

## ACADEMIC POLICY COUNCIL MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95574917864>

**Present:** Dorina Avram, Ray Thomas, Paul Duncan, Angela Lindner, Angela Bacsik, Hans van Oostrom, Patricia Sohn, Chris Hass, Jack Mecholsky, Youssef Haddad, Deb Mayhew, Laurie Bialosky, Tim Brophy, and Andrew Zimmerman.

**1. Call to Order** – Hans van Oostrom – APC Chair

-The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. Election of 2020-2021 APC Chair**

- Hans van Oostrom was elected.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

-**February 14, 2020** – The minutes were approved.

-**March 20, 2020**– The minutes approval is postponed to the next meeting.

-**April 6, 2020** – The minutes were approved.

**4. New Business**

**-Artificial Intelligence (AI) Retreat**

-Council chair announced the AI retreat which takes place on April 29. It will provide detailed information regarding the university's new AI initiative.

**5. -Proposal to move the first day of Fall instruction from August 24, 2020 to August 31, 2020** – Chris Hass, Associate Provost of Academic & Faculty Affairs

-While an announcement has been distributed regarding summer classes, in yesterday's faculty Senate meeting, the Provost reported about consideration of this option and highlighted possible benefits:

-It would give the pandemic an extra week to decrease.

-It provides an extra week of planning and preparation for the faculty, staff and administration, particularly for the online transitioning of courses, if needed.

-A shorter semester may decrease the probability of a pandemic increase while classes are in session.

-The "move-in" date for housing could be moved one week later.

-Delayed student arrivals to campus provides more preparation time for students and campus housing.

- The university is working with UF epidemiologists, the governor, and federal directives, and will be delayed in making a decision until likely June regarding the conduct of fall courses (i.e. online, hybrid, and phased return of academic personnel to campus etc.) Council members are asked to please talk with colleagues about their thoughts.
- The end of the semester would not change nor would the appointments dates of faculty (August 16 through May 15.)
- Faculty salary would be unchanged, as only the week the semester starts, rather than the length of the semester changes.
- The degree certification date of 12-22 remains the same.
- Council discussed which courses are more ideally delivered online, in consideration of safety to faculty, students, and their families.
- Council discussed considerations from the Graduate School (degree certification dates and deadlines, etc.) which attempts to align as much as possible with undergraduate and other university considerations.
- UF currently has 224 days of instruction although 220 is the state-mandated requirement.
- Many other State University System (SUS) schools have 220 instructional days and a key consideration is managing the hurricane season.
- Saturdays could be used if additional instruction days are needed.
- Another option would be to petition for an exemption if UF ran into schedule obstacles due to hurricane season.
- The Faculty Senate Chair also read a memo from Provost Glover to the SUS and the Chancellor outlining justifications as to why this would work well.
- Policy discussion will continue in Faculty Senate.
- Thank you to council members for being flexible during this period; as much lead notice as possible will be given for future, unscheduled council meetings but some may be conducted on rather short notice.

## **6. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.