

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2019  
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Lee Hall Auditorium

**Officers (Present)**

Dr. Ann Cavazos, President  
Dr. Tiffany Ardley, Vice President  
Dr. James Muchovej, Interim Parliamentarian

**Senators (Present)**

Dr. Terrell Brown  
Dr. Lillie Brown  
Dr. Jeneen Surrency  
Dr. Kyle Eidahl  
Dr. Novell Tani  
Dr. Huijuin Li  
Dr. Robin Perry  
Dr. Daniel Osborne  
Dr. Katie Brodhead  
Dr. Ezzeldin Aly  
Dr. Lavetta Henderson  
Dr. James Muchovej  
Dr. Michee Lachaud  
Dr. Aavidai Seamy  
Dr. John Cooperwood  
Dr. Rajiv Dalal  
Dr. Pia Woodley  
Prof. LaVerne Wells-Bowie  
Prof. Seyedehmahsan Mohsenin  
Dr. Kelley Bailey  
Dr. Roscoe Hightower  
Dr. Aretha Hill  
Dr. Lisa Gardner  
Dr. Naquita Manning  
Dr. Ashvini Chauhan  
Mr. Keith Fagg  
Ms. Jacqueline Menzel

**Senators (Absent)**

Atty. Kenya Washington-Johnson  
Dr. Anthony Ananga  
Dr. Michael Thornton  
Ms. Thomasina Brock  
Dr. Vivian Wilson  
Dr. Yassir Abdelrazig

Dr. Tarik Dickens  
Dr. Leah Hunter  
Dr. Michael Martinez-Colon

**Senators (Excused)**

Dr. Angela Thornton

**EX-OFFICIO (Voting) (Excused)**

Dr. Carl Goodman

**EXOFFICIO (Voting) (Absent)**

Dr. David Jackson, Jr.  
Dr. Robert Taylor  
Mr. Bryan Smith

**SGA (Voting) (Present)**

Ms. Taylar Hall

**SGA (Voting) (Absent)**

Ms. Natalie Antenor

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Cavazos**

- Good afternoon, senators, faculty, deans and guest
- Just a reminder that all eligible senators please sit in the middle section.
- My local work phone number is 850-879-0247; the office is 850-599-3023
- President Robinson, Provost Edington and his administrative staff will not be in attendance at today's senate meeting. They are attending a budget BOG meeting.
- Ms. Barrington and Dr. Lewis Johnson will discuss the Faculty Workload at our next meeting in January 2020.
- Dr. Johnson stated that the administration is requesting two volunteers for the Faculty Senate for the Student Success Task Force. They meet on Tuesdays at 8:30 am. Please see or call Ms. Harris.
- Update on the Honorary Doctorate Degree:
  - As you know, in September, the Senate voted to put a hold on reviewing applications until the criteria form was revised. Ms. Harris, on my behalf, e-mailed all senators requesting their input on the criteria for the doctoral application and only one senator responded with suggestions.
  - Again, I am requesting and encouraging you to submit your suggestions to Ms. Harris. We must move forward with the business of the senate. We have some candidates for review and approval and President Robinson is requesting the committee to review the applications.
- Can the Constitution and the bylaw be amended or revised by a motion from non-senators? The Constitution is clear as to the manner in which action can be taken to amend or revise the constitution and that was not done. The motion that was made at the October meeting was invalid. The bylaws are the framework and foundation that governs the operation of the Senate. So, with that said, we will be conducting elections. We have to move forward with the business of the Senate. We cannot remain stagnant because of a few disgruntle senators. A committee must be formed to address amendments or revisions.
- I will also encourage you review the University Constitution and Bylaws. Like the Florida Constitution, Federal Constitution, BOG, BOT etc, these documents are operational guidelines and procedures that has to followed to address revisions or amendments. (we don't have a quorum yet!)

**Dr. Latinwo commented and stated:** "I am still a Senator because I checked with HR and I am still a Senator and a faculty. and my other fellow colleagues are also faculty. With all due respect Madam President, we had a motion last time that we did not conclude.... My point is, the University is bigger than anyone one of us and we have to consider the University and think about how we can move the University forward rather than fighting of who is or isn't eligible. I have not read anywhere how we take a Senate Faculty out of seat? Even Mr. President, Donald Trump cannot remove a faculty out of seat without going through the proper procedure. I will ask again

that we should go back and allow people to complete their time while we work on amending the constitution to say exactly what we want if that is what we want. Thank you for your time.

