

## ACADEMIC POLICY COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96718637749?pwd=UmgyRWZJL0JTZnpjMTR0aTFTQVp3dz09>

**Present:** Hans van Oostrom, Ray Thomas, Chris Hass, Angela Lindner, John Krigbaum, Paul Duncan, Andrew Zimmerman, Laurie Bialosky, Youssef Haddad, Sylvain Doré, and Angela Bacsik.

1. **Call to Order** – Hans van Oostrom – APC Chair
  - The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Council Chair Hans van Oostrom.
2. **Approval of [May 8, 2020 Minutes](#)**
  - The minutes were approved.
3. **New Business** - Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs & Chris Hass, Associate Provost for Academic & Faculty Affairs
  - [A draft syllabus statement outlining student classroom behavior expectations for COVID-19 requirements](#) was discussed with the goal of providing a more wholistic guidance to students through the syllabus.
  - Council agreed this will be crucial for faculty teaching face to face in the fall semester.
  - Classes and courses will be assigned with adherence to social distancing guidelines.
  - Classrooms are being sanitized on a regular basis and all would be masked and using hand sanitizers upon entering classrooms.
  - UF is purchasing as many N95 medical masks as possible and is also looking into purchasing plastic shields.
  - Council discussed a classroom behavior policy, with a focus on outlining what steps a faculty member would take if a student was non-compliant with COVID-19 policies.
  - Council expressed dissent on the option of cancelling a class if a student(s) were to not comply with COVID-19 requirements, primarily because all students in a classroom would suffer the consequences of someone else's negative behavior. Council suggests not cancelling a class because of a student's non-compliance to university COVID-19 policies and practices. Council discussed that while it is not ideal to place instructors in a position to enforce masking policies, professors are ultimately the authority in a classroom and need to enforce the expectations and rules.
  - Questions were raised about enforcement of such policies and laws in the county and city and it was agreed that this is an enforceable requirement at UF; while the university is clearly separate from other local government entities, on-campus enforcement of students' adherence to university policies and the student conduct code is legitimate and recognized.

- Verbiage from the syllabi draft under discussion was taken namely from the UF Privacy Office and is included in this proposal's language.
  - Is recording required? This is a good idea but is not required. Faculty must simply make reasonable accommodations for students such as holding office hours, shared faculty lecture notes, etc.
  - It was discussed that UF would like to have a culture in which: if a student can't attend class because of health related reasons, UF wants to ensure the student can continue to advance in the class; the university ensures every student has egalitarian learning opportunities, whether the format is by listening to in-person classroom lectures or via Zoom.
  - Keeping students engaged in classroom discussion while recognizing privacy issues in recorded sessions was discussed, including that it is advisable to remind students that chat comments are not anonymous in a recorded Zoom session and classroom comments and discussions should not be shared outside of class (i.e. this is similar to how a student would be instructed/reminded to not use an iPhone/recording device to record or share classroom audio prior to the COVID-19 period.)
  - The shareability and accessibility of Zoom classroom content was discussed. It may be more feasible for faculty to upload some content to a media site or Canvas to narrow Zoom classroom content accessibility only to class members. While admission to Zoom meetings is set at UF so that users cannot enter a Zoom meeting without a password, is there an issue with an uploaded Zoom recording being accessible without password protection? Perhaps a policy to only save Zoom class recordings to a platform outside of Zoom (such as Google docs, etc.) with password protection would resolve this issue. Dr. Hass will reach out to the IT team to request an update for faculty.
  - Does this proposal language need to be tweaked if it applies to graduate courses and graduate labs as well as to undergraduates, particularly if graduate labs are assigning their own spaces?
  - It was suggested *lecture* material be changed to *course* material.
  - Dr. Hass will edit and re-submit the draft to encompass the above considerations.
- Dr. Lindner shared the [Brand Guide for UF Reopening and Operation](#) and also brought council's attention to a draft voluntary pledge which states that Gators are committed to protecting each other. UF Student Affairs is working on the latter now and council was solicited for comment.
- The university will not track individuals' affirmative or negative replies to their willingness to sign or take such a pledge. Student Affairs is considering entering students who sign the pledge into a prize drawing but council expressed some concerns about such a drawing.

- Faculty Senate Chair-elect, Sylvain Doré, suggested that the pledge be offered to all employees, including administrative and support staff.
- Council agreed that the pledge could act as an effective awareness tool, which would encourage the community to think about it, read it, and commit to it, and therefore would be more effective than if it was introduced as a Human Resources' employee mandate.
- Senate Chair, Ray Thomas, relayed that in talking with faculty, most indicated a preference of not asking them to sign a pledge, primarily since they are already aware of masking policies and wish to avoid an additional task.
- President Fuchs has provided positive feedback for the pledge.
- The importance of the delivery and timing of the pledge was discussed, particularly that it would not be redundantly offered through multiple avenues, which might inadvertently dilute the message or frustrate potential signees.
- It was noted that the UF Student Health Center is conducting a flu vaccine campaign, which is part of a public health campaign for students at the start of the semester.
- Could the pledge exist as large signs, containing the pledge content, displayed around campus? Public health guidance signs will already be consistently appearing on campus.
- Utilizing an "I took the pledge" sticker, which would be like an "I voted" sticker, could be considered, but such a public display may inadvertently ostracize those who do not sign.
- Council is interested in learning if there are any academic findings pertaining to if pledges are indicative of or predictive of behaviors.
- Associate Provost Lindner will relay to Student Affairs and the administration that council had a positive discussion and while no consensus was reached, the delivery mechanism is key, and, in the spirit of bring us together as a Gator community, council agrees that it expresses core values, and that there should be no pledge tracking.

#### **4. Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.