FGCU’s President Wilson Bradshaw was invited by Governor Crist to join the Team Florida Mission to the United Kingdom and participate as an official delegate of the Florida-U.K. Climate Change Program from July 12, 2008 to July 17, 2008. Dr. Donna Price Henry, Dean of the FGCU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and Dr. Aswani Volety, Chairperson and Professor, (CAS), also attended.

Florida Gulf Coast University and the College of Natural Sciences, Bangor University, Wales, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Scientific and Educational Cooperation for the purpose of cooperative research activities involving marine research and development.

The search for FGCU’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs resulted in the successful hiring of Dr. Ronald Toll. Dr. Toll started at FGCU on June 30, 2008 and attended his first Senate meeting on 9/5/08 (the first senate meeting since he was hired). There was ample representation of faculty on the search advisory hiring committee which included the Faculty Senate President.

New Faculty Orientation was held on August 19, 2008 – the Faculty Senate President participated as a presenter on “How Things Work” - an introduction to shared governance at FGCU. In addition, the FGCU welcome back celebration also occurred on August 19, 2008; it was well attended by faculty and staff. President Bradshaw’s address was the major highlight.

The Lutgert School of Business building was completed and occupied in August 2008. The availability of space continues to be a significant issue on campus due to the continued increase in enrollment and the resultant hiring of personnel. The new Whittaker School of Engineering building (Holmes Hall) is nearing completion and is expected to be operational for Spring 2008 semester. Faculty and staff are expected to begin occupying the building by December 2008. Similarly, the Hotel Management Building (Sudgen Hall) has been occupied in late fall 2008. Plans are on the way for Academic Building 7 and Building 8 - the Health Science Building.

Student enrollments continue to increase, as of Fall 2008 there is a 10,212 headcount (unduplicated students enrolled - 8,675 undergraduates and 986 graduates). This is an increase over the 9,404 Fall 2007 non duplicated headcount that comprised of 7,982 undergraduates and 821 graduates.

FGCU has approximately 300 student athletes. The average GPA of these athletes is 3.2. Seventy percent of them made the all academic conference team in 2007. Last year (2007), was FGCU’s first year in Division 1, we won 3 championships and had 3 runner up finishes. In October 2008, there will be a compliance visit from NCAA. The men’s basketball team is tentatively scheduled to play against the University of Kansas. The FGCU women’s basketball team is scheduled to play at home against the University of Florida. GO EAGLES! GATORS, WACTH OUT!

Approximately 34 new faculty hires started at FGCU in Fall 2008, 17 represent refilling of vacant lines and 17 were faculty lines added in response to enrollment growth. One new engineering faculty search is pending. These positions were garnered prior to the time budget issues and decrease in state funding occurred.

Senate Items:
- Changes were made to the Senate Bylaws in Spring 2008. Changes included moving from a 20% representation from each unit on the Senate to the use of a formula that resulted in the desired decrease in number of senators to 35 this 2009-2009 academic year. The Bylaws will be reviewed again this year, as there are some items that still need to be updated to reflect current practices.
- Academic Programs and Curriculum: Review of curriculum and programs occur in the fall and will therefore be in progress during Fall 2008.
General graduate academic policies and revisions to the graduate faculty appointment document were approved by the Senate on 9/5/08. These will be forwarded to Academic Affairs for approval, adoption and implementation.

The Senate Website is being updated to reflect new Senators, Teams, Committees and Council memberships.

The Faculty Affairs Team will be working on several items including the review and revisions of the Emeritus Faculty Criteria document.

The General Education Council will continue its work on general education policies.

The Professional Development Fund Guidelines (PDFG) is being updated by the Faculty Senate PDFG Committee. These guidelines allow for the dissemination of professional development funds dedicated by Academic Affairs through the Senate consistent with the CBA Article 21.2. The revised PDFG will be presented for a vote at the September 19th 2008 meeting.

Several other key items will be addressed by Senate leadership, teams, committees, council and the Senate. The Faculty handbook will be reviewed and a faculty code of conduct is one of the items on the list.

- Textbook Affordability Bill HB 603 information was shared (by Faculty Senate President) with faculty, student leaders, and staff whose work may be impacted by this bill (e.g. bookstore and auxiliary). Feedback about the bill was solicited and shared with the Textbook Affordability Workgroup in July 2008.

- Bargaining of the 2008 - 2009 Supplement for the 2007-2010 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) focused on salaries and benefits, and was concluded during Summer 2008. The tentative agreement has been submitted by UFF to the faculty for ratification. Faculty will receive a one percent across the board increase as of January 2009, and a $1,000 bonus from the University in November 2008. UFF continues to keep the Faculty Senate updated at each Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Leadership meeting. Increase in UFF membership across campus has been realized.

- The next University Board of Trustees (UBOT) meeting will be held in October 2008; the agenda will be available on the university’s website.

Please add Chuck Lindsey, Vice President of the FGCU Faculty Senate to the ACFS roster. His information was submitted at our last meeting. For convenience here is Dr. Lindsey’s e-mail address: clindsey@fgcu.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Halcyon St. Hill, Ed.D, FGCU Faculty Senate President