



## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Zoomcast:

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/d0fcfb65acc94f068344509ffa45562c1d?catalog=8456cbab10b449868436ee51ddb84dc421>

### Call to Order & Approval of [January 21, 2021 Minutes](#)

Sylvain Doré, Chair

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

### Reports:

#### [Chair's Report](#)

Sylvain Doré, Chair

- The Chair noted that everyone is still struggling with COVID-19 and its consequences. Please be kind to each other, and feel free to guide those in need to the mental health support programs hyperlinked in today's [Chair's Report](#).
- The Chair encouraged everyone to support the February 18, 2021 Gator National Giving Day, Stand Up & Holler.
- Mark Helms, Assistant Vice President for Facilities, has received requests from the Chair to help address COVID-19 concerns and has coordinated the [Classroom Air Exchange Data website](#). The site identifies and shares the ventilation airflow in classroom spaces. In a classroom with less than 4 Air Change per Hour (ACH), UF Health recommends staggered class occupancy (in which the next class block will have no class) to allow for additional ACH. Inquiries can be directed to [Assistant VP Helms](#).
- COVID-19 numbers are stable and relatively low. Mutations are being monitored. Some mathematical predictions reflect that the peak (more than triple) could be reached at the end of April and the beginning of May. All are encouraged to only wear the N95 or KN95, especially in the classroom. Today UF Health Screen, Test & Protect Director Michael Lauzardo will share updates on the pandemic numbers, vaccines, vaccination programs, new COVID-19 variants, which can be up to 40-70% more infectious than the current strain, and the plan to fully return back to normal starting Summer B.
- An [optional narrative section](#) has been added to UF's [tenure & promotion](#) submission system for faculty who wish to share specific justifications or explanations for any pandemic-related interruptions in work or productivity which could ultimately affect one's promotion opportunities or timeline.
- Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Angela Lindner is leading a task force, which includes faculty members, to review and develop an automated student reporting process to potentially replace the Gator Safe App.
- Because a number of academic calendar options are still being reviewed in consultation with Registrar Steve Pritz and Associate Provost of Undergraduate Affairs Angela Lindner, the '[2025-2026 Academic Calendar](#)' has been removed from the 2/18 Faculty Senate agenda as an "Action Item"; it has been referred back to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. It will then be presented as an Information Item at a future Faculty Senate meeting and will be voted on as an Action Item the following month. Matching UF and Alachua County schools' Spring Breaks appears to be an option and may help faculty, graduate students, and postdocs with school-aged children.
- As requested, the Faculty Senate Chair now serves on the Academic, Faculty and Student Success, Public Relations and Strategic Communications Committee on the Board of Trustees (BOT), chaired by Trustee Rahul Patel. This BOT has increased its focus on the 'Graduate Student Experience' and its essentialness to UF's research and education mission. The Chair and Keith Rambo, Research and

Scholarship Council Chair, welcome the 'Graduate Student Experience' agenda items to strengthen international and domestic graduate student recruitment and retention. Dr. Lily Lewis will address the Senate today to clarify the plan to resolve the Postdoctoral Associate to Postdoctoral Fellow benefit issues.

- There is a wide-spread concern about a number of traffic incidents on University Avenue, 13th Street, Archer Road, and around campus. Senior leadership and Sr. VP and Chief Operating Officer Charlie Lane are engaging in active discussions to address these issues and have taken concrete actions in coordination with the city, county, and state. Immediate action has been taken to increase police presence (which appears to be zero tolerance), and pedestrian crossings have been upgraded to increase visibility. There are discussions to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph and add speed tables.
- Collaboration on a permanent solution to childcare issues and the lack of space continues with the Board of Trustee members, especially Trustee O'Keefe, and Director of Human Resources, Jodi Gentry. A preliminary plan will be presented at the March Board of Trustees meeting.
- In addressing current events, notably following the death of Mr. George Floyd, and in lieu of distributing a standard statement, the Chair asked Faculty Senate Councils and Committees to create a list of actionable items. Faculty and Senators are encouraged to contact Welfare Council Chair Sarah Lynne to provide suggestions.
- Faculty and Senators are welcome to contact the Chair of the Faculty Senate or any of the Faculty Senate Councils or Committees with any campus concerns.
- Populated by each College Dean's office and housed on the Faculty Senate website, a UF Faculty Memorial Page is under construction with assistance from UFIT. A [preview](#), displaying Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Dr. Hartmut Derendorf, was provided. A search tool will be enabled. This project's key goal is to house such memorials in one, central location for all UF faculty members.
- The following nominations are open and diverse nominations are encouraged:
  - Submit your [Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards Nominations](#) by March 1.
  - Submit your 2022-23 Faculty Senate Chair Nominations to [the Faculty Senate Secretary](#) by March 31.

### **President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs, President**

- President Fuchs is encouraged by the most recent COVID data showing recent local and global declines in COVID positivity rates. Less than three percent of campus quarantine space is being used.
- An administrative memo was sent this week announcing the departure of inaugural Chief Diversity Officer Antonio Farias in mid-March. VP of Human Resources Jodi Gentry is leading the search committee for this national search.
- UF's last in-person ceremony was held in December of 2019. College deans shared input with Dr. Fuchs who has put forward some commencement ceremony proposals, following safety protocols and CDC guidelines. President Fuchs plans to announce tomorrow that a large number (about +16) ceremonies will be held in the O'Connell Center this spring at about 20 percent facility capacity. An average of 8500 students typically participate in [UF's commencement ceremonies](#).
- President Fuchs received a note of gratitude from a mom who contrasted differences between the academic experiences of her two children, one who attends UF, and one who attends a prestigious institution in California. She discussed the universities' offerings and operational levels during COVID and its contribution to a gratifying college experience for her child. Both she and Dr. Fuchs expressed appreciation of and for the work of the faculty and the university while facing many pandemic challenges this academic year.

