



School of Education
January 9, 2026 1:00 p.m.
Department Meeting via Zoom

Present: Dr. Anne Angstrom, Dr. Sherry Blanset, Dr. Diane Brantley, Kathie DiLascio, Dr. April Fleming, David Koehler, Dr. Julia Kroeker, Dr. Regina Miller, Dr. Terri Ratini, Dr. Mary Robertson, Dr. Joyce Rollins, Dr. Kelly Ross, Dr. Angela Valuta.

Approval of minutes:

- November 14, 2025: Mary Robertson moved to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2025 School of Education Department Meeting minutes as circulated. Angela Valuta seconded the motion. All in attendance approved and the minutes of the November 14, 2025 School of Education Department meeting as circulated and placed on the Document Manager.

Administrative Updates:

Dean April Fleming reported:

- Reminder to faculty: If you are cancelling a class or meeting in a different modality, you must inform April, Kathie DiLascio and Joyce Rollins.
- Dr. Bilsky email: Regarding classroom speakers, if you are planning to have a guest speaker, please notify April. All speakers must be vetted and approved by Dr. Bilsky. April will forward the email to all.
- New initiative: Para to Teacher Program, looking to launch Fall 2026
- Teach Talk:
 - First Teach Talk will be held on January 21, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.
 - Open panel discussion about what it means to be a teacher
 - Panel will consist of 2 students and 2 faculty.
 - Need 2 faculty volunteers, let Anne or Joyce know if you are interested.
- FSWC-Lee:
 - Dr. Botts retired in August 2025
 - After a search, Jenesse Morauski was chosen as the new Principal
- Commencement:
 - May 1, 2026
 - 3 ceremonies
 - Updates to come

Anne Angstrom:

- International Travel to Spain: 10 students will travel to Madrid, Spain with Anne and Terri Ratini
- Library Advisory Board: if you need support, our person is Victoria San Filippo

Chair, Joyce Rollins reported:

- Attendance Verification: Joyce reminded faculty
- Impact of smaller cohorts: Joyce spoke on the small Spring 2026 cohort and how faculty should be aware.
- Foundation giving: Joyce spoke about giving to the Foundation and earmarking SoE

TAP Coordinator Mary Robertson reported:

- Presenting at Imagine Schools Principal's meeting January 16, 2026 with the goal of getting a new cohort of apprentices to begin in Fall 2026.

Advising Update: David Koehler reported on ELED, ECE and general information:

- 22 student admitted the BS ELED Program for Spring 2026
- Held 16 ECE advising sessions
- 2 individual First Time in College Advising sessions
- Followed up on emails regarding advising
- Recorded TEACH Scholarship authorizations
- Attended Advising session
- Followed up with Alt/Cert students for Spring 2026

Field Experience Update: Sherry Blanset reported:

- Spring "Future Fair"
 - formerly known as Job Fair, confirmed for Friday, March 27, 2026
 - All districts confirmed
 - Communicating with Charter partners and Higher Ed institutions
 - Seeking sponsorship from LCSD and individual businesses through ShareWay
- Continually looking at data for cohorts across time, looking for trends and anomalies
- Continually seeking input regarding data and reporting, please let Sherry know if there is anything you would like her to look into.

Committee Reports:

Academic Standards: Anne Angstrom reported:

- Did not meet in December. Next meeting will be held on February 6, 2026.

Shared Governance: Anne Angstrom reported:

- Will meet on January 29, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

ATC: Regina Miller reported:

- ATC met on December 12, 2026, Regina did not attend.

GEAC: Joyce Rollins reported:

- Did not meet in December 2025

OTOC: Joyce Rollins reported:

- Did not meet in December

KDE: Joyce Rollins reported:

- New officers: Paige – President, Desirae – VP, Isabelle – Secretary, Daicika – Treasurer, Kayden – Social Media, Sammy – Historian
- Recruiting new members, will hold Induction Ceremony in February

Faculty Senate: Julia Kroeker: Did not meet in December 2025 and will not meet in January 2026

Faculty Senate Executive Committee: Did not meet in December 2025 and will not meet in January 2026

- On November 17, 2025, Tim Bishop sent a letter of concern from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to Dr. Allbritten (see below):

- Letter of concern:
Dear Dr. Allbritten,

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee is writing to express our deep concern about recent events that have raised significant questions regarding due process, academic freedom, and the integrity of shared governance at Florida SouthWestern State College.

We recognize and value the importance of maintaining a supportive, professional, and legally compliant learning environment for all students and faculty. However, several developments over the past month have created an atmosphere of confusion and fear that has begun to erode faculty trust, academic autonomy, and our college's compliance with both the Collective Negotiations Agreement (CNA) and the standards of our accrediting bodies, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

1. Suspension of Faculty and Due Process Concerns

Faculty have expressed alarm over the indefinite suspension of a professor following an alleged student complaint related to a single practice question on gender non-conformity in a sociology course.

