FSW PARALEGAL STUDIES, ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION, & ENGINEERING BREAKOUT MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025 1:30-3 PM VIA ZOOM

In Attendance: Department Chair Mary Conwell (Full-Time Professor), Professor Matt Hoffman (Full-Time Professor), Professor Sandi Towers (Temporary Full-Time Professor), Professor Ed Estes (Adjunct Professor), Professor Munir Al-Suleh (Adjunct Professor)

The following topics were discussed at the April 2025 Paralegal Studies, Architecture, Construction, & Engineering breakout meeting:

1. Textbook selection. Chair Conwell stated that professors with adoptions of new textbooks for Fall 2025 Semester have contacted Kim Egolf. Otherwise, textbooks would roll over for the Fall 2025 Semester.
2. American Bar Association (ABA) re-approval. The FSW Paralegal Studies Program has been recommended for re-approval by the ABA at the ABA Standing Committee’s most recent meeting on April 1, 2025. This will be finalized in August 2025 at the Annual Meeting with the ABA House of Delegates. Chair Conwell expressed appreciation for all the hard work by FSW’s Paralegal Studies Professors and SoBT administration and staff.
3. American Bar Association (ABA) Tech Show 2025. Chair Conwell stated that the ABA Tech Show 2025 in Chicago on April 2-5 was the most important and best conference that she has ever attended. The ABA Tech Show is essential for staying up-to-date about technology’s impact on the legal profession. Chair Conwell plans to ask the college to send all FSW Paralegal Studies faculty and some paralegal students to the ABA Tech Show 2026. She gave a well-received presentation about the Tech Show to the Legal Studies Club a few nights ago.
4. Florida DOGE. Professor Matt Hoffman stated that Florida DOGE is coming to FSW in May. He predicted that Arc grants may be cut. Florida Doge wants lists of all administrators and staff. These people will probably not be able to continue working remotely. Professor Hoffman stated that the college has an extra $500,000 available for faculty raises. Professor Towers said that a Florida legislative bill wants to reduce dual enrollment by 50%. Professor Hoffman opined that cutting dual enrollment will be unpopular with both conservatives and liberals because all parents want their children to have an educational advantage. Also, 50% cuts to AP courses and career and professional education are anticipated. Florida Doge will not be able to access payment systems. Governor DeSantis wants a $200,000,000 cut to Florida universities.
5. Artificial Intelligence (AI) use by students. Professor Matt Hoffman, in a recent effectiveness coordinator meeting, learned surprising general education results. Dual Enrollment students appear to be using AI extensively. Professor Hoffman stated that more interactive assignments are needed to avoid AI. Less, not more, technology should be used in class to bypass AI. Students should upload handwritten assignments done during class. Professor Hoffman suggested giving oral examinations to students via Zoom. During 15 minutes on Zoom, ask five questions of students. Professors discussed confronting students about AI use. Chair Conwell expressed concern that students might sue the professor and FSW for defamation of character if there are accusations of cheating. Incoming Chair Hoffman posited class action suits from non-native English speakers if confronted about AI use.

The meeting was adjourned.