MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty and Adjunct Faculty

C: University Staff

From: Kenneth G. Furton, Provost and Executive Vice President

Date: August 24, 2015

Re: Pilot Program for First Time Online and Hybrid Teaching

One of our major goals outlined in our FIU Beyond Possible 2020 strategic plan is student success. In order for us to best meet the growing demands from students including their demand for more online and hybrid courses we must adjust how the university approaches these types of courses.

This semester we will be launching a pilot program to encourage and support faculty who desire to teach online or hybrid courses for the very first time at FIU. This pilot arose in part through discussions between the UFF and the Administration. The goals of the program are to optimize online and hybrid modes of teaching, enable faculty members to be equally effective in this medium as in face-to-face teaching, increase the availability of courses, and provide greater alternatives and scheduling flexibility for our faculty and students. As a leading metropolitan research university, we desire to align with these current pedagogical shifts as other SUS universities have done and take steps to ensure the success of our students and faculty by maintaining flexibility in the delivery of courses.

In order to provide uniform support and increased enrollment, all technical and design support will transition to a reorganized University College which will contain FIU Online and FIU Hybrid and be named Instructional Innovative Institute (I^3). I^3 will fully support all faculty who teach online or hybrid courses. Additionally, all hybrid courses will be taught using a single model in order to create consistent expectations for faculty and students.
Faculty members who have not previously taught an online or hybrid course may apply to be a part of this program through I³ by clicking here before September 25th. Faculty chosen to be a part of this pilot program will be offered additional support to ensure overall success. Faculty members will be given one semester notice prior to teaching their first course and be required to complete training prior to teaching the course. Faculty members will be assigned an instructional designer to assist in the preparation of the online or hybrid course during the semester prior and during the semester when the course is taught. Additionally, a one-time stipend of $3,000 will be provided for teaching a three credit or more online course, and a one-time stipend of $1,500 for teaching a three credit or more hybrid course.

Faculty members interested in participating in this pilot program are encouraged to have a discussion with their Chair or Director and then they should apply through I³. The Provost Office, in consultation with Deans, the Faculty Senate and the FIUBeyondPossible2020 strategic plan steering committee will identify courses that should be taught online or hybrid. The training for this pilot program will take place this semester with new courses to begin in Spring 2016.

As outlined in the FIUBeyondPossible2020 strategic plan, it is our goal by 2020 to have 30% classes taught in the hybrid model and 40% online. We hope this pilot program will encourage faculty members to further embrace this pedagogical shift and enhance the learning experience for our students.