

## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Noon

Via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99897893136?pwd=emRxczRMSU9TSmRKVXVLTmQzeVZrUT09>

Present: Keith Rambo, Paul Duncan, Angelos Barmpoutis, Amanda Phalin, Jonathan Orsini, Michael Mahoney, Laurie Bialosky, and Moon Lee.

- I. **Call to Order.**
  - The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Research & Scholarship Council Chair Keith Rambo.
- II. **Approval of September 4, 2020 Minutes**
  - The minutes were approved.
- III. **Council Chair's Report / Faculty Senate Steering Committee Update**
  - Faculty Senate is hosting a 1:30 October 6<sup>th</sup> town hall addressing the topic of the Spring 2021 semester.
  - President Fuchs continues to serve as an intermediary between the university and it's stakeholders as UF navigates the COVID-19 environment. He also clarified that the diversity initiatives announced earlier are not political statements, as has been occasionally construed in various venues. The need to address the issue of many viewing academic institutions as elitists was also raised by committee members and has been discussed at the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS).
  - The Faculty Senate Steering Committee agreed to remove the [Faculty Titles Resolution](#) vote from the October Faculty Senate agenda while the Compensation Committee Chair, Sean Trainor, meets with various College Councils/Assemblies to obtain additional feedback on the topic.
  - Thomas Knight, Dept. Chair & Sr. Lecturer in the Department of Economics, spoke to the issue of LGBTQ+ inclusion at UF and to his personal and professional experience in coming out. He will join three other diversity speakers from the UF LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee and from Queer Nation at the upcoming Senate meeting.
- IV. **Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Updates**
  - Graduate School** - Paul Duncan, Senior Associate Dean, Graduate School
    - The composition of the 2020 admissions cohort in the Graduate School is changed dramatically. While the total number of individuals accepted into the Graduate School is the same or slightly higher, the composition is such that there is a substantial increase in enrollment to master's degree programs. There are far less international student and PhD program enrollees than in the recent past. However, UF remains pleased with the continuing very high quality of students accepted into the Graduate School.
    - Possible budgetary concerns, due to economic damage from COVID, in the 2020-1

fiscal year were discussed, including anticipated decreases in the Graduate School awards which augment assistantship stipends for the most competitive students and the Graduate School's level of assistance to the research and teaching assistantships available at departmental levels.

- The essentiality of graduate and teaching assistants in face to face instruction was discussed.

- **University Libraries** - Angelos Barmpoutis, University Libraries Committee (ULC) Chair
  - University Libraries would like to bring forward a proposal regarding faculty authors' rights. The topic has been broached for the past five to six years and aims to help align UF with its aspirational peers.

- The ULC will revisit this subject and has followed the feedback and learned from other institutions who have moved this item forward.

- Perry Collins will present on this topic in further detail at the November council meeting and attend the College Councils/Assemblies Chairs and Faculty Senate Chair meeting.

**V. Office of Research** - Michael Mahoney, Director of Research Operations and Services

- Michael Mahoney discussed the final planning stages of the online Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) protocol submission system. Due to COVID, the IACAUC submission system was paused, but this new vendor product system is being launched in March 2021. A primary upgrade is the availability of an approved standard operating procedure checklist which faculty can use. This feature will save time and offer consistent and concise protocol language.

- The IACUC and Institutional Review Board (IRB) accreditation process, which occurs every 3 years, is currently in progress.

- The Office of Research has also been focused on ensuring research agreements are constituted, as appropriate, when UF Health clinical agreements during COVID are also generated.

- Re-initiating work on the master list of available equipment either at either core or in individual labs, will be worked on again this academic year. While there are some challenges in assembling the list, it will offer an opportunity for faculty to take advantage of and be aware of available on-campus equipment rather than buying new.

- In regard to conducting research with the Veteran's Administration, Michael Mahoney has worked closely and extensively with the VA, and would like to review examples of other institutions' successes in this area. This would assist the Office of Research in replicating these successes. For example, the Cancer Center has expressed interest in expanding its trials in the VA. VA research requirements tend to be quite extensive and it would be helpful to examine how UF might best amend its research business processes to better them and increase VA collaboration.

**VI. New Business-**

- Topics last suggested/submitted included: tenure clock pause; wholistic tenure and promotion (T&P) evaluations of teaching effectiveness for women and other minorities;

integrating a T&P faculty toolkit; exploring the faculty experience during COVID-19; mentoring and data collection within the university's research enterprise; and how to make the UF-VA Research collaboration as successful as many other institutions.

- Senator Amanda Phalin shared a study for council discussion:

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.20160613>. The data points to tenure pause effects on lifetime earnings and retirement savings, particularly for women, which may raise concern about UF's current tenure clock pause policy. The study reflects that it is more likely for men to receive tenure and the author speculates that when a tenure clock is paused, men do not tend to take on childcare and domestic issues, but instead continue to focus on research, resulting in an unfair systematic advantage. Council discussed advocating awareness of these inequities and implementing tenure pause policies to avoid these issues. This includes ensuring wholistic teaching evaluations and helping faculty maintain their research productivity amongst possible systemic disadvantages for women.

- Council agreed that each of the above items are topics of interest to this year's council, and it will continue to explore items pertaining to the faculty experience in terms of research and scholarship. Retention of diverse faculty will also be added to this year's council agenda.

## **VII. Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.