



## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96007780994?pwd=QjM4ZzBMcHl1d0tRSm1NNnFEZFoxZz09>

### Call to order & Approval of [April 16, 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 congratulated Dr. David Bloom as the new Faculty Senate Chair-elect.
- The Chair thanked all faculty who contributed to the leave donation program. Over 250,000 hours of leave were donated by faculty and staff.
- The Chair provided highlights of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Retreat hosted by the Office of the Provost. This was one of the best attended events with over 500 participants, and it indicates the great interest in the topic. A featured speaker was Jensen Huang, the CEO and co-founder of NVIDIA, who presented a talk he titled "AI Democratization and the Future of Work." As Provost Glover remarked about Jensen's talk "he took us to the edge of the AI universe and back." One of NVIDIA's co-founders and UF alumnus, Chris Malachowsky (A perspective on AI), was also a speaker. NVIDIA has partnered with UF and we will be receiving the first-of-its-kind GPU-based AI machine that help establish UF as a leader in the field of AI.
- During the Board of Trustees (BOT) conference call on Tuesday, it voted to approve moving the first day of Fall instruction from August 24, 2020 to August 31, 2020.
- The BOT Chair emphasized that this current economic setback will not deter UF from reaching its goal of being a top five public university.
- At yesterday's BOT Committee pre-meeting of the Marketing, Public Relations, and Strategic Communications, Vice President Nancy Payton described "Unstoppable Minds" a new UF pod cast series. This will help boost our reputational score that accounts for 20% of the US News ranking.
- Submitted COVID-19 inquiries were addressed:
  - Q: It's definitely a positive development to make testing widely available to the UF community; however, an initial negative COVID test does not mean that a person will never get it. Is the university also instituting antibody/serology testing so we can identify those who have been exposed/recovered? If not, and we test everyone only once, it seems likely that the spread will continue, especially as the country reopens and thousands of students begin returning from around the state and elsewhere. If no antibody testing is available, are there plans to test people multiple times throughout the academic year?
  - A: There are many questions about the future. Our UF Health epidemiologists have told us that it will be early June before they will be able to provide more definitive recommendations about how we proceed with reopening campus. The Provost has indicated that the four associate provosts who are engaged in preliminary planning are: Andy McCollough, Associate Provost for Teaching and Technology; Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs; David Reed, Associate Provost for External Faculty Honors and Awards; and Chris Hass, Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs.
- This crisis has helped point out some weaknesses in our system of shared governance and how it works during an emergency. The Chair encourages future review of Faculty Senate Bylaws and consideration of improvements that could provide additional resilience in extraordinary times.

-In chairing his final Senate meeting, the Chair expressed thanks to Faculty Senate Parliamentarian Ana Spiguel; the five council chairs: Suzan Alteri (Welfare Council); Richard Scholtz (Infrastructure Council); Ashley Ghiaseddin (Budget Council); Hans Van Oostrom (Academic Policy Council) and Hannah Norton (Research and Scholarship Council); office staff; and Senators for their service and contributions to shared governance at UF.

-*On behalf of the Provost*, who is unable to join this meeting until later, the chair reported that UF is searching for a dean of the College of Journalism and Communication. Dean Diane McFarlin is stepping down. The search is being chaired by College of Health & Human Performance Dean, Mike Reid.

### **President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs**, President

-President Fuchs spoke about the challenges faculty, students, the community, and the country are facing in the pandemic and urged all to remain well and supportive of one another. The iconic Century Tower is being lit in recognition of National Nurses Week and to honor all those in the clinical practice of healthcare, many of whom have been first responders in the pandemic. Dr. Fuchs outlined some of UF's advantages in the current environment, including that UF finished the academic semester earlier than many universities, allowing for additional fall preparation time, and UF's ownership of a world class healthcare system. No fall semester decisions are being made until July. On and off campus housing leases indicate students intend to return to Gainesville in the fall. UF continues to work with the county commission, mayor's office, and city to ensure safe and consistent operational guidelines, especially given that this virus may be present for a long time. Dr. Fuchs also discussed experiential and online learning, the test and trace program roll out, and keeping everyone safe through masking, sanitizing, and social distancing practices and policies. UF will continue to assess and establish policies throughout the summer months. Dr. Fuchs addressed inquiries regarding employee testing and mask-wearing for full operational resumption of the university's research and clinical enterprises. Chair Thomas is leading a childcare options task force.

