




April 11, 2017

TO: A&S Faculty  
FROM: Leonidas Bachas, Dean   
SUBJECT: **AGENDA for a Special College Faculty meeting**  
**Monday, April 24, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.**  
**Wesley Gallery at the Wesley Foundation (Across from the Lowe Art Museum)**

1. Approval of the Minutes of the April 3, 2017 College Faculty Meeting
2. Proposal for an Independent Minor in the College
3. Proposal for the Merger of the Geological Sciences Programs to Marine Geosciences at RSMAS – (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)
4. College Curriculum Committee Report
5. Faculty Senate Report
6. Other Business and Announcements
  - a. May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Faculty Scholarly and Creative Activities Recognition Awards Reception at the Wesley Gallery
  - b. May 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. Graduate Ceremony
  - c. May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Ceremony



DATE: April 10, 2017

TO: A&S Faculty

FROM: Leonidas G. Bachas  
Dean

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Bachas'.

SUBJECT: **MINUTES** of the College Faculty Meeting of Monday, April 3, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in the Miller Center Auditorium

**1. Approval of the Minutes of the February 22, 2017 Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 7, 2017 College Faculty meeting was offered, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**2. MOTION:** Authorization of the College Council to act on behalf of the College Faculty during the summer months and until the first meeting of the Faculty.

The motion to give the College Council authorization to act on behalf of the College Faculty during the summer months until the first meeting of the faculty in the fall was offered, seconded, and unanimously approved.

*Before the President and Provost arrived, Dean Bachas asked to reverse the order of some of the meeting agenda items, and called Professors Orlando Acevedo to present the proposal for a Five-year Bachelor of Sciences/ Master of Science Degree in Chemistry (#5 on the agenda) and, Professor Adina Sanchez-Garcia (#7 on the meeting agenda) to announce the summer writing institute for 2017.*

**3. Proposal for a Five-year Bachelor of Sciences/ Master of Science Degree in Chemistry**

Professor Orlando Acevedo presented the rationale for the proposal for a Five-Year Bachelor of Science/Master of Science Degree in Chemistry. He explained that the five-year bachelor/master's degree will allow students to reduce the timeframe to receive their degrees and receive professional training necessary for advancement in their careers. This will allow students to engage earlier in research and strengthen their credentials. Professor Acevedo indicated that the program will be advertised to students from their beginning year; but they would apply to the program in their junior year. He anticipates this program to be a success as many top universities are currently offering this current track. He noted that students will need recommendation letters from their faculty advisor as well as another faculty member in the

department. GPA will be taken into consideration. A graduate committee will also review and approve applications. The faculty suggested that the GRE score be listed as a requirement as well. Professor Orlando Acevedo stated the program is not designed to accept outside students; only UM students will be able to apply to this program. A motion to send the proposal forward to the next step was offered, voted and approved.

#### **4. Announcement of Summer Writing Institute for 2017 – by Professor Adina Sanchez-Garcia**

Professor Adina Sanchez-Garcia announced the 2017 Summer Writing Institute, which will begin on May 16-19, 2017. She noted this program provides a unique way of learning and understanding discipline-specific information. The Summer Writing Institute is designed to provide tools and strategies for faculty to create meaningful writing tasks in their courses. Professor Sanchez- Garcia and Professor April Mann handed out applications to the faculty, for this upcoming session from 10am-4pm, lunch and snack will be included. Tenured and non-tenure-track faculty are welcome to participate. She explained that participants will be selected from an applicant pool of full-time A&S faculty members. For more questions or need more information, please visit the website: <http://www.as.miami.edu/summerwritinginstitute/> or contact Professor Sanchez- Garcia via email.

#### **5. President Frenk and Provost LeBlanc**

Dean Bachas thanked President Julio Frenk and Provost Thomas LeBlanc for accepting the invitation to attend the College Faculty meeting. President Frenk welcomed questions from the faculty. To answer about the position of the University in regards to AAU ranking, both President Frenk and Provost LeBlanc explained that the University is in good standing to be among AAU universities. However, while it would be an honor to be on the AAU list, UM's top priority is to concentrate on the Roadmap initiatives, which is a re-conceptualized aspiration that will elevate the University. Provost LeBlanc noted that the University learned a lot from the AAU exercise, and that we are practically very competitive with other universities. He also mentioned that for one institution to get into AAU another one has to be out.

A question was raised about the purchase of the Pine Rocklands by RAM Developer and the role the University plays in wildlife preservation. President Frenk explained that Pine Rocklands was originally planned as a site to build a University Village/Community until the 2008 recession. Provost LeBlanc mentioned that UM still occupies some of the land, in particular the C-Star facility and whatever else the University has in that location will be kept green.

