

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

September 12, 2019

3:00 p.m.

Tigert 226

Present: Ray G. Thomas, Laurie Bialosky, Joe Glover, Richard Scholtz, Ana Spiguel, Sylvain Doré, Rick Stepp, Keith Diem, Katie Vogel Anderson, Hannah Norton, Angela Lindner, Andrew Zimmerman, Andrew Wolpert, John Krigbaum, and Fred Southwick.

Call to Order

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

-The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approve [August 15, 2019 Minutes](#)

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

-The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

- The Chair attended the press conference by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announcing the rise of UF to the number 7 public university in the U.S. News and World Report rankings.
- Richard Scholtz was welcomed as the newly elected chair of Infrastructure Council.
- Reminder: The Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards nomination deadline is October 1, 2019.
- The Chair attended the Board of Trustees (BOT) retreat last week.
- The BOT voted to renew Dr. Fuchs' appointment as university president. The current contract and appointment end on July 1, 2020. The new appointment is not a contract, like his current contract and like most other president's contracts, but rather an "at will" appointment, similar to the appointments of most Deans and vice presidents. The Board of Trustees will continue their annual performance reviews of the president and no known changes are currently planned in the terms of the appointment (i.e. compensation, benefits, etc.) The Board of Governors (BOG) will also vote on the appointment renewal appointment, likely during the October BOG meeting.
- Trustee Jason Rosenberg, Chair of the Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs & Experience Committee, has drafted a white paper entitled "UF Student Experience" and has asked the Chair to chair a subcommittee of faculty to contribute to the discussion. These discussions will be philosophical in keeping with the Board's advisory role, and not directed toward the operation of the University.
- As part of an effort to improve access to quality childcare and early learning facilities on campus, the Chair met with Dr. Stacy Ellis, the director of the Baby Gator Child Development and Research Center, to discuss the state of the current facilities and future needs. A tour of the Diamond Village and Newborn and Infant facilities was provided. In October, the Chair will meet with Dr. Patricia Snyder, UF Distinguished Professor and David Lawrence Jr. Endowed Chair in Early Childhood Studies, and the Director, Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies, to discuss the important role that current UF facilities serve as learning laboratories where students gain valuable research experience. The current facilities provided 14,000 student contact hours.
- Faculty Senate Chair-elect Sylvain Doré and the Chair will attend the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) meeting this week at Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland.
- Other discussion and inquiries included: the inclusion of faculty in the Discovery Suites tool; efforts of faculty to secure Twitter followings as influencers, and a mention of Dr. Fuchs' dynamic presence in social media, which currently leads our Association of American Universities (AAU) peers in the number of followers. The official UF handles for social media accounts are below and are listed in the [January Faculty Senate minutes](#), as outlined by VP of Strategic Communications and Marketing, Nancy Paton in her '100 Days Leadership Strategy' presentation:
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/uf>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uflorida>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uflorida/>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-florida/>

- **Provost's Report**

Joe Glover, Provost

- UF has risen to number seven in the U.S. News & World Report Top Public Schools rankings and has now been in the top ten national public universities ranking for the third consecutive year.
- Three finalists for the VP of Student Affairs have been named and all are encouraged to attend their candidate presentation sessions. Associate Provost of Academic & Faculty Affairs, Chris Hass, chairs this search committee.
- The Dean of the College of Business search is ongoing and nearing the stage of the naming of final candidates.
- The appointment for the new Director of the Center for Latin American Studies, Carlos de la Torre, began last month.
- The search for the Director of the University Press of Florida is ongoing.
- The Provost attended a national provosts meeting in CA. Topics of focus included: addressing sexual harassment and assault; security and research funding.
- An electronic system replacing the current paper system used to disclose outside activities has been vetted by a number of deans and administrators and is being beta tested by eight departments beginning on Monday for a period of five to seven week period. If feedback is positive, the system will be rolled out campus-wide this Spring.
- It was agreed that an invitation would be extended to an Information Technology Office representative and to Gary Wimsette, Director of Compliance & COI (Conflicts of Interest), to visit Senate to demonstrate the new system, ideally for an approximately twenty minutes presentation this December.
- President Fuchs is conducting the search for a new IFAS VP.
- There was an inquiry about the status of a search for a new College of Medicine Dean (since there is currently only an Interim Dean) and the Provost has not heard that it has been initiated.

Creative Campus

Amy Bucciarelli, College of the Arts
UF Creative Engagement Liaison

- This item is tabled until October.

UF Quest Resolution

Andrew Zimmerman, Associate Professor
of Geological Sciences, CLAS Senator

- This is an opportunity to formalize express support for Quest, which is a faculty initiative. The resolution provides one more opportunity for discussion about this change to core curriculum and the Florida experience. A procedural question was raised regarding moving the resolution forward to Senate as an information item. It was clarified that faculty, via Faculty Senate, are charged with approving university curriculum and this resolution aims to communicate core Quest concepts to campus and stakeholders. Individual Quest courses will still funnel through the academic approval system this year and Senate will be reviewing and voting on each of those. The most recent [Quest](#) overview was presented to Faculty Senate in May .
- This item was approved and will be an Information item on the September Senate agenda and an Action item on the October agenda.

Council Reports

Infrastructure Council

Richard Scholtz, Chair

- Council met last week and elected Richard Scholtz to replace Bernard Hauser, who will continue to serve on council as a member but not chair.
- Council agreed it would like to hear an update on progress made or new information garnered from Drs. Lily Elefteriadou, Lili Du, & Scott Washburn following their [Mobility Options Presentation](#) to council in April and their [Smart Parking System on UF Campus Report](#) to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee in May.

- Council will request an update from UFPD Chief Stump-Kurnick on the Campus Security Master Plan.
- Three resolutions regarding cessation of investment into fossil fuel companies by the UF endowment were tabled at the last council meeting. Infrastructure Council has referred these items to the Budget Council for possible consideration.

Research and Scholarship Council

Hannah Norton, Chair

- Council met this week and established council priorities. The Senate Chair was asked to help solicit research topics of interest during Chair visits to each college faculty assembly/council.
- Melissa Rethlefsen, HSC Libraries Associate Dean and Fackler Director, led a [rigor & reproducibility discussion](#) with SCORS in the Spring and council would like to invite her to present to Senate sometime after December. A Reproducible Research Symposium will be conducted in November with Melissa's grant.
- Other council topics of interest include pre-eminence hiring impacts and updates on related research funding; and research mentoring, including updates from the Welfare Council Chair regarding steps which have been taken to address this topic. The Provost's Office will be a resource for council for information and updates related to the hiring and research funding statuses of faculty through the pre-eminence initiative.

Budget Council

Serdar Kirli, Interim Chair

- A new council chair will be elected at the end of the month and will attend next month's Steering meeting.

Academic Policy Council

Patricia Sohn, Interim Chair

- The chair is on leave this semester. A new chair will be elected at the next council meeting, late this month.

Approve [September 26, 2019 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

- The agenda was approved as amended (to move the UF Creative Engagement presentation to October).

Adjournment

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.