

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

August 24, 2020

11:30 a.m.

Via Conference Call #605-472- 5377

Present: Sylvain Doré, Angela Lindner, David Bloom, Ashley Ghiaseddin, Sarah Lynne, Keith Rambo, Richard Scholtz, Ray Thomas, Hans van Oostrom, Laurie Bialosky, Juan Nino, Taylor Rose, and Rick Stepp.

Call to Order

Sylvain Doré, Chair

-This emergency Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Sylvain Doré.

Homecoming 2020

**Angela Lindner, Associate Provost
for Undergraduate Affairs**

Following input from University Athletics, the Provost's Office, Human Resources, and the Florida Blue Key, Associate Provost Lindner requests that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee consider placing a new action item on tomorrow's Faculty Senate agenda. The request is to amend this year's previously Senate-approved university calendar to revert the October 2, 2020 Homecoming official university holiday to a class instruction and employee workday.

-The Florida Blue Key will carry out its Homecoming activities virtually throughout the month of October. There will be no Homecoming Parade. The Alachua County School District has reverted October 2 to a class day (from a holiday). Additionally, the community is eager to alleviate the concerns involved with a mass, Homecoming gathering during a pandemic.

-Given the urgent nature of the request, due largely to the delays caused by the uncertainty of the SEC football schedule amidst the pandemic, the Steering Committee agreed to place the item on the Senate agenda for a vote tomorrow.

-To address the removal of a paid holiday for university employees, particularly staff, who did not benefit from the extra five days off due to the push-back of the start of the semester from August 24 to August 31, (i.e. faculty did not have to begin their instruction until August 31), it was agreed to request that the Homecoming holiday be substituted with December 24 as an official holiday.

-After having lost five instructional days due to the delayed start of the semester because of COVID-19, students and faculty will benefit by gaining a day of classroom instruction on Homecoming.

The following motion was unanimously carried:

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee approves the reversion of the Friday, October 2, 2020 Homecoming Holiday from a holiday to a class and working day and recommends December 24, 2020 be provided as a substitute, eight-hour holiday for the lost Homecoming 2020 holiday.

Dr. Lindner will bring the above recommendation to the administration and will contact the Faculty Senate Office today with final, approved wording to be put forward to a Senate vote tomorrow. Dr. Lindner will present this item to Senate and it will be posted and distributed to Senators as soon as possible.

Adjournment

Sylvain Doré, Chair

-The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.