**President Cavazos:** Dr. Latinwo, you are a faculty member. No one is negating that fact, but the University Constitution and Bylaw states in **Article IV, Para. 3 states that “Only full-time voting faculty shall be eligible for election to the senate”**. You are an administrator and your AOR reflects your status as such. Therefore, you were not eligible for election to the Senate. As I have stated before, no one is questioning your faculty status. We have debated and discussed this matter at length. The Constitution and Bylaw committee has to be formed. It is not enough to have a on the fly vote or motion made by non-senators on the floor to change the Constitution. A committee has to be formed according to the Constitution. I am no longer going to debate this issue. We have taken too much time on this issue. The Constitution is our governing tool that provides guidance. You are asking me is to ignore the Constitution and keep status quo. I cannot do that. I have a responsibility to address the concerns of those senators who raised the eligibility status of the senators. I am not opposed to forming a committee as you suggest but it has to be done in the proper manner. The Senators who raised and addressed this issue has asked me to stand and follow the Constitution and Bylaws.

**Dr. Latinwo** stated that he has not read or seen anything in the Constitution that give you the authority to remove a Senator. We don't know how my distinguished colleague is now being appointed to the Parliamentarian, the Parliamentarian has resigned because of everything that has happened. I respect Dr. Muchovej, he was a parliamentarian for years, and he knows the law and I go by the law. What I am saying here, for God's sake, think more about FAMU, instead of what other people are saying behind close door, if we have to take this to court, we can do that, but we don't want to do that because of the President and the University. Who told you, how did this come out, we have got to conduct an investigation?

**President Cavazos:** Dr. Muchovej can you address the issue according to the Robert Rules of Order with respect to the ineligible senators. Dr. Muchovej is our interim parliamentarian because the previous one resigned for personal reasons. He will also address the question concerning the removal of an ineligible senator.

**Parliamentarian Muchovej:** Dr. Latinwo with respect to the parliamentarian, the parliamentarian serves at the pleasure of the parliamentarian or the President of the Senate. If the parliamentarian feels that he is not serving in the manner in which he should, then he can step down. The President of the Senate can also ask the parliamentarian to step down if the parliamentarian is not doing his job. So, right now I am in the role of interim parliamentarian. We will go from there.

According to Robert Rules of Order, if a candidate is not qualified for the office at the time of the election, then the election is considered to be null and void. Since it is a requirement of the Constitution that the person be in a non-administrative function which there are several different concepts. I was working and looking at PERT agency, division chief or higher cannot serve in the senate. I have expressed that in my college in the past ever since the constitution was written in

2008 and kept it there. We have had several people who were elected and at the time they were elected they were in an administrative position and according to Robert Rules of Order they are ineligible. That is the quandary.

**President Cavazos states:** What happened in the past, I have no control. What is going to happen in the future is out of my control. I am addressing the present. At the present, Faculty Senators have raised the issue on eligibility of Senators. I will not bury my head in the sand hoping that it will go away. I also want you to know that I did not handle this matter in isolation. I have been in constant communication with Provost Edington and President Robinson. The faculty have elected me to speak on their behalf and some have asked me to address this issue and to uphold the Constitution.

**UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION REMARKS:**

N/A

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER: We have a quorum, but a time was not provided.**

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2019 MEETING AGENDA:**

**President Cavazos** requesting a motion to approve of the November 19, Meeting Agenda Motion to accept the agenda was made by Senator Eidhal and second by \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_

Any discussions

**Senator Woodley** I would like to make a friendly amendment to approve the motion with flexibility. So, if there are any additional remarks or statement outside of the agenda that needs to be addressed, we can include it on the agenda.

**Senator Woodley** stated that she is making a amendment to the main motion, so it has to be seconded it.

**President Cavazos** reiterated that a friendly amendment to the motion with flexibility was seconded by \_\_? \_\_\_\_\_. She also clarifies the role of the Steering Committee as a committee that sets the agenda.

