FSW PARALEGAL STUDIES, ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION, & ENGINEERING PROGRAMS BREAKOUT MEETING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 2 PM – 3 PM B BULDING ROOM B-102 LEE CAMPUS IN PERSON

In Attendance: Professor Mary Conwell; Professor Matt Hoffman; Professor Munir Al-Suleh

The following topics were discussed at the September 2023 breakout meeting.

1. Professor Munir Al-Suleh proposed these four steps to increase enrollment in FSW’s Civil Engineering Program. It is a priority to transition as many classes as possible in the engineering program to an online format, with a target date of Spring Semester 2024. The online format can be asynchronous, blended, or flex, but students have demonstrated their preference for the flexibility and cost effectiveness of online education. The second step involves offering industry certification to engineering students. Professor Al-Suleh will consult with Associate Dean Baker on which types of certification are most in demand. The third step involves establishing an articulation agreement with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). This will take some time, but it is necessary to effectively position FSW’s Civil Engineering Program for expansion. Finally, Professor Al-Suleh spoke about overhauling and updating the engineering curriculum. He plans to immediately begin work on this in time for the November 2023 Curriculum Committee meeting.
2. Professor Matt Hoffman and Chair Conwell discussed ways to increase enrollment in FSW’s Paralegal Studies Program. It was agreed that the majority of paralegal classes should be offered online with a dedicated classroom in Building B for flex and blended classes. Only a few paralegal classes, such as Legal Research & Writing I, need to be taught in person. It was observed that Southwest Florida has become unaffordable causing most FSW students to live east of I-75. In many cases, they simply cannot afford the price of gasoline and the time stuck in traffic to attend classes in person. Professor Hoffman and Chair Conwell wish to meet with Dean Myers about transitioning Paralegal Studies classes to an online format, whether asynchronous, blended, or flex.
3. Professor Hoffman explained his role as Effectiveness Coordinator for Paralegal Studies, Crime Scene, Criminal Justice, Public Safety, Architecture, Construction, and Engineering. He stated that too much data is currently being collected for assessment purposes, the incorrect data is being collected, and no changes are being made with the data that is collected. Professor Hoffman plans to use ChatGPT to create assessments for selected courses in his areas of responsibility. ChatGPt will also be used to evaluate the results of these assessments. All three professors agreed that ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence are here to stay and should be embraced. Chair Conwell

pointed out that AI frees professionals to focus on complex, urgent matters and not waste time on routine, mundane tasks.

The breakout session was adjourned.