



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2019 - 3:00 p.m.
Reitz Union Chamber

Call to Order & Approval of [November 21, 2019 Minutes](#)

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

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

Reports

Chair's Report

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

- The first of the 2019 – 2020 Distinguished Professor Lectures will take place following the Senate meeting on January 30, 2020, and will feature Dr. Ray Issa of the College of Design, Construction & Planning. His presentation is entitled “Modular off-site Construction and Building Information Modeling: Case studies”.
- Faculty are reminded that elections for committee and council members will take place in the spring semester. Please consider nominating yourself, or a colleague to a university committee by completing the [nomination form](#). Also as a reminder, Senators are the only ones who qualify to fill the [five Senate Policy Council](#) vacancies.

A revamped nomination form will hopefully emphasize and clarify the [Academic Personnel Board \(APB\)](#) need, and provide more clarity in general. The APB is comprised of senior-ranked faculty members, and it advises the President with respect to promotion and tenure nominations, serving in a fact-finding and consultative role. The APB has two groups – the Orange for tenure track faculty and the Blue for non-tenure track faculty.

-The Office of UF Strategic Communications & Marketing has partnered with Simpson Scarborough to advance UF's reputation and rankings and build a distinctive national brand. Thank you to all Senate and faculty leaders that participated in the Simpson Scarborough discussion. Your participation is important to the success of this research initiative. The first step in the creation of this strategy is to conduct quantitative and qualitative research to ascertain internal and external perceptions of the University of Florida. Members of the Simpson Scarborough team have come to UF to meet with key members of our community to learn and understand the perceptions of the university, including strengths, aspirations and opportunities.

-The Chair continues working to secure a paid parental leave benefit for our faculty. In reference to the recent news stories about the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, the bill would guarantee all federal civilian employees 12 weeks of paid parental leave. It would be the first major benefit expansion for federal employees since the Family and Medical Leave Act was passed in 1993. UF can be a leader among top public universities in providing benefits and care for the welfare and quality of life of faculty.

At the last Senate meeting, the Chair discussed the apparent discrepancy between UF Directives and the policies of grant-funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for reimbursement of childcare costs when traveling on official business. To be more family-friendly, many societies now offer full-time, professionally managed and staffed on-site childcare services at their meetings. To make it more affordable for parents to attend, some societies are even subsidizing these childcare services.

The relevant councils are working with the Controller and General Counsel's offices, and in response to a request for clarification regarding UF policy, the following has been suggested as a change to the UF Directives to cover this cost:

Temporary dependent care costs above and beyond regular dependent care that directly results from travel to conferences will be allowable on funding sources other than state funding. A cost comparison of the dependent care costs incurred during travel status compared to the normal costs incurred will need to be included in supporting documentation to prove the allowable amount.

At no time will travel costs for dependents be allowable.

There is still some discussion of what "above and beyond regular dependent care" actually means in terms of the costs that can be reimbursed.

-Last week, the chair attended the UF Board of Trustees meeting and presented the Faculty Senate report to the Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs & Experience Committee, advocating for the welfare of UF faculty, and describing ongoing initiatives to improve access to quality affordable daycare and early childhood learning facilities on campus and securing a paid parental leave benefit. The chair also describes the Senate's engagement in improving the UF student experience, sharing with the trustees some of the activities that faculty are engaged in that can have meaningful impacts on the well-being of UF students. These included the faculty's concerns about the results of the [AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct](#), improving the mental health literacy of our faculty with the [Kognito online simulation course](#) that teaches effective referral techniques, and the [Green Dot](#) bystander education approach that aims to prevent violence with the help of bystander intervention. Comments from Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair, Mr. Mori Hosseini, included that the BOT is working to raise salaries over the next three years to remain competitive with peer institutions and retain talented faculty. The BOT is also focused on improving the student experience, both inside and outside the classroom, with the hope that in the future when they look back at their time here, UF students will have the kind of fond memories that bring a lifetime of support for the University of Florida.

President's Report

Kent Fuchs, President

-UF Health continues expanding south of Gainesville and is now partnering with the Villages retirement center.

-Commencement ceremonies take place tomorrow and Saturday and the faculty member who will provide the traditional address at the doctoral degree ceremony is Levin College of Law Professor Berta Hernández-Truyol.

-Based on faculty input and the recommendation of the Dean of Veterinary Medicine Search Committee, an offer has not been extended to the external candidates interviewed for the Dean of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Dana Zimmel, associate dean for clinical services at UF Veterinary Medicine, has been named interim dean.

