016, in full expectation that they continue to meet those increases. Our men's basketball team has received the least relieve overall ....access to proceed in competition. They now have that access and that is a remarkable improvement to what they did in the classroom. So those classroom results now shows that the access to participate in championship....NCAA tournament. That is just a fine example of how we are progressing to success. Our football team as well has some of those penalties that they also serving, this past spring where there was no spring practice, based on their remarkable improvements in the last year they are now back practicing and will have a spring game. These are some small examples of how funding and support from the NCAA, the funding and support from the overall institution, that help the academic progress of our student athletes. Therefore, helping to grow the student population athletes and students abroad. We have funds to hire additional tutors to help those student athletes that are not doing well in various subjects.

In spring 2015-spring 2016, there has been an increases in passing grade in certain courses. African American History had a 5% increase, Psychology had a 16% increase, and Economic had 12% increase. Those are some of the courses that we identify where some of our student athletes were having challenges in and we were able to provide tutors in those specific courses allowing those grades passing to increase. Those are a few of them.

Another point to mention in the grade issue also have an increase in staff with the support and collaboration from across campus, increase in academic advisors and

we also have an increase in some of ....Again, the NCAA and the outside accountability system really hold us to the fire in terms of tracking and monitoring. They actually require us to track the academic eligibility of the athlete. We are fortunate enough to have advisors to do that and staff to track and monitor all the benchmarks by semester until that student graduates to ensure that we are meeting the progress we need to meet.

**Dr. Overton:**

He states that he has a couple of more things to add and then we will open it up for questions. One thing I am very proud of, last year forty-four (44) student athletes graduated in eleven (11) different majors. Thirty-five (35) student athletes graduated the previous year, 20% increase. Again, what's important to us...making sure we are looking at this at a very granular level, and so we appreciate when we send out grade checks and making request for data on our student athletes, that you providing that data is truly helping us to improve the standard of academic advising, academic support they have access to. We appreciate what you are doing we will continue to let you guys know of the success we are having and also tell you if there is something that we need, we will continue to do... .....we will make those improvements in the classroom. Are there any questions?

**Unidentified Senator in the audience asked a question:** **President Grable** again encouraged Senators to come to the mic, state your name and then ask your question. Mr. Overton said I heard your question and repeated the question and said *“what are we doing relative to the student athletes mental health needs?”* *President Grable requested the source of that question to come forward and speak in the mic.*

**Initial question by Dr. Hassiem Kambui from the College of Education:**

What other supports are in place in terms of their mental health needs? A week ago seeing the Athletic director about this but he never returned my call.

**Response by Mr. Overton**

He stated that “I do apologize and I tell you what, I’ll be happy to visit with you after this. We have obviously a lot of challenges and I am the first to admit that there are some things we can do better.

First thing we have to do is to build up the infra structure. We might be able to get to every single need that the student athlete has but the first thing is to make sure they have opportunities. When you are losing resources year after year the first priority is to generate income, raise money so that student athletes have opportunities so you don't have to cut sports. So that is my first priority.

Now, relative to the mental health needs, my first priority is prayer. I believe in that. I believe that right before our team plays, as they exit the hotel, I prayer for them before we pass out scripture. I believe firmly that student athletes that bond together spiritually have a better opportunity to perform academically in the classroom because that is not the only thing. Engaged folks like you, I have a background in counseling myself and we do provide one-on-one mentoring with people on my staff. But as we move forward and we continue to grow in our offerings. I do apologize for not returning your call.

**Dr. Kambui said thank you.**

**Response by Ms. Ellenwood:**

Just to add some comments to that we also utilize campus resources in reference to sunshine manner. Our academic advisors work very closely in developing relationships with the student athletes to ensure that we have their well-being in mind. Our student athlete welfare is the NCAA initiative which requires us to ensure that overall health of the student athlete is where it needs to be. So we definitely seek and utilize campus resources when they are available to us. We actually have two of our women sports-women bowling and softball that utilizes the volunteer services of sport physiologist.

**Question by Dr. Maurice Holder from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science:**

Thanks a lot for what you are doing it is making a difference. I already see it. This is a lot of information; can you e-mail us this information so we can see beyond this meeting?

**Response by Mr. Overton:**

We will e-mail this presentation today.

