



## **CREOL, The College of Optics and Photonics Fall 2023 Dean Meeting**

### *Reintroduction*

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- Carlos Acosta

### *Dean's Initiatives*

- Huge expansion mode
  - Faculty changes
    - Faculty search is ongoing
  - Growth mode in terms of research
  - Growth in academics - undergraduate and graduate program
    - Grow stand-alone Master's program (not Master's to PhD)
    - Grow online Master's program
    - Focus on the teaching
- Increasing visibility on campus
  - 35 graduate students - similar to that of 2 years ago
    - hopes for double of that
    - needs more support and space from the university
      - Space for teaching labs - needs 3 sections
      - if enrollment doubled, need 5 to 6 sections of each lab
      - Need more instructors
        - Converting unfinished optics lecture to lab to make space
- Establishing a technology program within CREOL
  - Broader engineering teaching
  - Allows for students to do engineering without the math intensity required for other engineering projects
    - Good opportunity for students who still want to do engineering, but can't pass math courses
- Increasing amount of elective courses
  - Need more faculty
    - Most faculty teach one course, some two, because of faculty's focus on research

### *Initiatives*

- Strengthen communications between undergraduate and graduate students, RSOs, advisors, faculty, and staff
  - Hard to plan events because it is hard-to-reach faculty and staff



- Lack of updates, causing lower attendance at events
  - Graduate research projects are delayed due to lack of communication
  - **Deans Response: Hard to find the sweet spot of lack of communication and over communicating, because emails will be ignored if there is too much communication. Will look into the email migration to see if it messed with communications. Aware of student's use of Discord but unaware of who's on it and reads it.**
- Increase advertisement of CREOL
  - Increase recognition of CREOL on campus
  - Decrease in students choosing CREOL majors, because they are unaware of what CREOL offers
    - Most are unaware of CREOL until taking intro to engineering
  - Update website
  - New system for graphics
    - Reach out to Director of Communications, Moira Martinous ([sga\\_comm@ucf.edu](mailto:sga_comm@ucf.edu))
  - **Deans Response: Hiring a full-time Communications and Marketing position, in hopes that it will lead to better results in communication. Needs to increase marketing for the Undergraduate program. Established a Optics Summer Camp and plans to expand it this year, but is expensive. Industries are interested in offering scholarships for the Camps. Plans to establish a professional development program for teachers. Have thought about establishing a CREOL Ambassador program to market CREOL.**
- Welcome package for CREOL acceptance
  - Students receive an email when they join CREOL
    - The email includes various helpful links to ensure success in CREOL:
      - Discord link where students can learn more about classes and hear from alumnus and other students
      - Social media
      - RSOs associated with CREOL
  - **Deans Response: Issue with these resources are that some groups are aware and some are not, but the welcome package will decrease this disparity. Acknowledge those who are CREOL Pending if it is financially feasible. Will talk more about it because it would be valuable in helping increase enrollment and making the CREOL experience enjoyment.**
- STEM waiver
  - Physics and electrical engineering both qualify for the STEM waiver, both required for CREOL
  - STEM waiver would increase awareness among CREOL majors



- Wanted to follow up on what your Legislative External Relations contact thought
- **Deans Response: Came up last year and is very unfortunate for CREOL's program. State government subsidizes a list of STEM courses, but for the course to be included in the list it must be taught at 50% of universities. Been in communications with the State, but nothing has changed. Working with industry to try and get CREOL majors included.**
- Deans attend Senate Forum Semesterly
  - Allows for Deans to update the Senate on the initiatives
  - Increases communication and collaboration throughout the semester
  - **Deans Response: Open to this idea, will follow up with ELA Richmond.**