

College of Arts and Sciences
Meeting of Faculty Assembly
HM 100
September 16, 2016
2:00-3:15 PM

STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS

Dr. Andrew Rabin, Chair, called the Faculty Assembly to order at 2:00 PM.

Dr. Rabin made two announcements:

- The next meeting of the Faculty Assembly will be held on October 21, 2016, in SK 102. Acting President Dr. Neville Pinto will attend the October 21, 2016, meeting of the A&S Faculty Assembly. Proposed items of business for that meeting must be submitted to Dr. Rabin no later than 5 PM on October 14, 2016.
- The Faculty Assembly needs to elect a new chair and a new parliamentarian. Potential candidates were asked to identify themselves to Dr. Rabin. If candidates have been proposed, a vote will be held at the beginning of the October 21, 2016, meeting. Otherwise, the Faculty Assembly will take up that item of business at its November meeting.

Dr. Rabin then recognized Dean Kimberly Kempf-Leonard to deliver the 2016-17 State of the College Address.

Dean Leonard's presentation focused on the College's considerable achievements and strengths despite the controversies and challenges of the past several months. The dean noted that A&S has demonstrated "stellar" performances in several key metrics that position the College to continue moving forward.

The State of the College provided information relating to:

- **Class of 2020:** The College welcomed 1519 first-year undergraduate students. The total undergraduate enrollment as of September 15, 2016, is 3713 and the graduate enrollment is 813.
- **New Faculty Hires, Tenure and Promotion, New Appointments:** Dean Leonard recognized the 43 new faculty members, faculty who were tenured and promoted, and announced that the College now has a new department (Comparative Humanities); new chairpersons, including Dr. Ann Hall, who was hired to chair Comparative Humanities; and a new Associate Dean for Graduate Education as well as a new director of the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities.
- **New Academic Programs:** Dean Leonard spotlighted the creation of 3+3 programs partnering Brandeis with Criminal Justice, History and Women's and Gender Studies as well as the new tracks created in existing majors.

- **In Memoriam:** The deaths of Professor Tim “Timo” Owens and Dr. Laurie Rhodebeck were acknowledged.
- **Declining Undergraduate Majors:** Even though A&S continues to generate significant numbers of credit hours in support of the University’s academic programs, the College’s number of undergraduate majors has been declining over the past several years. Dean Leonard encouraged faculty and departments to take a more active role in recruiting and retention as future funding will likely be tied to new tuition dollars generated from increased enrollment. Part of the declining A&S undergraduate enrollment can be attributed to A&S Advising’s success in advising pre-unit students and helping them identify appropriate majors, many of which are outside of the College.
- **Retention and Persistence:** A&S retains its first-year students at a rate of approximately 70% with African-American retention being approximately 80%. While these numbers are good, the College is committed to working to improve them. Possible means of increasing student retention and persistence include adding more Late Start course options, providing students with earlier graded feedback so they are aware of potential performance issues earlier in the semester, etc.
- **Faculty Scholarship and Research:** College faculty had over 700 publications last year. Research funding dipped slightly last year due to “tardiness.” Several grants were not received prior to the June 30th cut-off date. Those funds have now been received, getting this academic year off to a healthy start.
- **Faculty-Staff Accomplishments and Recognitions:** Dean Leonard recognized several faculty and staff members for their scholarship, community engagement awards, and other achievements, highlighting in particular faculty who have received national or international recognition.
- **Community Engagement:** Persons using engaged learning pedagogies are encouraged to report these activities. Two years ago, Dean Leonard was told that the College was not particularly active in the community, an error that needs to be corrected.
- **NSSE Results and Student Engagement:** While the NSSE results indicate that first-year and senior students are pleased with their degree programs’ rigor, several reported unhappiness with engagement with faculty.
- **Business Service Center:** The dean provided an overview of the changes in financial operations and budgeting.
- **Salary Equity Adjustments:** Phase one of salary equity adjustments has just been completed and persons whose salaries are being adjusted should soon see those changes.
- **Defending the Liberal Arts:** In response to recent political commentary disparaging the practicality of a liberal arts education for twenty-first-century students, the College has launched a web site located at uofl.me/as-defend. This is part of a campaign of increased outreach currently being conducted by the College.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM with the faculty invited to join the dean for a reception in SRB 139.