

I am sorry I cannot be with you today but I want to thank Keith for stepping in for me. As this is our final meeting I want to thank all the folks I have worked with this year. First, It has been a pleasure to work with Dr. Jack Payne. I learned a lot (maybe more than I wanted to know) about UF operations. There are a lot of things that going on that many of us take for granted or are misinformed on. This is truly a great institution and I appreciate Jack's leadership.

Second, Thanks to our Deans (Nick, Jackie, and Elaine) for their active participation in this assembly and adjusting to the "round table" at each meeting. These updates have been very important and valuable in keeping the communication lines open and for us as representatives of our units/department to keep our peers informed. Third, thanks to each of you as representatives participating in the process. Although I did not get to know each of individually I did make a lot of new friends that otherwise I would not have. I know this is a lot of work so thank you for taking on the job.

Finally, I want to thank the Exec committee (Keith, Mercy, Susan, Nicole, Hannah, and James) These guys worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Much of the work accomplished would not have happen without their help, support, and involvement. Keith...I can only hope your team provides with the help support you all have given me.

I went back through the minutes this past year and it is amazing to see the work that has been done. There are too many things to talk about here but I did want to bring up 3 items I feel were highlights.

Keith took leadership for a review of the shared governance process. He and his group took time and energy to review our constitution and provide some minor modifications which were brought before this body. The group worked to develop a survey to provide an assessment of how well shared governance is working. Many of you participated in the survey and Keith will be providing preliminary results today.

We had the 4 Extension associate deans/program leaders come and present their vision for Extension. Several of you indicated to me that they had no idea of how extensive the program really is and all the accomplishments Extension has made to Florida citizens.

Finally, as previously mentions we instituted the Deans round table discussion. This proved valuable to everyone as we learned what was going on in the different disciplines but more importantly how we all cross over and benefit from each other. In fact, Elaine came down to Osceola and met with our local junior college. This turned into a productive and valuable meeting in resolving why we're not getting Osceola folks into UF. Elaine and her group worked to rectify this and it is my understanding we have made great strides in admissions of Osceola students. I would not have known about some of the entry requirements had it not been listening to Elaine and these meeting. Thank you Elaine

Is shared governance perfect...no; however, for the most part shared governance does work when people participate. As the motto of 4-H says 'Make the Best Better" and all of us want our institution to be the best and make it better. This only happens with your participation. I encourage everyone to continue to actively participate. Thank you for a wonderful year and have a great summer.