**Continued Question by Dr. Holder:**

How often do you and your staff meet with the University Athletic Committee?

**Response by Mr. Overton:**

We actually meet at least every month. Depending if there is an issue we will meet more than that. We just actually increase the committee and for the first time Professor Robinson showed up and I appreciate that, the reason I do because it shows me his leadership and it also shows me .... And that is what everybody. Accountability is there and that is why I appreciate your question and your previous question. I want those types of questions because if you don't hold us accountable as faculty you are not doing your job. We are part of one family and I meant it. As long as it is constructive criticism in that you want to help me I am all for that.

**Question by Dr. Michael Abrams from the School of Journalism:**

I know we appreciate the progress. In my class I have a girl who is on the Badminton team, she brings an excuse whenever she has to travel some place. The team travels a lot but I don't know how much they play. But there is one thing now that you have mentioned it that has been on my mind that is the different religion represented at the University. Last month at the faculty meeting we read notice from the administration that Muslim and Jewish students will be going to be excused for those holidays. It has been off and on issue but I won't call it an issue but my concerns has been that sometimes when we off prayers at Florida A&M University, I am not against prayers, I am not an atheist, I believe in God but they are not comfortable to me in terms of my own religion and so I would say if you are going to do these prayers we should at least recognize that we have more than Christianity represented here. I know the value of the black church. I believe in it and I think it is good for the students. I remember one faculty member took a student to church because he needed "church-and-up", I believe that was good for him. While we meet in large groups, the University often fails to recognize that there is a diverse group of people there. I just wanted to make that small, small point. Thank you very much for all the work that you do for the students.

**Response by Mr. Overton:**

That is a great question and in fact I want to say something about that.

1. We believe in diversity and I mean all kinds of diversities. Diversity of thought, diversity of intellect and where you come from. In fact, I have something in my slides that we will pass out.
2. The Athletic Department is a great representative of some of the goals we have in diversity. We are 35.33% non-black, in fact, it is hard for me to read this but we are .6% Asian, 2.5% Hispanic, and I will give you the rest of it, but it is really good. I like that.

When we offer prayers, it is always voluntary. If you know anything about football or athletics in particular we have fellowship of Christianity athlete. But we have a Chaplin who travels with the team, FSU does, everybody does-all teams, but everything we do is all volunteer. We respect all faith and we give people opportunity to represent. Thank you so much. I think it is a fair question. It is what our country is all about, the value of diversity.

**Statement from Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku from the College of Pharmacy:**

To answer Dr. Holder's question, the Athletic Committee meets once a month. We have sub-committee that actually goes to athletic, that go to students' welfare like mental health and reports back to the committee after they meet. Then we have student advisory committee where the students discuss things. We plan to meet with the athlete to address their issues and bring it back to the athletic committee. Also, one of the issues we have this year, athletic like other organizations when they travel, they are actually representing the University. I am not sure what the policy is like SCG when they travel. But once a student brings an excuse to you, you must accept, they still have to do the work that they miss. But not accepting their excuses it creates problems for us. If you have a problem with their excuses you have my number on the excuse form, so if you have problem feel free to call me.

**Response by Mr. Overton:**

I know we are taking up a lot of time but I want to piggy-back on that, very specifically because when I talk about the athletic department representing the institution and the issues we have relative to diversity, we have a number of international student athletes. Many of these international student athletes are STEM majors. Then here again, we know that there are very specific criteria that are required relative to lab and the makeups. Sometimes things are not possible but as much as you can because these students come in and they are graduating with professional degrees and they are going back to their countries, or sometimes

they remain here, but they are representing the global reach of this institution in an extraordinary way. So as much as you can help us we appreciate it.

**Question by Senator Joseph Grant from the College of Law:**

Last week I got a chance to watch President Obama's Summit on African American student athletes and race in the United States at North Carolina A & T. In that summit, they talk about a host of issues, the impact of majority institutions recruiting African American athletes, issue of social justice before even getting access. Can you share your perspective on how feel this dialogue affects us here at FAMU?

