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MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Tomás A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: March 31, 2016

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2015-21(B) – Abess Center Charter Revisions

The Faculty Senate, at its March 30, 2016 meeting, had no objections to the proposal to revise the Abess Center's Charter. The revisions include the addition of a "Status" section to the Charter, which explains that the Abess Center is a UNIVERSITY CENTER within the meaning of *Faculty Manual* sections B6.5 and C18. The revisions also include the addition of a "Governance" section to the Charter as well as the name change of the "Staffing and Governance" section of the Charter, which would now be referred to as the "Participation and Staffing" section.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.


TAS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Kenny Broad, Director, Abess Center
Gina Maranto, Ecosystem Science and Policy Program Director, Abess Center
Richard Williamson, Presenter, Abess Center

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2015-21(B) – Abess Center Charter Revisions

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 4/4/16
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Dr. Kenneth Broad, Director, Abess Center

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


NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____



MEMORANDUM

To: Robyn Hardeman
Faculty Senate Office

From: Kenny Broad 
Director, Abess Center

Date: February 29, 2016

Re: Abess Center Charter Revisions

For the Faculty Senate's review, please find enclosed the revised Abess Center Charter. Changes were needed to the old charter, also enclosed, as various matters were expanded or clarified. Please also note that the proposed revised charter was approved unanimously by the Abess Center Faculty Advisory Committee at its meeting on February 22, 2016.

Should you need further information, please feel free to contact me at kbroad@rsmas.miami.edu or 305-528-6319.

Revisions to Abess Center Charter

February 29, 2016

- 1) **Status** section added
- 2) In **Mission** section, changed "in the environment" to "concerning the environment"
- 3) In **Center Objectives**, lines 2 and 3 removed; added "...; and offering undergraduate and graduate coursework, certificates, majors, and degrees."
- 4) In **Background**, sentence 3, added "...and non-environmental interests often need to be considered."
- 5) In **Background**, sentence 4, changed to "...must work in close collaboration to address environmental challenges."
- 6) In **Background**, sentence 5, changed to "...and inform scientific and related political disputes."
- 7) In **Background**, last sentence, added "academic" in reference to the "unique contribution" and added "...and serve the interests of our local, regional, and global communities."
- 8) **Staffing and Governance** section changed to **Participation and Staffing**
- 9) **Participation and Staffing** section bulleted
- 10) In same section, line added to introduce bulleted points: "To the extent that funds permit, Faculty will be invited to participate in the Abess Center as follows:"
- 11) In same section, first 3 sentences from old version moved to bullets 2 and 3 in new version.
- 12) Second paragraph of **Staffing and Governance** in old version moved to new **Governance** section
- 13) From old version "15-member Faculty Advisory Committee" revised to "12 to 18 members" and same line added "...which can be renewed"
- 14) **Governance** section, last sentence added: "Upon request, or as required by the Faculty Manual, the Committee, the Director, or both shall make such other reports as are requested by the Provost, the Faculty Senate, the Graduate School, or the College of Arts and Sciences"

Existing Charter

CHARTER

MISSION

The principle mission of the Leonard and Jayne Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy ("Abess Center") is to create innovative, interdisciplinary initiatives designed to bridge the gap between science and policy in the environment.

CENTER OBJECTIVES

The Abess Center will fulfill its mission through encouraging interdisciplinary faculty research and hosting seminars, colloquia and outreach projects on a regular basis. The Abess Center will also carry out undergraduate and graduate programs. New degree programs and major changes in existing programs will be submitted to the Senate for approval.

BACKGROUND

Environmental policy and management cannot successfully be advanced or sustained unless demonstrably based upon the best available science. Science has shown us that the complex connections within and among earth's components must be considered in environmental policy-making. Frequently it is necessary to act in the face of scientific uncertainty. This means that scientists and decision-makers have to work in close collaboration to solve environmental problems. They need to communicate effectively, to ask for and receive salient advice, and to resolve scientific and related political disputes. The interaction of science and policy provides an effective focus for an inter-disciplinary center for environmental studies at the University of Miami that can make a unique contribution to the field.