**Parliamentarian Muchovej** called the vote on the motion to accept the agenda with flexibility. All in favor say aye, (the senators who voted was counted by the parliamentarian, there are 24 senators, the motion failed

**President Cavazos** called the vote on the motion to approve the meeting agenda, All in favor say aye, all opposed same response. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 15, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:**

We received a copy of the transcript from Ms. Menzel, the volunteer recording secretary, this morning and we were not able to verify the meeting minutes. We had the same problems with the September meeting, I am requesting a motion to table the minutes until we are able to review it. The minutes will be circulated on or before our next Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was moved by \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_?\_\_\_\_\_

*(unfortunately, we could not here the name on the tape who made the motions.)*

Any discussions

**Mr. Mitchell** stated that he has hard copies of minutes from both meetings. Everyone recalled that you elected me as the Secretary. He stated that we did not make any substantive changes to the constitution. It was procedurally, we did not agree with the president's interpretation of the constitution. I have the minutes and I would like to distribute. He was reminded that he cannot disseminate the minutes because he was not the official recorder for the meeting. He stated that he does have the minutes which he received from the volunteer secretary and he said that he took her version of the minutes and have attached all documents. You cannot overthrow the minutes because they contain a provision that you are not happy with it. That provision is about removing senators. We are requesting to suspend all efforts to suspend senators, that was procedural. That motion was passed by an overwhelming majority. We did not make substantive changes to the bylaws we just stated that we do not agree with the interpretation of the president.

**Ms. Menzel** stated that she is negating one thing that Mr. Mitchell stated, I did not send Mr. Mitchell a copy of my minutes. I sent him a copy of the transcript, but I submitted the minutes to office of the senate and not to Mr. Mitchell.

Thank you very much we did receive the minutes that morning.

**Mr. Mitchell** stated that the president does not have the right to vet the minutes according to Robert Rules of Order.

**Parliamentarian Muchovej** states that Robert Rules of Order that I explained to you, Mr. Mitchell, that you cannot put in your opinion, the minutes that was distributed by Mr. Mitchel was not in line with Robert Rules Of Order, the minutes has to be vetted before distribution. Your minutes was not in tune with that of RRO. The minutes has to be vetted before distribution.

**President Cavazos**-All in favoring of approving the tabling the minutes of October 15, all in favor, all opposed. Motion passed

**Parliamentarian Muchovej** stated that we should have conducted the elections for the committees in October. We need to elect one representative from each college/school to be on the Steering and the other senator will automatically be on Committee on Committees. If we have only 2 senators from school/college, one will be on the Steering Committee and the other

will be on Committee on Committee. We also need to elect two senators for the Dean's Council and Executive Council. The Steering Committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. The next meeting is January 6, which is the first Monday in January. The Dean's Council has the leadership of the Administration. The Dean's Council meets on the Third Thursday of each month in the morning. The Executive Council meets every Tuesday in the morning, and it is comprised of the President and Vice Presidents. The Committee on Committees will handle the Emeritus Committee.

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTE 2019-2020:**

Dr. Yassir Abdelrazig – College of Engineering  
Dr. Ezzeldin Aly – College of Education  
Dr. Kelley Bailey – School of Business & Industry  
Ms. Thomasina Brock – FAMU DRS  
Dr. Katie Brodhead – College of Science & Technology  
Dr. Ashvni Chauhan – School of Environment  
Dr. Leah Hunter – School of Journalism & Graphic Communication  
Dr. Naquita Manning – School of Nursing  
Ms. Jacqueline Menzel – Library  
Dr. Mahan Mohsenin- School of Architecture Engineering Technology  
Dr. James Muchovej – College of Agriculture & Food Sciences  
Dr. Robin Perry - College of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanity  
Dr. Angela Thornton – College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Dr. Pia Woodley – School of Allied Health Sciences  
Ms. Natalie Antenor – Student Government Association

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES VOTE 2019-2020**

Dr. Jeneen Surrancy – College of Social Sciences, Arts & Humanity  
Dr. Daniel Osborne - College of Science & Technology  
Dr. Lavetta Henderson – College of Education  
Dr. Michee Lachaud – College of Agriculture & Food Sciences  
Dr. Vivian Wilson – FAMU DRS  
Dr. Tarik Dickens – College of Engineering  
Dr. Rajiv Dalal – School of Allied Health Sciences  
Prof. Laverne Wells-Bowie – School of Architecture Engineering Technology  
Dr. Aretha Hill – School of Business & Industry  
Dr. Lisa Gardner – School of Nursing  
Dr. Michael Colin-Martinez – School of Environment  
Mr. Keith Fagg - Library