**Response by Mr. Overton:**

First, I want you to know that right now FAMU is better right now than any other institutions with regards for opportunities for student athletes of color to be in professional degrees. The problem is that no one else knows. I wasn't recruited to this fine institution, I wish I were. If my parents would have traveled with me and I was a first generation college student, if I had an opportunity to come. Some of student athletes who have point kids. If you look at statistic they are not getting in. This institution has a competitive advantage that is actually not letting people know about, not even our own graduates. Which is terrible. Now, I love have the opportunity to watch...I see something very clear that I did not know before. It is that HBCU's and what it does, relative to the viability of the middle class, the African American middle class to grow, it plays a significant role that is why we absolutely have to keep the doors open. Just think about it, what percentage of the professional breeds' impacts our economy. We have to know that answer because we are better than anybody else because of that. From a student athlete stand point, I can tell you right now, if I go to FSU, UF in the NCC we are better right now than those schools relative to student athletes of color graduating with professional degrees, having an impact on our economy. Is that enough?  
(Applause)

**Question from Dr. David Guthrie from the School of Nursing:**

I have been fortunate this past week, and a few weeks ago before then, I had a student athlete of the week in cross-country in my class. When I discovered that I put her picture up in class and everyone clapped. Unfortunately, I feel that I am the only one in my unit that realizes that. What can your department do to proactively increase recognition of those student athletes in their unit? I don't think anyone in the nursing unit realizes any of these awards that are bestowed upon the student.

**Response by Mr. Overton:**

What we are doing right now is building blocks. We have six pillars and in those 6 pillars there are holes we are trying to fill, so find holes and fill it. I like the question raised about the mental health needs of our student athletes. We have an issue of financing and it affects all other things. We are trying to hire a Sports Information Director, ok, so that our production unit can work with Dean Kimbrough, at the School of Journalism to create a ... production in a much better way so we can produce more video, do some more social media, so we can do a better presenting to your point the academic allocates of our student athletes. But you have to do it in a compelling way. Where are they now? We have a young lady Pam Olive who was just here, broadcaster, have pictures of her working with students, and turned it into a production. We have to allocate resources to telling a story so that other students can understand the value of FAMU. Are we pushing out those videos? Have to go outside the box. It's all recruiting but it must be done in a sophisticated way and it must be efficient. You must allocate resources. If our department did not get hit with the budget ...

Thank you for your time. (Applause)

**President Grable** thank Ms. McNealy, Mr. Overton, and the Assistant AD for the information shared. The information was refreshing and happy to learn how it is tied back to the academic at FAMU.

**Revisions to Constitution by President Grable:**

Now we are moving to item 10 on the agenda regarding the Constitution and Bylaws. This is something that is timely and we must consider the revision of the constitution and bylaws. Revision of the constitution and bylaws will require and involve many Senators. This is one of my first items I have on my agenda when I meet with Dr. Robinson he assured me and I will bring the information back to you

regarding his thoughts. He will be coming here to share his thoughts with you. Please take a look at the constitution and bylaws on the FAMU website. Take a look at the sections that deals with that and we going to be hopefully moving forward in that direction. It does require based on the constitution for Dr. Robinson to have a leadership role to be a part of that. I just wanted to put that on your radar.

At this time, **President Grable** ask Dr. Muchovej, Parliamentarian to handle the last two agenda items. She said, this is the last two agenda items to be discussed. Thank you.

### **Selection of Committee Members:**

#### **Statement from Dr. Muchovej:**

At the Steering committee it was brought to our attention in September that we should try and facilitate the nomination on the Steering Committee and Committee on Committee. What we did we ask each college to send us a name for each committee so we won't have to spend a tremendous amount of time trying to do this and that was championed by one of the members from the School of Business. The only school that did not turn in a nomination happens to be from the School of Business. In your folder you will find a list of nominations for the Committee on Committees and from the Steering Committee. I am going to ask for nomination on the floor from the **School of Business** for the Steering Committee. We have four Senators from the School of Business, Drs. Ashley, Hightower, Hill and Nwakanma. We meet on the first Monday of each month at noon for two hours. Do we have a nomination from the School of Business?

- For the **Steering Committee**, an unidentified Senator nominated Dr. Nwakanma. Dr. Muchovej asked if there were any other nominations. Seconded by an unidentified individual. Nomination closed. Dr. Nwakanma was nominated for the Steering Committee.
- For **Committee on Committee**, we have four Senators from the School of Business, Drs. Ashley, Hightower, and Hill. Do I hear any nominations from the floor? An unidentified individual nominated Dr. Hill, unidentified person second it.
- We also need **two At Large members for the Committee on Committee** from the Faculty Senate. Any nominations on the floor. Vice-President Houston nominated Dr. John Cooperwood from the College of Pharmacy and an unidentified individual nominated Dr. Kyle Eidahl but he declined. Another

nominee by an unidentified individual, Dr. Michael Abrams but he is concerned about the time. However, he agreed to accept the nomination.

