

MINUTES*

Fall 2011 CARTA Faculty Assembly Meeting, December 2, 2011

**Pending Ratification by the CARTA Assembly.*

Respectfully submitted by **E. Ozer**, Secretary of the CARTA Assembly, on December 4, 2011.

Attendance List:

Office of the Dean

PRESENT (3)	ABSENT (1)
B. Schriener (Dean; Non-voting member)	K. Fuller (Associate Dean; Non-voting member)
A. Drisin (Associate Dean; Non-voting member)	
D. Bergwall (Associate Dean, Non-member)	

Architecture Department

PRESENT (6)	ABSENT (10)
C. Busch	A. Andia
J. Canaves	M. Benjamin
J. Chandler (Vice Chair of the Assembly)	E. Goldenberg
E. Newman	N. Nedev
T. Spiegelhalter	M. Nepomechie
J. Stuart (Department Chair; Non-voting member)	E. Peterson
	G. Read
	D. Rifkind
	C. Rosales
	S. Vassigh

Interior Architecture Department

PRESENT (0)	ABSENT (4)
	P. Abbott
	J. King (Department Chair; Non-voting member)
	K. Rothfield
	S. Sherman

Landscape Architecture Department

PRESENT (1)	ABSENT (3)
E. Ozer (Secretary of the Assembly)	J. Bueno
	M. Canaves
	R. Rovira (Department Chair; Non-voting member)

Music Department

PRESENT (7)	ABSENT (16)
J. Augenblick	C. Benedict
G. Campbell	B. Bernhardt
M. Littley	J. Calloway
J. Ousley	R. Davidovici
M. Vitenson	D. Dolata
K. Wilson	J. Galand
R. Dundas (Chair of the Assembly; Non-voting member)	O. Garcia (Department Chair; Non-voting member)
	K. Gekic
	J. Hacker
	D. Hardin
	M. Klotz
	J. Lopez
	G. Nowak
	M. Orta
	C. Rand
	J. Sudol

Theatre Department

PRESENT (2)	ABSENT (8)
P. Church	Dreikosen, Jesse
M. Skow (Department Chair; Non-voting member)	Galaska, Tony
	Mitan, Daniel
	Pareja, Mariana
	Robinson, Wayne
	Smith, Jennifer
	Timlick, Lesley-Ann
	Yawney, Michael

Art & Art History Department

PRESENT (2)	ABSENT (15)
R. Buckley	T. Arpad-Cotta
J. Kolasinski (Department Chair; Non-voting member)	P. Brant
	W. Burke
	K. Dambach
	C. Damian
	E. Del Valle
	M. Gomez
	D. Guernsey
	C. King
	W. Maguire
	J. Martinez
	M. Tommerup
	G. Schnarnagl
	M. Torres
	B. Watts

Communication Arts Department

PRESENT (3)	ABSENT (3)
J. Brown (Department Chair; Non-voting member)	D. Blaeuer
S. Schoen	E. Karsh
K. Watson	M. Marino

Chair's Agenda:

- I. Call to order and Roll call
- II. Introductions of Steering Committee
- III. Report from UFF; Kathleen Wilson, President of FIU UFF
- IV. CARTA Constitution: Introduction of Revisions; Discussion
 - A. Comments by Members of the Steering Committee
 - B. Comments by Dean Schriener
 - C. Other Comments from the Assembly
 - D. Other Items
- V. Vote for Ratification of Revised Constitution
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

MEETING COMMENCED at 1:10 pm

I. Call to order and Roll call

Chair **R. Dundas** called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Secretary **E. Ozer** took the attendance roll; a total of 16 voting members, 7 non-voting members, and 1 non-member were present (see attendance list on the first pages of this document for further details).