Provost's Report

Joe Glover, Provost

-Focusing on the student experience at the university, two symposiums were recently held – one led by Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, Dr. Angela Lindner, on the academic components of student success and one led by VP for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost Dr. Zina Evans, related to the student experience outside of the classroom including student interface with housing, the Registrar, Dining Services, etc. The appointment of a new Director of Campus Experience will be announced shortly and will coordinate all of these elements to ensure a supportive environment for UF students.

-UF is focusing attention on PhD enrollment and graduation at UF which has been flat despite the hiring of new faculty, a strong budget environment, and a steady increase in contracts and grants attainment.

-The Warrington College of Business Dean search continues with four candidates having been identified. Two internal candidates have been interviewed and two external candidates will be interviewed in January.

Action Items:

University Curriculum Committee

- [CALS Marine Sciences](#)
- [CLAS Marine Sciences](#)

Youssef Haddad, Co-chair
University Curriculum Committee

-The CLAS and CALS Marine Sciences proposal are intertwined; they diverge in electives but are similar in critical tracking. The proposal aims to change from an interdisciplinary program to a degree program. Dr. Haddad explained the primary differences between the CALS and CLAS components.
-Both items were approved.

Information Items:

Admissions Policy & Improving the Campus Tour Experience

Zina Evans, Vice President for Enrollment
Management and Associate Provost

-Dr. Evans addressed the university's audit efforts following the Varsity Blues academic admissions scandal and provided an overview of the admissions application process for students and student athletes. An update was provided on UF's efforts to evaluate and improve the campus tour experience for student applicants and their parents.

[UFOLIO \(UF Online Interest Organizer\)](#)

Gary Wimsett, Assistant Vice President for
Conflicts of Interest
Terra DuBois, Director of Research
Compliance and Global Support

-Gary Wimsett introduced [the university's new online activities and interests reporting system](#) and Terra DuBois explained the purpose of and described the framework of the [International Risk Assessment](#) (IRA) piece of this tool.

University Curriculum Committee

- [LL.M. in Comparative Law Degree Program
Title Change](#)

Youssef Haddad, Co-chair
University Curriculum Committee

-This is a request to change the LL.M. in Comparative Law degree program to LL.M. in U.S. Law to better match the courses taken in this degree, better align with degree verbiage used by peer institutions, and increase degree understanding and clarification to potential employers.

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

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

-There was no discussion from the Senate floor.

Adjournment

-The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Attending

Senators

Joslyn Ahlgren
Theresa Antes

Wayne Archer
Angela Bacsik

Imre Bartos
Vincent Bird

Archie Birkner IV
Helene Blondeau
Stephanie Bogart
Donald Bolser
Lyle Brenner
Brent Broaddus
Jason Byrd
Randall Cantrell
Nancy Clark
Sherrilene Classen
Thomas Denagamage
Christina Deremer
Elizabeth Devos
John Diaz
Pamela Dickrell
Keith Diem
Randell Doty
Stephen Enloe
Breann Garbas
Kristina Garcia-Guettler
Macy Geiger
Martie Gillen
Reetu Grewal
Robert Guralnick
YoussefHaddad
Ralph Hamor
Linda Hayward
Selman Hershfield
Dennis Hiltunen
Emily Hind
Hartwig 'Henry' Hochmair
Davie Kadyampakeni
Nicholas Kaleel
Lisa King
Clint Kovach
Dennis Kramer
Mei-Fang Lan
Moon J. Lee
Jose Lemos
Lora Levett
Maureen Long
Kiran Lukose
Sarah Lynne
Ashley MacSuga-Gage
Volker Mai
Tara Mathien
Kiran Motaparathi
Walter Lee Murfee
Scott Myers

Juan Nino
Walter O'Dell
Teresa Olczyk
Joshua Patterson
William F. Patterson
Amanda Phalin
Ariel Pomputius
Keith Rambo
Jean-Francois Roulet
Hardev Sandhu
German Sandoya Miranda
John Schert
RichardScholtz
Karla Shelnutt
CynthiaSimmons
Lauren Solberg
Martin Sorbille
Frederick Southwick
RichardStepp
Delia Steverson
Zhong Su
Ray Thomas
Scott Thompson
Stephanie Toelle
Apichai Tuanyok
Lawrence Ukeiley
Katie Vogel Anderson
Christopher Vulpe
Nian Wang
Ratree Wayland
Kendall Webb
Trent Williams, Jr.
Sarah Wolking
Elizabeth Wood
Danaya Wright
CristinaZeretzke-Bien

Liaisons

Zina Evans
Kent Fuchs
Joe Glover
Chris Hass
David Norton
Ana Spiguel
Elaine Turner

Guests

Shirley Baker
Brian K. Marchman