At Large members of Committee on Committee.

- Dr. Cooperwood
- Dr. Abrams

Then a vote was requested for the entire slate. All in favor? Motion passed.

### **Nominations for Steering Committee Members 2016 – 2017**

#### **School of Allied Health**

Lauralyn Burke

#### **Library**

Pamela Monroe

#### **College of Education**

David White

#### **College of Science & Technology**

Lekan Latinwo

#### **FAMU-FSU College of Engineering**

Yassir AbdelRazig

#### **School of the Environment**

Marcia Owens

#### **College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences**

Ebenezer Oriaku

#### **College of Agriculture and Food Sciences**

Anthony Anaga

#### **College of Social Sciences Arts & Humanities**

Joe A. Houston

#### **College of Law**

Joseph Grant

**FAMU DRS**

Sheila Labissiere

**School of Business & Industry**

Hudson Nwakanma

**School of Nursing**

Sevilla Bronson

**Nominations of Committee on Committee Members 2016 – 2017**

**School of Allied Health Sciences**

Lon'Tejuana Cooper

**School Of Journalism**

Michael Abrams

**College of Education**

Lavetta Henderson

**College of Pharmacy**

John Cooperwood

**College of Science & Technology**

Musiliyu Musa

**FAMU – FSU College of Engineering**

Mark Weatherspoon

**School of Environment**

Richard Gragg, III

**College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences**

Tiffany Ardley

**College of Agriculture & Food Sciences**

Jenelle Robinson

**College of Social Sciences Arts & Humanities**

Darius Young

**College of Law**

Phyllis Taite

## **FAMU DRS**

Thomasina Brock

## **School of Business & Industry**

Aretha Hill

## **School of Nursing**

David Guthrie

## **Library**

Gloria Woody

### **Protocol Related to Setting Senate Meetings:**

**President** Grable asked Dr. Muchovej to discuss the steps that one must take to call a special meeting. **(See insert in your folder titled “Steps for a Call Meeting.”)** But for those faculty members that did not see this document here is a brief summary. **(Request to include this document with the meeting minutes.)**

1. “Basically, you *have to have an issue that is in the purview of the Faculty Senate. The faculty Senate shall be the highest academic legislative body in the University, and shall advise the President on academic matters and other concerns affecting more than one school or college, that is also time sensitive so that it will not keep for the next meeting.* To call the meeting you want to make sure that it is something that is urgent and it cannot hold for the next meeting. As such, matters such as collective bargaining or matters that falls outside the academic areas do not fall with the Faculty Senate.
2. If you have something that falls within the Faculty Senate you must create an Agenda for that issue.
3. Submit the issue and the agenda to the Faculty Senate President
4. Obtain written approval (email, signature) from 20% of the Faculty Senators indicating support for the call meeting. 20% =12 Faculty Senators.
5. Submit material to the Steering Committee for verification
6. Call Meeting
  - a. Post notice on Faculty Senate site/FAMU info and other prominent public locations; (Sunshine laws)

- b. Wait 3 business days. It does not include the day the notice was posted;
- c. President presides
- d. Quorum required
- e. Follow Constitution and Bylaws and Rules of the Faculty Senate.”

(Again, please refer to the “Steps for a Call Meeting) Any questions?

**Question by Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku:**

*With respect to item #6 (d), the intent is good, but you will have a problem with getting a quorum for our regular meetings. This will be a difficult situation to get a quorum.*

**Response by Dr. Muchovej:**

*The whole concept around this goes that we can at any particular meeting modify the rules of a quorum. But it has to be modified at a regular meeting. Normally, a quorum is defined by the Robert Rules of Order, that you looking at a folder, 50%. The concept in Robert Rules of Order is such that a minority cannot take away a right of someone else. So if you modify the amount of quorum that you need, then what that does it says you can go out there and say, well we got 57 members in here but the quorum is 29. If we modify it down to that to say 25% of the entire group rather than 29 you will be looking at 15, out of that we have to have a majority vote, which means 8 people will be making a decision for everyone. Whether or not we like a quorum we have to have it in there because that protects the integrity of the entire process to make sure that we can't have a few people deciding for a much larger body.*

