

Welcome to the Faculty Senate
Pierre Ramond, Chair

“Fellow Senators and Honored Guests,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this first meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Over the last several years, the Faculty Senate has prepared to assume its rightful role in a concept called Shared Faculty Governance, a goal endorsed by President Machen and the Trustees.

A first step taken last year has been the creation of five new Faculty Councils, better suited for Faculty input on various aspects of governance.

So far it has been only scaffolding, and we are now ready to put these structures to the test. They will not work unless the broader Faculty is energized. As representatives of the Faculty, I urge you to recruit its most intellectually-engage members to defining new directions and priorities for the University.

The aim of the game is not only to make the Faculty’s intellectual energies available to the decision making processes of the University, but also to ensure that they are received by the Administration with the appropriate *gravitas*.

Shared Faculty Governance is a partnership between Faculty and Administration. For it to work, both must show thoughtfulness and responsibility, particularly in delicate issues at the core of the academic tradition, such as tenure.

As the fourth largest state in the Union, Florida has no Institution of Higher Learning in the ten best State Universities. We, together with the Trustees and the President of course want to get there.

There are at least two “*sine qua non*” on the way to that lofty goal.

One is to mobilize the Faculty to identify an intellectual road map to excellence. This requires of course the willingness of the faculty, but also a sense of pride in the Institution; it can only happen if Faculty feel empowered in the University. This is where Shared Faculty Governance comes in, and where you, the Faculty Senate can make a difference.

The other requirement is out of our hands. It is called money, but then.....this is where the President comes in.

So without further ado, let me introduce President Machen!