



Faculty Senate Office
Ashe Administration Building, #325
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

facsen@miami.edu
web site: www.miami.edu/fs
P: 305-284-3721
F: 305-284-5515

MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Richard L. Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Williamson', is written over the 'From:' field.

Date: November 30, 2012

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2012-20(B) – Departmentalization Planning for the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

At its November 28, 2012 meeting, the Faculty Senate approved with one negative vote, the following statement:

The Senate has no objection to departmentalization of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. This is without prejudice to whatever plan of departmentalization the faculty of the School wishes to put forward to the Senate at a future date.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.


RW/rh

Enclosure (proposal)

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Roni Avissar, Dean, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

CAPSULE: #2012-20(B) – Departmentalization Planning for the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 12/20/12
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: DEAN AVISSAR

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Departmentalization

The current organization of RSMAS in six divisions was established a few decades ago to foster research activities in six sub-disciplines. There are 80 tenured and tenure-track faculty members and 11 non-tenure-track faculty members. The discussion to re-organize and shift to departments has been on-going for many years.

In fall 2011, the departmentalization of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science was approved through a vote of authorized faculty members conducted by the Faculty Senate. 89% of eligible faculty voted; the vote was 43 in favor and 42 opposed.

The objectives of the departmentalization proposed by the School leadership are threefold: (1) Transition from a divisional organization into a departmental organization; (2) Enhance the capability of individual faculty members in disciplines that do not have a vibrant graduate program to be part of attractive programs so that they can better recruit top graduate students (and enhance the programs they will join); (3) Encourage faculty members to contribute to the enhancement of existing undergraduate programs and help develop new undergraduate programs. The ultimate goal of the reorganization is to increase the total number of undergraduate and graduate students by about 20%. The revenue generated by student tuition should sustain a faculty of about 75 members, which is the appropriate size to continue our status as one of the world's premiere marine and atmospheric science schools. However, the major implication of departmentalizing is promotion and tenure (P&T). Rather than a school-wide vote on each P&T case, decisions first will be made at the department level and a school-wide committee will advise the Dean on P&T matters.

Except for the anticipated positive impact that a larger student population would have on the school finances, departmentalization would have minimal impact on the budget and no change in library needs.

Given the requirements of the *Faculty Manual*, for departmentalization to precede, a plan for the formation of the departments would need to be developed and submitted to the Senate for approval after consultation with faculty, the School's leadership and the School Council. The proposal would need to include the exact names of the departments, the faculty members in each, the degrees, programs, majors and minors offered by each, and the departments' research areas (in broad outline only). There would also need to be an explanation of the process used for consultation and approval of the plan.

There was consensus of the General Welfare Committee to propose to the Senate the following statement regarding this proposal:

The Senate has no objection to departmentalization of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. This is without prejudice to whatever plan of departmentalization the faculty of the School wishes to put forward to the Senate at a future date.