Our initial understanding was that this suspension would last roughly two weeks while the college conducted further investigation. However, that timeframe appears to have changed to "indefinite" at some point last week, and we learned on Friday 11/7/25 that the faculty member has already been removed from the teaching schedule for the spring semester. To date, no written explanation or documentation has been provided to faculty regarding what specific policies were invoked when suspending a member of the faculty, what investigative procedures were followed, or whether the due process requirements outlined in the CNA were properly observed.

As representatives of the Faculty Senate, we formally request written clarification regarding:

- The procedural steps taken in the suspension, including dates, responsible parties, and documentation.
- Whether union representation and notice were afforded in accordance with CNA requirements.

- The college's current policy and process for investigating any future complaints against faculty made by students and/or the state's Department of Education.
- This request is made not only in the interest of transparency but also to ensure consistent, fair, and contractually compliant treatment of all faculty in the future.

2. Climate of Uncertainty and Chilling Effect on Academic Freedom

The events surrounding this suspension have already had a demonstrable chilling effect on teaching and learning across multiple disciplines. Faculty report uncertainty about what materials or topics they may safely include in their courses, particularly regarding issues of gender, race, or politics. Inconsistent direction from different administrators and Deans on acceptable content or student projects has also been vague, at best. In some cases, faculty have been instructed to remove chapters from textbooks, avoid front-of-the-classroom presentations if a student is voluntarily presenting on a sensitive topic, or modify approved course materials without clear written rationale or policy reference. The absence of consistent, written guidance has fostered confusion and self-censorship that undermines the spirit of open inquiry essential to higher education.

- We ask that the administration provide a written reaffirmation of FSW's commitment to academic freedom and instructional autonomy, consistent with accreditation standards and our own institutional mission.
- If FSW's administration does feel it is necessary to restrict faculty and/or student academic freedom, we ask that administration provide comprehensive written guidelines for faculty to follow.

3. Directive Regarding "First Generation" Programs and References

On Monday, November 10, 2025, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was informed that all references to "First Generation" students, programs, and initiatives must be removed from course materials, publicity, and institutional documents effective immediately. This directive was described variously as an internal FSW directive, or, potentially, as a state directive. As of this writing, no clear information had been provided to faculty about the origin of this major shift in direction for the institution.

A cursory review of other Florida College System institutions as of 4:30 p.m. on the same date showed that several colleges including St. Pete College, Seminole State College, and Santa Fe College, continued to display active "First Generation" program pages and related outreach on their publicly accessible websites. The removal of all FSW First Gen content (all pages now result in "404 Not Found" errors across our family of websites) appears inconsistent with system-wide practice and raises legitimate questions about whether this directive was accurately represented or properly vetted.

We therefore request:

- A written explanation of the directive's origin, including any official communication from the State of Florida or the Department of Education authorizing or requiring this action.
- Clarification on whether this restriction extends to instruction, student services, or faculty reference within courses.
- Confirmation that the college remains committed to supporting First Generation students under all applicable federal and state guidelines.

4. Transparency, Governance, and Next Steps

Faculty remain committed to constructive collaboration with administration to resolve these issues transparently and in good faith. To that end, we respectfully request written responses to the questions and concerns above no later than Tuesday, November 25, 2025.

FSW's strength has always rested on the professionalism, integrity, and creativity of its faculty and the trust we share with institutional leadership via shared governance. We do not seek confrontation, but clarity; and a reaffirmation that this college remains committed to the fundamental values of academic freedom, fair process, and open dialogue.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your timely written response.

Respectfully, Members of the FSW Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Curriculum Committee: Terri Ratini reported:

- The December 2025 meeting was canceled. Will meet in 2 weeks.

PD Committee: Kelly Ross reported:

- Did not meet in December 2025
- Approval of all applications for travel funding and Ancillary funds were completed via email polls.

Academic Continuity Committee: Kelly Ross reported:

- Completed task and submitted the results to Dr. Bilsky

ARC Review Committee: Kelly Ross reported:

- Did not meet

Renaissance Fair: Diane and Angela reported:

- Waiting for FSW updates to take the next steps
- Hoping to meet with KDE for their involvement, will bring up at Officer's meeting on January 13, 2026

The general meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Breakout meetings followed.

ELED:

- Online Program Para to Teacher
- "Teach Talk" Spring 2026 events: January 21, 2026, 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, U218 and March 31, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
- FTCE workshops
- New test prep tool in Library Databases: "PrepSTEP College"
- FTCE November Performance Data
- Review of FE Expectations/HR logs, etc.

ECE:

- Adjustments to courses based on Legislation

/kdl

