

NEWSLETTER



FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Miami's public research university

*College of Social Work, Justice,
and Public Affairs*

Ray J. Thomlison, Dean

- **Welcome to all our faculty and staff**
- **Student Admissions – Enrollments**
- **Faculty Updates**
- **School Recognition**
- **Budget Cuts Announced**
- **Planning**
- **College Faculty Meetings – Fall 2007**

Welcome back to a new semester and for some of you a new beginning within the College of Social Work, Justice, and Public Affairs. I trust that you had a most enjoyable and productive summer which I am sure was all too short. For some of us this was a very busy summer, settling into the new facilities of the fourth floor of the library tower. While the new construction was finished on schedule, it did depend on the cooperation and the patience of many people, particularly those within the School of Social Work. The relocation from the HLS building to the library tower has been successful but not without stressors. This also applies to Alpha, Kat, Liga, and Jennifer, all of whom have not only relocated office space but have the new organizational structure of student services.

I want to take this opportunity also to welcome all our new faculty and staff who joined us this summer or fall.

- Dr. Paul Stuart has joined us as the Director of the School of Social Work. Paul comes to us with many years of Social Work educational experience at the University of Alabama. In addition, Paul was Chair of the Social Work Ph.D. Program at Alabama and he is also currently Chair of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work.
- Ms. Andrea Jay joins us from Miami Dade College. Andrea has extensive experience in the field student services and was for three years with FIU, CAPS department. Andrea has assumed a role as Assistant Dean of Student Services and Alumni Affairs.

- Ms. Carleen Vincent joins us from her Ph.D. program in Criminology at the University of Miami. Carleen has assumed the role as instructor within the School of Criminal Justice and will be located full time at our BB Campus.
- Dr. Jamie Flexon joins us from the University of New York at Albany having just completed her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice. Jamie begins with us as an Assistant Professor on the UP Campus and her research interest are in the area of capital punishment, juvenile delinquency, media and crime.
- Dr. Emel Ganapati, joins us in the School of Public Administration as an Assistant Professor. Emel holds her Ph.D. in Planning from the School of Policy, Planning and Development, University of Southern California with research interests in emergency management, community development (with a focus on social capital), and international development.
- Mr. Juan Saiz is returning as a visiting instructor in the School of Criminal Justice. Juan has taught over many years in Criminal Justice, both as an adjunct and full time instructor.
- Ms. Susan Mankita has joined us on a one year Visiting Instructor position within the School of Social Work Practicum Office. Susan comes to the School of Social Work with a significant background in Social Work practice.

A big welcome to all and I hope we all reach out to our new colleagues to help them in their transition in any way we can.

Student Admissions – Enrollments

Fall 2007 enrollment at the graduate level was up 3% from last year. Once we complete our off campus registration, we expect to do as well as last year. At the graduate level, our College outperformed other graduate programs in the University.

In terms of admissions, the College received 260 graduate applications. Over 140 new students were admitted into our graduate programs, with more admissions expected this week. The Public Management doctoral program admitted eight new students, two of whom were on a full-time basis.

Faculty Updates

In an earlier note this week, I congratulated the following faculty on receiving senate awards for excellence in service, teaching, or research.

School of Criminal Justice:

Dr. Ellen Cohn --Excellence in Service Award

Dr. Suman Kakar -- Excellence in Teaching Award

School of Public Administration:

Dr. Edward Murray – Excellence in Service Award

School of Social Work:

Dr. Mark Macgowan -- Excellence in Research Award

I was also advised that Dr. Ramiro Martinez was recipient of the 2007 Coramae Richey Mann Award for outstanding scholarship in the area of race, crime, and justice from the American Society of Criminology, Division on People of Color and Crime. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Ramiro on his successful promotion to the rank of Professor.

School Recognition

I was pleased to see, recently, that the School of Social Work has been recognized internally by FIU, in the Academic analytics review rating of doctoral faculty. In another ranking by the same organization of Ph.D. faculty teaching in Social Work doctoral programs in North America, the School of Social Work at FIU was ranked #12 out of approximately 60 schools of social work.

In addition, in a recently published survey, the School of Criminal Justice ranked 13th nationally in average publications per faculty members between 2000 and 2004. When the publications were weighted by equally dividing each article among the number of authors, FIU School of Criminal Justice ranked 10th within the nation. It is with great pride that I congratulate these Schools on their national recognition and rankings.