STAFFING & GOVERNANCE

Faculty will be invited to participate as fellows of the Center for a semester. Those selected will be provided released time from teaching, research assistance and travel support to work on interdisciplinary projects in the Abess Center. The Abess Center will also provide seed money to interdisciplinary teams of faculty to support development of projects and securing extra-mural funding for them. Nine new faculty members will be hired to serve as permanent fellows of the Center in various science and policy fields that complement our current strengths. The new faculty will be hired into existing schools and departments of the University, following their established criteria and processes, and promotion and tenure decisions will be made through the home school or department in collaboration with the Abess Center. The Abess Center will pay up to 60 percent of the salary and, where appropriate, start-up expenses for each new faculty member. The Provost will select a tenured member of the Regular Faculty to be Director, who shall administer the Abess Center. Staff may include a secretary, a meeting planner/outreach person and a webmaster retained on a contract basis, as well as members of the University Faculty who will serve as part time Directors of Undergraduate and Graduate programs respectively.

The Provost, after consultation with the appropriate deans and the Center leadership, will appoint a 15-member Faculty Advisory Committee of representatives of participating schools and departments. Faculty Advisory Committee members will serve staggered three-year terms. The Faculty Advisory Committee will meet regularly to consider faculty hiring, curriculum, program development and other issues. At 24-month intervals, the Faculty Advisory Committee will submit a written report to the Provost evaluating the initiatives and accomplishments of the Center and evaluating the performance of the Center's Director.

FUNDING

The Abess Center will be financed through a combination of University operating funds, and gifts and grants from outside sources.

Revised Charter

CHARTER

MISSION

The principle mission of the Leonard and Jayne Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy ("Abess Center") is to create innovative, interdisciplinary initiatives designed to bridge the gap between science and policy concerning the environment.

STATUS

The Abess Center is a University Center within the meaning of B6.5 and C18 of the Faculty Manual. With the consent of the Faculty Senate, it may offer undergraduate degrees through the College of Arts and Sciences and graduate degrees through the Graduate School.

CENTER OBJECTIVES

The Abess Center will fulfill its mission by encouraging interdisciplinary faculty research; hosting seminars, colloquia, and outreach projects; and offering undergraduate and graduate coursework, certificates, majors, and degrees.

BACKGROUND

Environmental policy and management cannot successfully be advanced or sustained unless demonstrably based upon the best available science. Science has shown us that the complex connections within and among earth's components must be considered in environmental policy making. Frequently it is necessary to act in the face of scientific uncertainty, and non-environmental interests often need to be considered. This means that scientists and decision makers must work in close collaboration to address environmental challenges. They need to communicate effectively, to ask for and receive salient advice, and inform scientific and related political disputes. The interaction of science and policy provides an effective focus for an inter-disciplinary center for environmental studies at the University of Miami that can make a unique academic contribution to the field, and serve the interests of our local, regional, and global communities.

PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

To the extent that funds permit, Faculty will be invited to participate in the Abess Center as follows:

- Nine new faculty members will be hired to serve as permanent fellows of the Abess Center in various science and technical fields and law and policy disciplines who will complement our current strengths. The new faculty will be hired into existing schools and departments of the University, following their established criteria and processes, and promotion and tenure decisions will be made through the home school or department in collaboration with the Abess Center. The Abess Center will pay up to 60 percent of the salary and, where appropriate, start-up expenses for each new faculty member.
- Existing University Faculty may be invited to serve as fellows of the Center for a semester. Those selected will be provided released time from teaching, research assistance, and travel support to work on interdisciplinary projects in the Abess Center.
- The Abess Center may also provide seed money to interdisciplinary teams of faculty to support development of projects and securing extra-mural funding for them.

GOVERNANCE

The Provost will select a tenured member of the Regular Faculty to be Director, who shall administer the Abess Center. Staff may include a secretary, a meeting planner/outreach person, and a webmaster retained on a contract basis, as well as members of the University Faculty who will serve as part time Directors of undergraduate and graduate programs respectively.

The Provost, after consultation with the appropriate deans and the Center leadership, will appoint a Faculty Advisory Committee of representatives of participating schools and departments. Faculty Advisory Committee will have 12 to 18 members, each of whom will serve staggered three-year terms, which can be renewed. The Faculty Advisory Committee will meet regularly to consider faculty hiring, curriculum, program development and other issues. At 24-month intervals, the Faculty Advisory Committee will submit a written report to the Provost evaluating the initiatives and accomplishments of the Center and evaluating the performance of the Center's Director. Upon request, or as required by the Faculty Manual, the Committee, the Director, or both shall make such other reports as are requested by the Provost, the Faculty Senate, the Graduate School, or the College of Arts and Sciences.

FUNDING

The Abess Center will be financed through a combination of University operating funds, and gifts and grants from outside sources.