II. Introductions of Steering Committee

Chair **R. Dundas** introduced the Steering Committee Members to the CARTA Assembly. One Steering Committee Member, **P. Abbott** (Interior Architecture), was absent. Six Steering Committee Members who were present in the room were:

- J. Chandler**, Architecture
- R. Buckley**, Art & Art History
- P. Church**, Theatre
- E. Ozer**, Landscape Architecture
- M. Vitenson**, Music
- K. Watson**, Communication Arts

III. Report from UFF; Kathleen Wilson, President of FIU UFF

K. Wilson: The UFF successfully bargained for a three-year contract which can be reviewed at the UFF website. This fall there was a 1% merit increase. Next fall there will be a

2% salary retention increase and 1% merit increase, and the following fall there will be a 1% salary retention increase and 1% merit increase. It is important to have departmental criteria in place for merit increases. Many colleges across the University don't have such criteria. Each department should make sure to have approved, clearly stated departmental merit raise criteria in place before the next year. Additionally, this is probably the worst year in the legislature. They are coming after two more percent of our pension. They are also coming after our health benefits. The Governor also wants to implement Rick Perry's Texas Plan, which can be reviewed from the web. They also have plans to decertify unions. In response, the UFF has concentrated its efforts on increasing its membership to 65%. Also the UFF is working very closely with the governors to establish good relationships.

IV. CARTA Constitution: Introduction of Revisions; Discussion

Chair **R. Dundas** reported that on April 21st the CARTA Faculty Assembly ratified a Constitution. Shortly after, he was elected to be the new Chair of the Faculty Assembly. At the beginning of the fall semester, he was presented with comments from the Dean; his response to the ratified Constitution. By working with the Steering Committee, Dean, Provost, President of the Faculty Senate (Tom Breslin) Chairs Advisory Council and UFF the April 21st Constitution is revised. The Revised Constitution has been sent to the CARTA Faculty for feedback.

A. Comments by Members of the Steering Committee

R. Buckley, Art & Art History: Not received any response.

E. Ozer, Landscape Architecture: I forwarded the document to my colleagues in my department, and the only feedback that I received is; we can move forward with the document as is.

P. Church, Theatre: I had much positive feedback. My department was pleased with the changes. We are very much in favor of it.

M. Vitenson, Music: I received very few comments to be frank. Very minor suggestions for some adjustments. Some of which we implemented some of which we did not, but the document stands as is.

J. Chandler, Architecture: I haven't received any comments one way or another.

K. Watson, Communication Arts: I was able to distribute a copy of the Revised Constitution to the members of our department. All of them seem very much in favor of it. We are very appreciative of the work that has been done on this thus far by the Steering Committee and Dean Schrinier.

Chair **R. Dundas** reported that Interior Architecture Department Representative **P. Abbott** in his email expressed that there were no concerns or problems from his department.

B. Comments by Dean Schrinier

Dean **B. Schrinier** reported that the new document is an improvement over the previous draft. Checks and balances were reviewed. Clarification of

rights and responsibilities were added in. He said he was very comfortable with the new document.

C. Other Comments from the Assembly

J. Canaves: Last year we utilized a special Constitutional Committee, which spent a whole year to develop a constitution that was acceptable by everyone. We should follow the same process this time. Additionally, most of the faculty is here tonight for an Assembly Meeting, not to vote on a constitution. Also, we have very few faculty members here to vote. Furthermore, the changes we are voting on are not clear. I would like to see changes to the document highlighted for review so we can understand what is being changed. The Steering Committee members stated that the faculty members in their respective department are supportive. Was there any actual voting within the departments?

P. Church: Faculty members gave verbal opinion after being sent the document with highlighted revisions. This is not suddenly happening. This has been going through the semester. The faculty has been sent updated drafts throughout the revision draft's development. It is difficult to get enough faculty members to a meeting at any time. Some faculty members are teaching right now. They can't cancel their classes.

J. Canaves: There have been several changes. The current changes are unclear. Has there been any departmental vote?

P. Church: We didn't take an official vote. The faculty members in my department have discussed their issues with me. You should have discussed your own concerns with your faculty representative.

R. Dundas: There is no requirement for a constitutional committee. This is the major issue of the Steering Committee and they undertook the responsibility themselves.

J. Canaves: I'm not sure why we did not set up a constitutional committee as we did for previous changes and why we need to vote tonight. The vote should be advertised.

R. Dundas: That is a relevant discussion.

K. Watson: We are talking about the process. The Constitutional Committee finished their work last year in April. The Steering Committee has only refined the document to streamline and solidify it. This is a part of the previous process. If you have read the document and have areas, which you disagree with, you can state your objections.