**ELECTIONS FOR:**

**a. DEAN'S ACADEMIC COUNCIL:**

Dr. Aavudai Swamy  
Dr. Aretha Hill

b. **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

Dr. Kyle Eidahl

Dr. Novell Tani

**Parliamentarian Muchovej:** We need a nomination for a Secretary. Mr. Mitchell please step away from the mic. (hearing the discussion was muffled on the tape)

**Senator Perry:** (Difficulty to hear the speaker on the tape, tape is blank in certain sections) ..... There was a motion to not to suspension the ineligible senators .....because there were some different interpretations of the constitution. So, if the call is now to select a new secretary, I would feel uncomfortable with such motion until we get a copy of the last minutes for clarification of what transpired from the last meeting because there was a discussion that there was a motion to not to suspend the senators. There is a need to have the minutes to see...the president said....

**Parliamentarian Muchovej:** Reminded Mr. Mitchell that he is not recognized on the floor. There is a motion made by Senator Perry to table the election of the Secretary until the next meeting until we receive the minutes and .... Second by \_\_\_\_\_?

Any discussion?

**President Cavazos:** The motion that was made by Senator Perry, you are correct we do not have the official minutes from the October meetings. The motions were made by ineligible senators based on the constitution. One may have as has been stated that one may have different interpretations. We cannot change the motion of the constitution orally whether to stay the proceedings. The motions were made by individuals who were not eligible senators. Because they have administrative titles. So, even as Senator Perry you state to leave the ineligible senator as is based on the motion, that is a change to the constitution and the constitution has clearly stated the procedure on how to revise or amend the constitution. We are guided by the constitution. We must abide by it. The motion is requesting that we make a change to the Constitution without going through the proper process. The motion is not to suspend ineligible senator... it is my contention that it was an invalid motion on October 15 and it still is invalid motion today. The Constitution is very clear as to the procedure to revise or amend the constitution. So, I do not support this motion.

**Senator Perry-**Unable to hear what was said on the floor.

**President Cavazos-** .....There are individuals who stepped down from their administrative role to sit as an eligible senator. I respect what you have stated Senator Perry, but the motion made by those ineligible senators are not in line with the constitution.

**Mr. Mitchell** stated that there is a motion on the floor, and it was seconded it.

**Senator Woodley:** At this time, we have a motion on the floor, and it was properly moved and seconded. We have to dispose of it. Thank you, mama.

**Parliamentarian Muchovej:** The motion on the floor is to table the election of the Secretary until we have the minutes on hand so we can make an educated .... . On the motion. A vote in favor will adjourn the election. A vote in against will allow the election to occur.

**Senator Aly stated** Good afternoon everyone, I am in favor of moving forward and elect a Secretary for the Senate. I am not in favor of tabling the election.

**Parliamentarian Muchovej:** **The motion was called, all** in favor of tabling the election of the secretary please raise your hands. All those oppose. (5 senators; therefore, the motion carries to table the election.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

**c. Curriculum Committee Report:**

**Dr. Eidahl** presented the Curriculum Report which is included in your folder.

**Senator Hightower states:** In the SLS courses, they are going from two to three hours. Why?

**Dr. Eidahl:** Because within the undergraduate student success center they are looking at different strategies for retention and they wanted those classes to have additional time to help develop the life skills students need to matriculate through the university.

**Senator Hightower:** So, it has a zero impact? What curriculum content is added to account for the additional hour of instruction?

**Dr. Eidahl:** I have the syllabi if you would care to look at it? I was hoping that the rep would be here, but they are not.

**Senator Hightower:** Point of order, I would like to call for a quorum count.

**Parliamentarian Muchovej:** quorum

**President Cavazos:** At this time, I would like to entertain a motion to accept the curriculum report as a full slate, so moved by Dr. Muchovej and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_?

All in favor, all opposed (1), motion carries

**Dr. Eidahl:** We are looking to move to an electronic system for all curriculum changes.



**President Cavazos**-Seeing that we have no further business -Meeting adjourned  
Happy Thanksgiving