### **Provost's Report**

**Joe Glover, President**

- Dean Hank Frierson is stepping away from his role as Graduate School Dean. An internal search is underway and has been announced. Nominations for candidates are encouraged. Executive Chief of Staff Win Phillips is chairing this search committee.
- UF is approaching a signature day of the academic year: the Office of Admissions' distribution of acceptances notices, which takes place on the last Friday of February. UF seeks a freshman class of 5400 and has a strong pool of candidates.
- UF is now planning summer and fall classes. The weekly medical advisory group which meets with Provost Glover has advised that summer A will commence as is currently scheduled. Some pandemic precautions, such as social distancing, may be dropped for Summer B, but such policies and procedures will be revisited and adjusted as this group continues to monitor the pandemic situation. This medical advisory group is expected to provide another update in mid-May and prior to UF Preview.

## Action Items:

### Graduate Council

**Paul Duncan**, Sr. Associate Dean

#### [Information Systems & Operations Management MS Credit Modification](#)

Graduate School

- The Warrington College of Business seeks to increase the maximum amount of credit for the Master of Science in Information Systems and Operations Management (M.S.I.S.O.M.) Degree. The M.S.I.S.O.M. program is STEM accredited and provides computing, analytic, and data skills appropriate for a business setting.
- This item was approved.

### University Curriculum Committee

**Angela Lindner**, Associate Provost  
for Undergraduate Affairs

#### [-Telecommunication Degree Name Change to Media Production, Management, and Technology](#)

#### [-Telecommunication Major Name Change to](#)

#### [Media Production, Management, and Technology](#)

#### [-Terminate BA/MA Religion Combination Degree](#)

- To more accurately define the program, the College of Journalism and Communications requests a degree and major name change from Telecommunication to Media Production, Management, and Technology.
- The termination of the BA/MA Religion Combination Degree is requested. There have been no enrollees for ten years, so no students will currently be impacted by this degree termination.
- These items were approved.

## Information Items:

### [COVID and Vaccine Updates](#)

**Michael Lauzardo**, Director  
UF Health Screen, Test & Protect

- Dr. Lauzardo shared the epidemic curves for campus and the state. 12,000-15,000 tests are being conducted per week and there is an average of about 25 cases per day. Hospitalizations are dropping in the county. 438 county cases were reported last week, which is the lowest number seen in that category since June. UF Health and Alachua County vaccine supply and allocation, which is dictated/managed by the state, were discussed. The high percentage of vaccines given in the county for those over 65 was discussed. About 45,000 county residents have received at least one vaccine dose. Scheduling challenges with limited resources were discussed. 72 percent of virus transmissions

originate from 20, 30, and 40-year-olds. The vaccine efficacy is very strong after 12 days of taking the first vaccine dose. Misconceptions, clarifications, and the various reasons for the reluctance of some to vaccinate, UF impacts and community partnerships were reviewed. The vaccines are effective with the current variants. Next steps include that UF Health will conduct clinical trials which will enroll 750 - 1000 students. Inquiries were answered regarding campus testing and operational strategies, double-masking requirements, and vaccine options.

### **Office of Postdoctoral Affairs Updates**

**Lily Lewis**, Director, Postdoctoral Affairs & Academic Communications

- An overview and update of postdoctoral appointments and health insurance options for Postdoctoral Fellows and Postdoctoral Associates were provided. There are currently 696 Postdoctoral Associates and 37 Postdoctoral Fellows enrolled at UF. The postdoctoral appointment policy was reviewed, as well as the options available when a transition from a Postdoctoral Associate to a Postdoctoral Fellowship occurs. A two-hour postdoctoral student orientation session is done monthly and provides students with the opportunity to meet with personnel to discuss insurance options and other inquiries. Student resources were highlighted. The UF Engaged program will launch in March.

### **Update on Title IX Changes**

**Russell Froman**, Assistant Vice President for Accessibility and Gender Equity

- Assistant Vice President Froman discussed the impact on UF students, faculty, and employees of new U.S. Department of Education rules rolling back Obama-era guidelines on Title IX, including new sexual misconduct definitions and complaint procedures. UF's communication plans and goals to assist employees were discussed and the websites about the process were shared. All resources discussed and listed below can be accessed at the program's website <https://titleix.ufl.edu/>:  
<https://titleix.ufl.edu/the-process/>  
<https://titleix.ufl.edu/get-help/campus-resources/>  
<https://titleix.ufl.edu/get-help/community-resources/>

### **Successful College Collaborations Series**

**Michael Reid**, Dean  
College of Health & Human Performance  
**David Richardson**, Dean  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- Deans Reid and Richardson shared successful college collaborations from the [College of Health & Human Performance](#) and the [College of Liberal Arts & Sciences](#).

### **University Curriculum Committee**

**Angela Lindner**, Associate Provost  
for Undergraduate Affairs

#### **Plant Science BA Degree Termination**

- This request for the termination of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Plant Science is being made by the plant science committee and faculty due to the lack of student selection, current course offerings, and program structure. No students are currently enrolled in this program.

### **Including Native Americans in Our Dialogue on Diversity**

**Richard Conley**, Director  
American Indian and Indigenous Studies

- Dr. Conley provided a historical overview and context nationally and in Florida of indigenous peoples and native connections to UF. Student and faculty indigenous representation and inclusion in the DEI space were also discussed.

**Open Discussion from Senate Floor** - *Three minutes 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 5:09 p.m.

**Attending**

- View meeting registrants [here](#).