J. Canaves: I believe we should have a constitutional committee for these kinds of changes. Why can't we reconstitute the Constitutional Committee?

R. Dundas: It has been clear to anyone who reads their emails that revisions to the constitutional document were taking place and that there has been significant outreach to faculty.

J. Canaves: I was aware that the Steering Committee was revising the Constitution. I don't have any problems with that. I was not aware that the Steering Committee was not forming a constitutional committee again.

P. Church: Why didn't you state your issues previously?

- J. Canaves:** This is when I found out about it. I thought we were going to follow the previous procedure.
- R. Dundas:** I am not aware of any document that requires the creation of a constitutional committee. That committee was created spontaneously by the Steering Committee to handle a specific issue.
- J. Canaves:** If I am the only one that feels this way then you can go ahead.
- K. Watson:** We did not revise the document. We edited the document for clarity.
- R. Dundas:** We removed redundancies and clarified the document. The Steering Committee is duly appointed to represent the faculty.
- K. Wilson:** Let's call a vote on the development of a constitutional committee.
- R. Dundas:** Call the question.

Motion:

- K. Wilson:** I move we create a constitutional committee to look at this document. However, I don't believe it is necessary.

Second: **J. Canaves**

Discussion:

- K. Wilson:** I don't believe this is necessary but it is important. Everybody should feel that the process was honored.

Vote:

- Favor [14]
 Opposed [1]
 Abstain [1]

Resolution: Motion Fails.

D. Other Items

Chair **R. Dundas** reported about last minute edits from the faculty, and the Chairs Advisory Council on the most recent revision (November 22) that was emailed to the CARTA Faculty:

Article I. → F.

Before changes:

Artistic freedom of expression is a basic right and extends to aesthetic vision, forms of expression, modes of delivery, and content. It endows artists and designers with the freedom to pursue a creative or research agenda.

After changes:

Artistic freedom of expression, **as a form of academic freedom**, is a basic right and extends to aesthetic vision, forms of expression, modes of delivery, and content. It endows artists, designers, **and educators** with the freedom to pursue a creative or research agenda.

Article V. → D. → 2. → c.

Before changes:

The Dean **should** afford great deference to the democratic processes and decisions of the unit on all matters regarding the selection of chairpersons.

After changes:

The Dean **shall** afford great deference to the democratic processes and decisions of the unit on all matters regarding the selection of chairpersons.

Article V. → D. → 2. → e.

Before changes:

When necessary, the Dean may appoint an Acting Chairperson to serve no more than one calendar year or until an election can be held to **select** a chairperson under the provisions of this Constitution.

After changes:

When necessary, the Dean may appoint an Acting Chairperson to serve no more than one calendar year or until an election can be held to **nominate** a chairperson under the provisions of this Constitution.

Article V. → D. → 5.

Before changes:

In the interests of administrative effectiveness, transparency, shared governance, and departmental collegiality, the Office of the Dean **should** afford chairpersons the latitude to make decisions on the unit faculty's behalf.

After changes:

In the interests of administrative effectiveness, transparency, shared governance, and departmental collegiality, the Office of the Dean **shall** afford chairpersons the latitude to make decisions on the unit faculty's behalf.

V. Vote for Ratification of Revised Constitution

Motion:

M. Vitenson: I move to submit a vote for the Constitution.

Second: **R. Buckley.**

Discussion:

M. Skow: There is a question of whether there is a quorum, and what is going on in terms of proxy voting. My faculty cannot attend, they are teaching right now.

R. Dundas: Currently we are functioning under the document that was ratified on April 21st. The April 21st document states very clearly that the document can be revised by 2/3^{rds} majority of people present at the meeting.

Secretary **E. Ozer** distributed the Ballots.

Vote:

Favor [15]

Opposed [0]

Abstain [0]

Resolution: Motion Passes. The Revised Constitution is ratified.

VI. Other Business

This agenda item was not considered.

VII. Adjournment

Motion:

P. Church: I move we adjourn the meeting.

Second: **M. Vitenson.**

Vote:

All in favor.

Resolution: Motion Passes.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 2:03pm