

Opening statement by Management: 2015-2018 Reopener (2017)

As we begin the negotiation process for our 2017 collective bargaining session, we are hopeful that both Management and Faculty will continue to maintain the level of collegiality and respect we have successfully had during past negotiations by utilizing the interest based bargaining. Management recognizes the significant effort faculty make toward advancing our institution with respect to quality teaching, promotion of service, research, and shared governance.

It is noted with great appreciation that together, Management and Faculty are working to resolve matters that affect the overall performance of this institution. We are working collaboratively to address matters such as creating new degree programs, streamlining curriculum, tracking and retaining our students, increasing graduation rates, successfully bringing President Elect Martin to FGCU and creating an environment for which faculty can be promoted for their accomplishments. This open approach has helped lead the university in a very positive direction.

It is our hope as we navigate through our negotiations that both teams will not lose sight of the fiscal challenges our institution is facing. Further, there should be an understanding on the part of the faculty that management, while wanting to reward the accomplishments of the faculty; face practical limitations. These limitations include factors such as budget reductions initiated at the legislative level and the decisions made through governance that prevent us from achieving satisfactory institutional performance. Management recognizes that these faculty accomplishments must be appreciated and rewarded ~ both which are outside management's control. These are very challenging times for FGCU and with the mutual respect and collegiality together we have maintained in the past, I am sure we will be able to come to terms on a new contract. We look forward to this session at the bargaining table and encourage mutual respect and collegiality as we have in the past.