President Frenk said that he foresees the continued growth of Arts and Humanities, which, among other things, can benefit through the One Hundred Talents Initiative. He spoke of integrating disciplines to include interdisciplinary, social sciences, the arts, and the humanities. He referred to arts and humanities playing an important role, for example, in providing historical and cultural perspectives to rising sea level, urban studies, migration, and health science. Under the 100 Talents initiative, the first named chair is the Appignani Chair on Atheism, Humanism, and Secular Ethics in the College. With the campaign, the President hopes to strengthen the humanities.

The President also talked about strengthening STEM with the Frost Institutes Initiative, which will make serious impact on the sciences, and will also serve as a blueprint for other projects. He also explained how the Frosts' gift came about, how the name of the first institute was chosen -- the wish of the donors, Dr. Philip Frost and Mrs. Patricia Frost. Under the Frost Institutes, the individual who will serve as Director of the Chemistry and Molecular Science Institute will also be the Director of the umbrella structure, called the Frost Institutes for Science and Engineering. The President indicated that in 2018, the University will be going into a public phase of the next fundraising campaign. This campaign will go from 2018 to 2025, the centennial anniversary of the University.

The President entertained another question about the University as a global or hemispheric university. He stated that we are a Global University with a Hemispheric advantage.

Concerning a question regarding the role of faculty in dissolution of departments and/or programs, President Frenk said that he believes in shared governance. He indicated that the Faculty Manual specifies the role of the faculty in all intellectual aspect of the University. Because of fiduciary responsibilities, decisions have to be fiscally sound as well. The academic administration has to always try to balance issues, and sometimes make difficult choices.

*The President had to leave to attend another event. Provost LeBlanc stayed.*

## **6. The Future of Programs in Geological Sciences**

Dean Bachas made a presentation regarding the future of the programs in Geological Sciences, and proposed the merger of the program with Marine Geosciences (MGS) at RSMAS. The Dean noted that the merger to MGS will afford the undergraduate students the advantages of working alongside of researchers in the Marine Geosciences graduate program. He also explained that the Geology Department has only one tenured faculty member, who could soon request a sabbatical, which will handicap the program. Currently, most of the courses are being taught by lecturers. The merger will create synergies that will benefit the students. The Marine Geosciences at RSMAS has 10 faculty members and the financial resources to help the program grow. Dean Bachas indicated that the undergraduate teaching will not be impacted as the degree and the undergraduate majors in Geological Sciences will not change. Classes will still be offered in the Gables. It is understood that the department budget will move with it.

Several faculty members raised their concern on the reasoning behind the merger and transfer of the Geological Sciences to Marine Geosciences. Professor Ardren expressed her disappointment of the decision. She spoke of intrinsic value of faculty participation. She also questioned the advantage of merger on an intellectual basis, and the failure to consult with the College faculty prior to making such decision. Dean Bachas indicated that the decision was discussed with faculty in the Geology Department, as well as taking into consideration the recommendation of the external reviewers of the Marine Geosciences program. Provost LeBlanc added that this discussion was ongoing with the department for years. He also talked about duplication of departments at the University. The purpose is to find the best way to present Geology at the U. The Provost mentioned

that there are no resources to revive the department unless other departments in the College will want to give up some of their resources, including faculty lines to Geology. Discussion ensued with several other faculty voicing their disapproval of the merger, and requesting some correspondence from RSMAS about their willingness to accept the program. Professor James Klaus indicated that the Marine Geosciences faculty have voted to accept the program, and they have four faculty members teaching in the undergraduate program. Dr. Klaus was a tenured faculty member in Geology who transferred to RSMAS.

Professor Wanless, current Chair of the Geological Sciences department, also voiced his discontent. He recounted the experience with upper administration who did not support the program for years. This led to reduction in personnel as well as capital resources that could have helped the program to flourish and remain on the Gables campus under the College of Arts and Sciences. For Dr. Wanless, removing Geology from the core of the University will be a mistake. He and several faculty members asked that the merger decision be put on hold until the new Provost gets appointed. After a lengthy discussion, it was recommended to hold this topic for a second reading at a next College Faculty meeting. The faculty also requested that RSMAS provides information on how they will support the program, if and when a merger will occur.

#### **7. Faculty Senate Report**

Due to time constraint, the Faculty Senate Report was not delivered. However, Dr. Stephen Cantrell reminded the faculty that Professor June Dreyer of the Political Science Department will be receiving the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award later this day.

#### **8. Dean's Presentation – AAU & UM:**

Due to time constraint, the Dean's Presentation was not delivered.

#### **9. Other Business and Announcements:**

- i. May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Faculty Scholarly and Creative Activities Recognition Awards Reception at the Wesley Gallery
- ii. May 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. Graduate Ceremony
- iii. May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Ceremony

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.