

Senate Steering Committee Minutes
December 5, 2019
3 p.m.
Tigert 226

Present: Sylvain Doré, Richard Scholtz, Katie Vogel Anderson, Ana Spiguel, Hans van Oostrom, Keith Diem, Laurie Bialosky, Gary Wimsett, Terra DuBois, Angela Lindner, and Fred Southwick.

Call to Order

Katie Vogel Anderson, Past Chair

-The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Past Faculty Senate Chair Katie Vogel Anderson.

Approve [November 7, 2019](#) Minutes

Katie Vogel Anderson, Past Chair

-The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Katie Vogel Anderson, Past Chair

-Dr. Vogel Anderson shared the following Chair's Report submitted by the Faculty Senate Chair, Ray Thomas, who is attending the Board of Trustees meeting today:

Considering the relatively short amount of time that has passed since our last meeting, and combined with the fact that both the President and Provost have been traveling, the Chair has little in the way of new activities to report. The Chair continues to focus on the welfare of the faculty by working on the goals of improving access to quality affordable daycare and early childhood learning facilities on campus and securing a paid parental/family leave benefit. Everyone is reminded to please nominate themselves or a colleague to a university committee. The Chair will remind Senators that they are the only ones who qualify to fill the [Senate Council](#) vacancies.

The [nomination form](#) has been revamped to hopefully emphasize and clarify the Academic Personnel Board (APB) need, and provide more clarity in general.

At our November meeting, the Chair discussed the apparent discrepancy between UF Directives and the policies of grant-funding agencies, such as the NIH, for reimbursement of childcare costs when traveling on official business.

In response to a request for clarification regarding UF policy, the following has been suggested as a change to the UF Directives to cover this cost:

Temporary dependent care costs above and beyond regular dependent care that directly results from travel to conferences will be allowable on funding sources other than State funding. A cost comparison of the dependent care costs incurred during Travel status compared to the normal costs incurred will need to be included in supporting documentation to prove the allowable amount.

At no time will Travel costs for dependents be allowable.

There is still some discussion of what "above and beyond regular dependent care" actually means in terms of the costs that can be reimbursed.

This concludes the Chair's report, and the Chair wishes to express his sincere appreciation to Dr. Katie Vogel Anderson for chairing today's meeting.

-There was a request to share the hyperlink of the UF Facilities/event spaces resources page (the assemblance of which had been discussed at a past meeting):

<http://aa.ufl.edu/resources/uf-rental-facilities/>.

Admissions Policy & Improving the Campus Tour Experience

Zina Evans, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost

- Dr. Evans is attending the Board of Trustees meeting but forwarded the following information: In light of the national Varsity Blues scandal, she will discuss UF's comprehensive review of the current process used by Admission and Athletics and is confident that the university's process has the checks and balances needed to prevent the issues identified in the Varsity Blues cases.
- Legacy applicant information is collected as part of required demographic reporting but is not a factor in final admission decisions.
- Visit Experience (Campus Tours and other visit opportunities). The university has contracted consultant Render to evaluate UF's current process to help answer the question "What does a top 5 visit experience look like? What are we doing well and where is there room for improvement?"
- The committee asks Dr. Evans to address (at Senate) if the admission applicant reviewers actually see the answer to the legacy question, which might inadvertently result in an implicit bias.

UFOLIO (UF Online Interest Organizer)

Gary Wimsett, Assistant Vice President for Conflicts of Interest
Terra DuBois, Director of Research Compliance and Global Support

-Gary Wimsett introduced the university's new online activities and interests reporting system and Terra DuBois explained the purpose of and described the framework of the International Risk Assessment (IRA) piece of this tool. Both have done a number of presentations and have received positive feedback from the pilot conducted in four different colleges. The system aims to provide one centralized system for outside disclosures using intuitive questions and smart forms. This effort seeks to address issues related to any undue foreign influence and prompt university best practices. This tool streamlines both the university review and faculty disclosure submission processes. The submission process workflow and the tool's roll-out timelines were reviewed. The tool will be demonstrated at Faculty Senate.

University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

Angela Lindner,

- **LL.M. in Comparative Law Degree Program Title Change** Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
 - The UCC requests a change in the title of this degree to LL.M. in U.S. Law to better match the courses taken in this degree, better align with degree verbiage used by peer institutions, and increase degree understanding and clarification to potential employers.
 - This was approved.

Council Reports

Infrastructure Council

Richard Scholtz, Chair

-An update on mobility options from transportation engineers and Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering faculty members, Drs. Lili Du and Scott Washburn, was provided to council. An overview was given of their project and available technologies (some of which raise privacy concerns) and includes these findings and suggestions: [Smart Parking System on UF Campus Report](#). The project would like to initially focus on a fundamental facility, such as the O'Connell Center surface lots and garage. The presenters have conversed with different stakeholders and talked about budgetary needs to execute this proposal. A funding source, preferably an internal one, is needed and being sought.

-The University Libraries Committee (ULC) reported on efforts to rebrand as well as to restructure and increase office space.

Research and Scholarship Council**Hannah Norton**, Chair

- An update of the last council meeting was provided at the November Steering Committee meeting.
- Council liaison and Assistant Provost and Director of Institutional Planning and Research, Cathy Lebo, will be invited to provide a Discovery Suites tool update in the December council meeting.

Budget Council**Ashley Ghiaseddin**, Chair

- It was noted that continued divestment discussions will take place in council in the spring.

Academic Policy Council**Hans Van Oostrom**, Chair

- Following discussion in Spring 2019 and this semester, the [APC charge change](#) suggested by the 2019-20 APC members was approved yesterday by the University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC).
- A future council agenda item is to review credits in non-degree status.
- An [office hours memo](#) which will be a Provost's Office memo of clarification for faculty, was reviewed and finalized.
- There is continuing discussion related to faculty titles, with a primary focus on non-tenure track titles. Council will explore mechanisms to ensure faculty voting rights are not being removed in units; for example, ensuring graduate faculty status/voting is being allowed in units for lecturers and all germane regulations and bylaws are being consistently followed. It was suggested that the Faculty Senate Chair could assist by making a statement of clarification at Faculty Senate and/or in tandem with the (college-level) Faculty Councils/Assemblies.
- A reference was made to a [Chronicle of Higher Education article](#) discussing Penn State's recent restructuring of tenure and non-tenure tracks and the question of uniformity within the Florida state university systems (SUS) was also discussed.

Welfare Council**Suzan Alteri**, Chair

- A written report was submitted:
- In our last meeting we discussed the results from the last AAU survey on sexual assault, particularly incidents that involve sexual harassment between faculty members and graduate students (around 25%). We will continue these discussions and brainstorm ways faculty can help with this crisis.
- The Council also discussed faculty prize money where views were varied. The Council is interested in protecting the interests of faculty, graduate students, postdocs, staff, and the university. We hope policies in the future will be more clear to those who enter competitions.
- The Council is not meeting in December, but will reconvene next semester.

Approve [December 12, 2019 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)**Katie Vogel Anderson**, Past Chair

- Approved as amended to clarify the title of the UCC item.

Adjournment**Katie Vogel Anderson**, Past Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.