



## **CAH, The College of Arts and Humanities Fall 2023 Dean Meeting**

### *Reintroduction*

- Laurel Richmond | External Legislative Assistant | [sgaela@ucf.edu](mailto:sgaela@ucf.edu)
- Amanda Lazo
- Mateo Herrera
- Ayden Traynor

### *Open Floor for the Dean*

- SG term - people are here for short window, and every group has a different proposal
  - What can we actually do in the time frame
- Phase 2 is the most innovative because of its multipurpose use and performing hall
  - Does the one thing and more very well
  - Traynor: Has anyone in admin said anything about the space since Senate passed the Resolution?
  - Dean Response: Yes, the president is supportive. The real key is fundraising - \$20million. Talked about scholarships, and basically all humans die twice. Once when you exit and when the last person mentions your name. When your name is on a building or a scholarship, you never die, your name is always mentioned.
  - Traynor: Has there been any talks about collaborating with SG to help with fundraising?
  - Dean Response: No, but I know SG has been very supportive the entire time. Are there any dollars from the advertisement? 1975 was the first time a new building was discussed.
- Mentorship of young women

### *Initiatives*

- Expanding the Degrees Offered
  - Multi-cultural curriculum are minors, expand to majors:
    - Establish a Women and Gender Studies major
      - UF offers a BA in Women Studies
      - FAU offers a BA in Women and Gender Studies
      - FSU offers a BA in Women Studies
    - Establish a Queer Studies Major
    - Establish an African-American Studies Major
      - UF offers a African-American Studies Major
      - FAU offers a Masters in African Diaspora Studies
  - Establish a Multi-Cultural Literature Studies Minor or Certificate
    - Offer English-literature from the lens of different cultural groups



- Deans Response: A new major being created is a long process. When majors are created they go through presentations and papers, the real driver is the demand that comes forward, and all the area listed has minimal demand. The state also comes up with approving and denying the majors. A big piece is demand. For African Studies Major, during 2020 many wanted a Black Studies Major but the reality is that the ones proposing the idea had never taken a course the CAH offered, it was a lot of rhetoric not a lot of action. A lot of availability for courses regarding Black Studies, but less activity. Women and Gender Studies major came up, but the State came up, but there is a robust minor in the area. Whenever a new study is introduced, there is never the amount of demand needed. The demand must enroll and participate.
- Herrera: Could we make it more exclusive?
- Dean Response: Some majors are limited access and have a process. Anytime we have limited access, it creates a barrier and mitigates equipment use. But the biggest part is the climate at the time so there is little we can do right now. But there are certain "restrictions" we have to deal with. Teachers in history and literature discussing DEI are still being taught. American history is American history, many parts, not 1-D.
- Herrera: How do you know demand is met?
- Deans Response: Look at minor enrollment. We know the graduate population is lower, and many factors are playing into this like the economy. Graduate population is having to work due to the economy. Even undergrads are working. Some with scholarships may not be working, but that is not the norm, that seems to be the exception. The bottom line is a good education leads to a good life. We're always envisioning what the CAH could be. "You define things as they are, but you don't also at the same time think about how things could be" always looking forward of what CAH could be. Had a conversation with Dr. Garcia about expanding curriculum. New Strategic Plan that's good to look at so we can see where we're going - pre-Lake Nona, pre-stadium.
- Herrera: Can we see enrollment to different majors and minors?
- Deans Response: Will talk to Dr. Garcia to get the data. Gender Studies is most robust because there is little faculty. Been working on establishing a Gender Studies Major, and can't remember what happened then.
- Protecting Majors/Minors from Various New Pieces of Legislation
  - Various bills like HB 1557, HB 7, HB 999, HB 931, etc., threaten much of the College of Arts and Humanities curriculum
    - How will the legislation impact programs within UCF?
  - Majors within CAH are being targeted by the Florida legislature
    - Cannot talk about history without race, gender, class, etc.
  - Classes are changing to adapt to new legislation (class names, offering, modality, and curriculum)
  - Deans Response: Legislation has been handed to Board of Governors (BOG). Waiting for direction from BOG. Until that happens, we are continuing to do what we do. Nothing has been changed regarding courses and curriculum. No one is trying to persuade thought



or an agenda through curriculum, and that is the essence of the educational process. American's history is not 1-D its long and complex. Information is only as relevant as it is relevant.

- Herrera: Is there a way to increase awareness to the BOG because the CAH are using data?
- Dean Response: That remains to be seen. CAH is spending time doing the research and investigating references and sources. Everyone is seeking the same result - a high quality education - and some will say there's only one way to generate that result, but that is not true. As long as people are presenting the topics as this is what is known at this point (certain things did happen), people can form their own opinions from what is known and what happened.
- Herrera: This doesn't only affect students, also affects faculty. Will faculty lose their jobs?
- Dean Response: They can always affect people. Depends on circumstance of the individual. Difficult to speak to every situation of why one would leave or stay. The demographic info we get is that many are moving here (1500 a week) that will eventually have input into a lot of things and the prediction is that by 2030, Orlando will be the size of Atlanta. So, we must acknowledge that that will have some impact. Diversity of this community is broad. That is a reality, people have to decide whether they'll stay or leave. The other thing is, if something is not to your liking where you are, the grass is not always greener elsewhere, because some other institutions are abolishing programs.
- Deans Speak at Open Forum Once a Semester
  - To provide an update to Senate on the initiatives
  - Dean Response: I'm happy to do so. Talked about being present at other events like open house so Dean can be seen. Jeff Moore is very smart and actually likes people, creating success for faculty and students. Dr. Garcia had ideas about this. YES!! Senate is very important, all though it may not seem like it - important to overall health of university. Conveys importance of Senate to faculty all the time. You're not just supporting clubs, but your supporting students and their goals, changing their life.