**Question from Phyllis Taite from the College of Law:**

*If you have 20% of the people who want to call a meeting you already have a problem getting a quorum for regular meetings, I think that number should be higher, the 20% should be higher. If you have 20% of the people want to call a meeting, I don't want to drive all the way from Orland and not have a quorum. Should we look at modifying that number up from the 20%?*

**Response by Dr. Muchovej:**

*That would be something that needs to be reviewed in the Constitution and Bylaws because it speaks in the Constitution and Bylaw that it is 20%. I think what the concept here is that you if you have 12 people who feels strongly about the issue,*

*then that is something that should be addressed at some point. Whether it is necessary to have a call meeting or whether or not you could bring it to a regular meeting of the Faculty Senate that is another way you can look at it.*

**Statement by Vice-President Joe Ann Houston:**

*I have more of a passing concern about this meeting. I am not sure what the intent is but the Constitution speaks to "call meetings" so why are you now going away from what the Constitution says to set up a special procedure. The Constitution specifically addresses call meetings, it does, so this goes beyond what the Constitution says. I think if we are going to do something without back dooring it, that what this looks like -it is a back door attempt. The President already said that she is going to meet with Dr. Robinson and ask him to take a look at the Constitution in its totality rather than attempt to back door that is going to prevent or usurp the Constitution. I have a problem with it.*

**Response by Dr. Muchovej:**

*All this does, the Constitution states that the:*

- 1. The purview of the Faculty Senate is as stated in number 1. Robert Rules of Order requires that every time you have a meeting you have an agenda for it.*
- 2. Vice-President Houston interjected and states, "Robert Rules of Order does not-then she said go ahead!" Then Vice-President then states, "I think everybody here understands that, let's be clear, we "kinda" understand, you cannot be sitting here and not realize what this is about but if we are going to do something that will circumvent and I am reading from the Constitution from this University. Special meetings of the Faculty Senate will be call by the President of the Faculty Senate or by 1/5 of the total voting membership. That is what the Constitution says. So why are you attempting to do this, when it speaks to it. If you are going to do something aside from the Constitution-- President Grable already said that we are going to take a look at the Constitution, then let's look at the Constitution and make those changes there. I think this is very dangerous, anytime you start messing with the Constitution, whether it is this Constitution or the Constitution of the United States, we need to tread very, very carefully. Somebody in his wisdom put together this document and to go to something that is procedural points that moves away from it, that is going to take away and it's going to take away.*

**Response from Dr. Muchovej:**

*This is not taking away anything from the Constitution. “Yea it is because you are procedural moving to something Muchovej, states Vice-President Houston who interjects and says “it is”. This Constitution speaks to the 3 days rule and everything that is there. I don’t understand why you feel the need for you to spell this out. We are all intelligent and we can read it and understand what it says.*

*President Grable thank Dr. Muchovej and Dr. Houston. She states, this item was requested to be presented before the Steering Committee as a result of a question that was raised by Dr. Ashley at our last meeting. This is not a new criteria, this is more or less helping all of us understand the rules. This is not a new procedure or a new process. You are correct Dr. Muchovej and you are correct Dr. Houston. This is not a new process it is outline in the Constitution. The purpose of this because I was personally requested by a member of the Faculty Senate that this item come before the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee approved it, you all approve the agenda, this is just an explanation. So the rules that are outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws are clear. I am responding to a request from a Senator on the floor. Dr. Ashley asked me after the last meeting to make sure that this matter goes before the Steering Committee. Which now it is before you. Those items that Dr. Muchovej listed are included in the Constitution. This was just an explanation. No new process and no new protocol. Is that correct Dr. Muchovej.*

**Meeting adjourned at 4:26**, we went over 26 minutes, please accept my apologies. Our goal is to get in here and start the meeting at 3:00 pm. If you want something place on the agenda, please contact my office or I can be reached via e-mail at [betty.grable@famu.edu](mailto:betty.grable@famu.edu) or at cell 850-212-2255. Thank you for your attendance, this meeting is adjourned.