MEMORANDUM

To: FIU Community

From: Douglas Wartzok, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

Date: January 4, 2010

Re: Interim Dean of the University Graduate School

I am pleased to announce that Kevin O’Shea has been appointed Interim Dean of the University Graduate School. He is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and up until the time of his appointment served as Chair of the Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate. He has also served as graduate program director for nine years in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and was instrumental in the development and growth of its Ph.D. program. He was a member of the task force for Millennium Strategic Planning for Graduate Education and a member of the Dissertation Advisor Status Evaluation Committee.

He has mentored fifty undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and visiting faculty in his research laboratory on projects supported by the NSF, NIH, NIEHS, EPA, Petroleum Research Fund, Research Corporation, IAEA, and the Henry and Camille Dreyfus Foundation.

Professor O’Shea joined Florida International University in 1991. He earned an ACS certified B.S. degree in Chemistry (with honors) from California State University, Sacramento and a Ph.D. from University of California, Los Angeles. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas, Austin in the Center for Fast Kinetics.

His research focuses on biological implications and environmental applications of reactive oxygen species (ROS). In biological systems, ROS create havoc through radical oxidative processes, which can lead to a variety of diseases and disorders from heart disease to arthritis to skin cancer. His goal is to understand the basic reactions between ROS and important biological molecules in association with specific human disorders and diseases. Professor O’Shea’s group also investigates the reactions of ROS with organic pollutants and toxins as potential water treatment applications.

Professor O’Shea has approximately sixty peer-reviewed publications, served as guest editor for Journal of Advanced Oxidation Technologies, and is a co-editor of the book Environmental Applications of Ionizing Radiation. He teaches classes at the undergraduate and graduate level in organic chemistry. He also taught as a fellow in the Honors College. His teaching efforts have been recognized with University Teaching and TIP awards. He has been the faculty advisor for the award winning student affiliate chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) at FIU, a member of the education committee for the American Photobiology Society and on the task force for undergraduate programming at National ACS Meetings.
The search for a permanent Dean of the University Graduate School will begin this spring. Please join me in welcoming Kevin to his new position and please assist him in his efforts to continue the positive trajectory of graduate education at FIU.