Call to Order & Approval of December 12, 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 minutes were approved.

Reports

Chair’s Report

-Ray G. Thomas, Chair

-Nominations for university committees and councils are due January 31. Please consider nominating someone, or yourself, for a committee and/or council.

-Nominations for Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards are due March 1.

-The first of the 2019 – 2020 Distinguished Professor Lectures will take place in the Reitz Union Chamber this afternoon at 5:00 p.m., and will feature Dr. Raymond Issa, Distinguished Professor and School Director, M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Construction Management, College of Design, Construction and Planning. He will present a lecture entitled “Modular off-site Construction and Building Information Modeling: Case studies. This lecture will be live-streamed, and archived on the Faculty Senate web site.

-On February 20, 2020 again at 5:00 p.m., here in the Reitz Union Chamber, Dr. Patricia Snyder, UF Distinguished Professor and David Lawrence Jr. Endowed Chair in Early Childhood Studies, Director, Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies in the College of Education, will present the next Distinguished Professor Lecture. It is entitled “The “New” 3Rs: How the Science of Early Childhood Development and Learning Informs Research, Policy, and Recommended Practices for the Benefit of Young Children and their Families.” Emphasizing the importance of early career experiences, and how we can create more a caring culture at UF, Dr. Snyder is one of the experts whose advice the Senate Chair has sought. In the efforts to improve the childcare and early learning facilities on campus, her presentation on this important and timely topic is most welcome.

-As part of the Chair’s continued effort to strengthen UF’s system of shared governance, he has had the opportunity to attend the College of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Council, the College of the Arts Faculty Council, and the IFAS Faculty Assembly. The Chair was able to share “what the Faculty Senate does”, and listen and learn about the issues of importance to the faculty. He will also be reaching out to council and committee chairs to discuss specific concerns, and how the Faculty Senate can help.

-In the September 2019 Chair’s report, Kognito / Student Mental Health was discussed, including how our UF community is becoming increasingly aware of the amounts of stress our students are experiencing, and its negative impact on their health and academic performance. In an effort to better identify and support students in distress, all University of Florida faculty are asked to complete the Kognito online training course. This effort is also being undertaken by colleagues at other state universities at the request of Florida’s Board of Governors in order to collectively improve our ability to work with students in crisis. Kognito is a training simulation course designed to improve mental health literacy and to help faculty notice when students show signs of stress, learn how to talk about these signs, practice sharing concerns, and motivate students to seek help. UF has provided access to this online training through UF’s Counseling and Wellness Center for many years (Faculty Update, January 11, 2012)—well in advance of our colleagues throughout the state.
The Kognito training takes about 45 minutes to complete. It is convenient; the online training can be stopped and later resumed. At the end of the training, participants will receive a certificate recognizing successful completion. Soon all faculty will be automatically registered for the course and will receive an email notification that this training is available. The UF Board of Trustees has as a goal of improving the student experience and one way that the faculty can contribute to this effort is by supporting this student wellness initiative. Cooperation in meeting the Board of Governors’ request and completing this training requirement is greatly appreciated.

-The Chair thanked all who continue to participate in and support shared governance at UF.

**Action Items:**

**University Curriculum Committee**
- LL.M. in Comparative Law Degree Program
  Title Change

**Compensation Committee**
- Padraic Levings, Chair
  University Constitution & Regulations Committee

- The University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) Chair presented an update to the charge of the Compensation Committee. The proposal seeks to change the committee’s constitutional charge to evaluate matters of compensation beyond raise results and salary structures and compensation relative to peer institutions. **Note:** It also updates language to include a President or President’s designee administrative appointment to remain consistent with other constitutional language. After receiving feedback at the initial presentation at the October Senate meeting, the UCRC tweaked the language to ensure consistency with University Constitution language.
- Following discussion, the proposed verbiage was amended to include these words from the original charge: ‘report on’ and ‘make recommendations concerning’. The amendments carried and it was clarified that the Faculty Senate acts in an advisory, rather than a policy-making role. The final charge is posted here.

**Information Items:**

**University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC)**
- Padraic Levings, Chair
  University Constitution & Regulations Committee

- The UCRC Chair presented the proposed Academic Policy Council (APC) charge which is meant to clarify the council’s language that their role is not to evaluate merits of academic candidates but rather the policies defining academic requirements for administrative positions.
- The General Education Committee (GEC) proposal is a request to increase the appointed and elected GEC membership. Additional manpower is required, particularly with the recent rollout of Quest.

**Predatory Publishing**
- Perry Collins, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Digital Partnerships & Strategies, George Smathers Libraries
  Suzanne Stapleton, Agricultural Sciences and Digital Initiatives Librarian, Marston Science Library

- Scholarly publications librarian, Perry Collins, and Suzanne Stapleton, a subject specialist librarian, discussed guidelines used to help identify journals and conferences deemed predatory because they engage in fraud. There has been a steady uptick of predatory publishing-related questions to University
Libraries, which aims to help inform faculty and train students on how to avoid predatory publishing. The presentation identified community resources; provided concrete examples of this issue; encouraged the utilization of publications providing transparency and clarity; explained the criteria libraries use to help scholars with a more systematic approach; and emphasized the importance of scholars doing their own due diligence in recognizing flags and reaching out to mentors.

University Curriculum Committee

- **Data Science Major**

  - This new major is a multi-disciplinary, 120 credit hour program housed in the Dept. of Statistics. It addresses the demand for the expediential growth of data-driven fields and professions and will maximize the use of the new data sciences building being constructed on campus.

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

1) University of Florida Faculty Senators

   - There was an inquiry regarding if credit would be provided for those who have already taken the Kognito training course and this was confirmed. It was clarified that Human Resources has contacted those who had previously taken the training and noted this credit.

2) University of Florida Faculty

   - There was no discussion by University of Florida faculty from the Senate floor.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Attending

Senators

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Ray Thomas
Scott Thompson
Apichai Tuanyok
Lawrence Ukeiley
Katie Vogel Anderson
Christopher Vulpe
Nian Wang
Shawn Weatherford
Trent Williams, Jr.
Elizabeth Wood
Danaya Wright
CristinaZeretzke-Bien

Student Senators
Manasa Chekka
Devon Mims
Elizabeth ‘Izzie’ Schieber

Liaisons
Paul Duncan
Padraic Levings
Angela Lindner

Guests
Perry Collins
Brian K. Marchman
Suzanne Stapleton