

Newly Named Deans Take the Helm

BOCA RATON, Fla. (June 7, 2017) – As the pillars are taking shape, two newly appointed college deans are stepping up to advance President Kelly’s vision of making FAU the fastest improving public research university.



Wesley Hawkins, Ph.D., has recently been named dean of the College for Design and Social Inquiry, while Michael Horswell, Ph.D., was recently appointed dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters.

Hawkins’ two years as interim dean afforded him the opportunity to collaborate with the neuroscience, healthy aging and FAU Harbor Branch pillars. He plans on making multiple joint hires to impact the pillars. Hawkins envisions a slightly different role for the associate research dean he’ll bring on: coaching faculty pursuing research grants, while also playing statistician.

Incentiving Grant Submissions

To incentivize faculty to submit grants, he’s earmarked funds to support them to get a class off for each grant submitted. Hawkins has seen lots of changes since arriving to a “sleepy” campus in 1997.

“It’s such an exciting time to be at FAU with President Kelly’s vision and we’re now going to play a major role in that vision by collaborating with all the pillars.”

Racing to Excellence in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Michael Horswell, Ph.D., was recently appointed dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. “It is an honor to lead the award-winning faculty of scholars, artists, and researchers in our multifaceted college that includes the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences,” Horswell said.



In addition to participating deeply in university-wide strategic platforms, Horswell looks forward to more robustly connecting the college’s research effort to the “Race to Excellence” strategic plan by working with pillar directors to co-hire additional faculty with a focus on sponsored research.

“I will also work to support our faculty as they expand their recent successes in funded scholarship and creative achievement through fellowships, residencies, and foundation grants, all of which are at the heart of what we do in Arts and Letters.” Horswell most recently served as Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies in the college since December 2012.

To read Dean Horswell’s bio, click [here](#). To learn more about Dean Hawkins, click [here](#).