### **Action Items:**

#### **Parental Leave Resolution**

**Sean Trainor**, Chair

Compensation Committee

-This resolution calls for 12 weeks of faculty member parental leave and was approved.

#### **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.

-This item was approved.

### **Information Items:**

#### **University Curriculum Committee**

**Angela Lindner**, Associate Provost

- **Sustainability and the Built Environment**

for Undergraduate Affairs

-This was approved last month by UCC. Every two years the Office of Undergraduate Affairs performs an audit to count the total credit hours of each major, as listed in the catalog, and then reconciles it with what the BOG approves. This addresses such a discrepancy and the request is to remove MAC 1140 as an option in its semester one plan.

#### **Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) Awards**

**Chris Hass**, Associate Provost for Academic

## and Faculty Affairs

-Associate Provost Hass presented the internal awards supported by the Office of the Provost as well as university and college level awards in the areas of teaching, scholarship, advising, and mentoring. Other professional development, research, and travel awards were also named.

### University Press of Florida

**Romi Gutierrez**, Director  
University Press of Florida

-It is the 75th anniversary of the scholarly arm of the University Press of Florida. Celebrations slated for the last week of February were transitioned to online alternatives and will continue into fall. A brief historical overview of the press was presented, including: the mission of the program; its participation in a competitive manuscripts process and rigorous peer review of scholarly publications; how the press continues to share knowledge on campus and connects to state residents; and a highlight of the journals publishing program which is five years old and very strong.

-Faculty may contact the press to request a title be made digitally available.

### Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Report

**Mike Sagas**, Professor and Chair  
Tourism, Recreation & Sport Mgmt. Dept.

-The IAC is a Presidential Committee which monitors the intersection of academics and athletics at UF. It reviews policies, makes recommendations, and reports annually to Faculty Senate as part of shared governance. The IAC report includes metrics on the success of the university's student athletes, including GPA's, Academic Progress Rates (APR's), and graduation rates, all of which are trending in a positive direction. Dr. Sagas spoke briefly about how the student athletes are adjusting to the challenges and uncertainties presented by the pandemic. Expected forthcoming NCAA rule changes were noted. Anticipated changes which will significantly affect UF and its athletes include transfer rules changes and athletes' ability to profit from/own their images, likeness, and name, resulting in athletes becoming social media influencers and participating in peer advertising.

### **BOT Regulation**

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

-A notice of amendment to a university research integrity [regulation \(1.0101\)](#) was provided. The UCRC Chair advised the Senate that the UCRC gave the proposed regulation a **red** light because it affects faculty.

-The University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) has adopted a color-coded key for easily informing the senators of proposed regulation changes that may affect the senators or their colleagues:

- **Red** – proposed changes affect the faculty; please review and comment as appropriate.
- **Yellow** – proposed changes may affect or be of interest to faculty; senators may want to review and comment as appropriate.
- **Green** – proposed changes likely have minimal effect on faculty and do not necessarily warrant further review by the senators.

-The underlying policy is currently under Office of Research/faculty review. The [policy](#) and [regulation](#) will be reviewed by the Faculty Senate's Research and Scholarship Council at their next (May 12) meeting.

-Following shared governance review, the Board of Trustees will review this item in its fall meeting.

### **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 4:23 p.m.

## **Attending**

-\*All approximately 158 Zoom participants, including Senators, Student Senators & Guests are not identified here.

*Liaisons include:*

Kent Fuchs

Joe Glover

Romi Gutierrez

Chris Hass

Padraic Levings

Angela Lindner

Taylor Rose

Michael Sagas

Ana Spiguel

Sean Trainor

