



**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.**

Zoomcast:

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/1d6fc892fa9246b6a93800892198e8621d?catalog=8456cbab10b449868436ee51ddb84dc421>

Call to Order & Approval of [October 15, 2020 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 Faculty Senate Chair:

- Discussed and encouraged positivity for faculty, undergraduate, post-doctoral, and graduate students, support staff, and the community during this complex semester of electoral, social, weather, and COVID-related disruptions.
- Shared [slides](#) highlighting the Zoomcast links to the: November 18 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences anti-racism panel; the Faculty Senate-sponsored October 30 First Amendment panel; the October 28 UF School of Music Faculty Showcase Concert; and the university-wide and Faculty Senate committees/councils/boards [nomination form](#) (due January 31) and explanatory chart.
- Encouraged staff membership in the [Academic and Professional Assembly \(APA\)](#), which fosters professional enrichment and inclusivity for staff across campus.
- Has inquired about the air quality in each classroom.
- Emphasized the need to focus on the graduate student experience and enhance their support systems at UF.
- Will provide an update on benefits available to Post-doctoral Associates and Fellows.
- Encouraged faculty participation in the values survey, led by President Fuchs.
- Additionally:
 - The [September 22, 2020 Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping](#) remains in effect for UF and other federal contract-holders. Although it is anticipated that the new federal administration may repeal it, some university diversity training has been delayed to comply with the order.
 - BabyGator hours are being extended in January from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

President's Report

Kent Fuchs, President

- President Fuchs discussed the symbolism and representation contained in components of his [Diversity Initiatives Memo](#). Progress and goals for these initiatives, many of which focus on advocacy for the needs of black colleagues, can be found at: antiracism.ufl.edu. Departments and units are encouraged to continue to actively address issues of racism, diversity, and the fifteen steps outlined in his memo.
- President Fuchs expressed gratitude to the faculty and staff for their efforts this semester, and for their partnership with one another. He also discussed the university's state of readiness for the spring semester.
- Dr. Fuchs shared a story he just submitted to *The Independent Alligator* of the restorative journey of a UF student who arrived at the university four years ago as a recovering opioid addict.

Provost's Report

Joe Glover, President

- Discussion with the Deans about scheduling courses for Summer and Fall 2021 will begin on Friday.
- A new employee newsletter designed to help keep all informed during these exceptional times will be distributed shortly. The first issue is devoted to the Spring 2021 semester.
- CDC physical distancing guidelines will be followed for Spring 2021 classes; classrooms have been re-configured to space seating six to eight feet apart. To deter the virus spread, epidemiologists have learned to continue to place strong emphasis on handwashing, distancing, and required masking but, based on the science, less so on surface-touch avoidance. Classroom air quality and ventilation systems have been measured by Facility Services, and, in consultation with UF Health, examined, and deemed safe. UF Health's Test, Trace, and Protect Program contact tracing has shown virus spread has not happened in the academic settings on campus this fall, but rather has occurred in other social settings. However, vigilance and adherence to all COVID precautions will remain through the spring.
- The Provost introduced Dr. David Nelson, UF Health President & Senior VP for Health Affairs, who answered questions and discussed UF and UF Health's approach to and available tools for controlling COVID. The Spring 2021 semester was discussed at length and Drs. Fuchs, Glover, and Nelson answered inquiries. View Dr. Nelson's presentation slides [here](#).

Action Items:

[UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation \(SFRC\) - Name Change](#)

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

- The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences requests changing the name of the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) to the proposed name: School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences. This name change was approved by the University Curriculum Committee and by Graduate Council.
- This item was approved.

Information Items:

[Furlough Draft Policy](#)

Jodi Gentry, VP of Human Resources

- VP Gentry answered inquiries from Senators and provided a furlough policy update. The 'track and change' update of this policy is available at: <https://hr.ufl.edu/draft-furlough-policy/> and was discussed in detail with Faculty Senate. VP Gentry will revisit this policy at the December Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting.

[Diversity Inclusion at UF](#)

Antonio Farias, Chief Diversity Officer

- Chief Diversity Officer Antonio Farias discussed [navigating race and racism at UF](#) and provided historical background and a plan of action.

Successful College Collaborations Series

Chimay Anumba, Dean
College of Design, Construction and Planning

Onye P. Ozuzu, Dean
College of Arts

-Dean Anumba and Ozuzu shared successful college collaborations from the [College of Design, Construction and Planning](#) and the [College of Arts](#).

Graduate Council

-[Close Occupational Therapy Major for the MHS Degree](#)

Paul Duncan, Sr. Associate Dean
Graduate School

-[Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology](#)

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

-The College of Public Health and Health Profession is requesting the [close of the major in Occupational Therapy Major for the Master of Health Science Degree](#). This was an online, post-professional program. Additionally, UF now offers a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) doctorate.

-The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) is requesting termination of the [Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology](#) program. The Graduate School and Graduate Council agrees with the proposed program termination and no students are currently enrolled in the program.

-The faculty would like to [rename the Department of Telecommunications to Media Production, Management and Technology](#) to more accurately reflect elements of the program and degree.

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 5:18 p.m.

Attending

-[View meeting registrants here](#).