Budget Cuts Announced

As we neared the end of spring 2007, there was a great deal of optimism and excitement regarding the announced increased funding for FIU. This excitement was further enhanced by the belief that the State government would allow for a significant tuition increase, as recommended by the Board of Governors. As you may be aware, the success in increased funding for the year 2007-2008 was primarily focused on selected capital expenditures particularly in the expansion of health disciplines buildings and the new football stadium. While those dollars remain on the books, the Governor vetoed the proposed tuition hike. This, together with the announcement in July that state agencies will be required to significantly reduce their budgets, caused the senior administration to require the Deans to reduce their budgets. On August 10th the Provost announced that a budget cut of 6% would be required and that he did not wish this 6% to be across the board. He stated that it would be a differential cut, however, he did not want the colleges to close faculty vacancies in order to achieve the cut.

In a subsequent meeting the CFO, Vivian Sanchez outlined a plan that would reduce the cuts to the Colleges in the first year of this plan by utilizing central funds, with the anticipation that the second and third year mandatory funding cuts will be adjusted in regard to possible increases in tuition. Subsequently, Tonja Moore forwarded to each of the Colleges a structured differential budget cut expectation. A budget plan for 3 years was required to be submitted within 3 days. All units receiving E&G dollars were tiered (tiers 1-4). Generally speaking some of the student services units in the University, the Health Sciences Colleges, Arts & Sciences and others were ranked in tiers 1 & 2. Units such as our College, Education, Hospitality Management, and others were ranked in tier 3 and centers and institutes were ranked in tier 4. Tier 1 units were subject to the least amount of budget cut and tier 4 the most. Our College was required to cut 3.2% or \$242,900.00. Each College was required to put forward this budget cut and a three year plan by Monday August 20th. In order to accommodate to this very tight time schedule, the Directors were required to submit a proposal to cut their budget at the level of 3.2% with a tentative additional request of 2.8% for a total of 6% cut for the years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. A College budget submission resulted in cuts to Criminal Justice at the level of 3%, Social Work 3.4% and Public Administration 3.6%. Center for the Administration of Justice was subject to a 7.5% cut of its E&G money as mandated by the Provost (a 4th tier unit).

During the current budget year of 2007-2008, we managed through a combination of revising line items and utilizing some projected carried forward dollars, along with IDC (indirects), to project a minimum impact on this year's budget. The University is currently awaiting further decision from the forthcoming legislative meetings as to more definite decisions with regard to further reductions. There is no shortage of speculative commentary that with the current proposals to cut property taxes in the context of declining state revenues, that the budget cuts may be increased to the level of 10%. The Provost, however, has instructed the Deans to begin their recruitment cycle for approved faculty vacancies.

I will elaborate further on this budget scenario and update you at our first faculty meeting of this semester.

Planning

As we begin the academic year, one of the most important tasks ahead is to develop a level of agreement on our College mission, goals, and objectives. Over the summer months, I have had meetings with the Chair of the Faculty Assembly, Dr. Allan Rosenbaum. Primarily these meetings have been in regard to Tenure & Promotion third year review. Most recently, I requested a meeting of the available members of the three person staff faculty assembly, Drs. Rosenbaum, Beaulaurier, and Terry. As Dr. Terry was unavailable, I met with Dr. Rosenbaum and Dr. Beaulaurier outlining my proposal to invite a facilitator to lead the College faculty in a retreat focus on strategic planning for the future of the College. This discussion resulted in what I consider to be a very acceptable prior step. This is to invite a prominent Dean or past Dean that has administered/managed a College comprised of similar units or schools as ours. The suggestion to invite Dr. Thompson from the University of Albany, who for many years was the Dean of the Rockefeller Center College of Urban Affairs, is one suggestion. I am asking that if any of you are aware of a similar configuration of Schools and/or Departments with its CEO as

Dean, please let me know. I am aware of the University of Central Florida's model and other Schools such as FAU, which have either Social Work and Public Administration or some configuration of the two of the three schools, such as Social Work-Public Administration, Social Work-Criminal Justice, or Public Administration-Criminal Justice. Please let me know if you have any additional suggestions.

College Faculty Meetings – Fall 2007

Please reserve the following dates for College Faculty Meeting for this fall semester:

September 11, 2007 1-3:00pm Library 220
October 2, 2007
November 6, 2007
December 4, 2007

Ray