



## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97616925468>

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### Call to order & Approval of [March 19, 2020 Minutes](#)

**Ray G. Thomas**, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Ray G. Thomas.
- The minutes were approved.

## Reports

### Chair's Report

**Ray G. Thomas**, Chair

-The Chair:

-Shared a positive note received from Tom Mitchell, Vice President for Advancement: "We are truly blessed to have outstanding scholarly faculty as the heart and soul of our great university. Please extend our special thanks to all of them."

-Thanked Dr. Fred Southwick, Senator from the College of Medicine and member of the Senate Steering Committee, for sharing a series of COVID-19 videos he produced and which are now posted on the [Faculty Senate – Agendas / Minutes 2019 – 2020 webpage](#):

[General instructions for preventing infection spread](#)

[Pathogenesis \(how the virus causes diseases\)](#)

[Epidemiology \(how the virus spread\)](#)

[Clinical Characteristics](#)

[Treatment and Prevention](#)

-Thanked last week's Zoom town hall participants and panelists, all of whom agreed to return today to answer both Senate inquiries and those which went unanswered, due to time constraints, during the town hall meeting.

### President's Report

**Kent Fuchs**, President

-President Fuchs thanked the Senate for hosting the April 9<sup>th</sup> town hall meeting, mentioned there is no word yet regarding the state budget, and reserved his President's Report time for COVID-19 Q&A.

### Provost's Report

**Joe Glover**, Provost

-The Provost reported that after being in contact with several UF epidemiologists, it is hoped that there will be data available in June to provide a better understanding of how the pandemic is unfolding. He thanked the faculty for their patience in waiting until early July for fall semester announcements. At the April 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting, a proposal to start the first day of the fall semester on August 31, rather than the currently scheduled August 24, will be discussed. The fall semester would then be shortened by one week, would allow faculty additional class preparation time, would presumably delay students' arrival in Gainesville, and would allow additional time for the pandemic to diminish. The state-mandated 220 days of instruction would also still be met.

### ❖ Covid-19 Impacts and Updates

**David Norton**, VP of Research

**Jodi Gentry**, VP of Human Resources

**Amy Hass**, General Counsel

**Kent Fuchs**, President

**Joe Glover**, Provost

-Senior administration responded to COVID-19 questions and concerns, as detailed in the [Zoomcast](#).

## **Action Items:**

### **2020-2021 Faculty Senate Chair-Elect Election**

-Senators were given an overview of the Chair-Elect voting process, altered to accommodate the Zoom platform during the pandemic, and were reminded to complete their online ballot and to view the [candidates' qualifications and goals video and text statements](#) (listed alphabetically below):

- **David C. Bloom**, Professor, Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, College of Medicine
- **Ashley Ghiaseddin**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Neurological Surgery, College of Medicine
- **Keith Rambo**, Associate Engineer, Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering

### **Honorary Degree Candidates**

**Rick Yost**, Chair

Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Comm.

-Honorary degree candidates Drs. Eugene Brigham and Brian May were presented and approved. A brief overview was also provided regarding (and encouraging) nominee and awardee diversity.

### **Parental Leave Resolution**

**Sean Trainor**, Chair

Compensation Committee

-The Compensation Committee has been working this academic year to craft a parental leave resolution. It places a critical focus on the physical and mental well-being and health of faculty and children. The resolution calls for 12 weeks of faculty member leave and aims to advance such university goals as attracting and retaining faculty and helping to lead Florida and peer universities.

### **University Curriculum Committee**

**Angela Lindner**, Associate Provost

- [BS in Tourism, Event and Recreation Management \(TERM\)](#) for Undergraduate Affairs

-This proposal requests that the BS in Tourism, Event and Recreation Management (TERM) be renamed to the BS in Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management (THEM) to reflect the change in discipline focus and better align the BS program and department names.

### **BOT Regulations**

**Padraic Levings**, Chair

University Constitution & Regulations Committee

-This item was removed from the agenda.

### **Open Discussion from Senate Floor - Three minute limit per speaker.**

- 1) University of Florida Faculty Senators
- 2) University of Florida Faculty

-There was no additional discussion from the Senate floor.

## **Adjournment**

-The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

## **Attending**

*-\*All approximately 135 Zoom participants, including Senators, Student Senators & Guests are not identified here.*

*Liaisons include:*

Kent Fuchs

Jodi Gentry

Joe Glover

Amy Hass

Chris Hass

Angela Lindner

David Norton

Taylor Rose

Ana Spiguel

Sean Trainor

Rick Yost

