



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Webinar: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91726657468>

Welcome

Sylvain Doré, Chair

-The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Sylvain Doré, who welcomed Senators and guests.

State of the University Address

W. Kent Fuchs, President

University of Florida

-President Fuchs presented [the 2020 State of the University Address](#).

Chair's Report

Sylvain Doré, Chair

-As partners in university shared governance, the Faculty Senate Chair shared faculty input regarding UF's re-opening blueprint plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Board of Governors (BOG) this summer. Faculty Senate discussed and reviewed the plan, along with college deans and department chairs, and through an emergency Welfare Council June meeting. To keep faculty informed, Faculty Senate sponsored a town hall with over 2600 participants and panelists Chief Operating Officer, Charlie Lane; VP of Human Resources, Jodi Gentry; President Kent Fuchs; Provost Joe Glover; VP & General Counsel Amy Hass; and the Faculty Senate Chair. [Answers to representative town hall and university re-opening inquiries](#) are posted on this [Faculty Senate web page](#), and through various FAQs on UF websites. UF faculty, epidemiologists, physicians, and COVID-19 support teams continue to collaborate to move the plan forward. Thank you to the staff, first responders, and custodians who have kept the university open.

-In this unprecedented time, the work and dedication of the Faculty Senate councils, committees, and Senators are greatly appreciated. Please stay engaged by proposing actionable items and utilizing the 'suggestion box' [link](#) which has been added to the [Faculty Senate home page](#).

-As a new trustee, the Faculty Senate Chair gave an update about the faculty during the June BOT meeting and recognized the heroic efforts made by the faculty and support staff during this COVID-19 crisis period. Short- and long-term solutions to childcare and caregiver issues which have come to the forefront during COVID-19 are also being addressed with leadership.

-Faculty Senate will contribute to President Fuchs' call to action on matters of diversity and will have this as a standing item on each monthly agenda. Increasing education, training, and accountability on matters of race equity, inclusion, and attention to the Black Lives Matters movement will be a key focus. Faculty Senate sponsored an 'Open Dialogue with Police' Town Hall on July 30 with Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell, UF Police Chief Linda Stump-Kurnick, and Gainesville Police Chief Tony Jones.

-Faculty Senate looks forward to hearing from Provost Glover this year regarding the Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiative between UF and [NVIDIA](#).

Action Items:

Approval of [May 7, 2020 Minutes](#)

Sylvain Doré, Chair

-The minutes were approved.

[Academic Calendar / Homecoming Update](#)

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost
for Undergraduate Affairs

- An emergency Steering Committee meeting was held yesterday to approve the placement of this item on today's action agenda. Following input from University Athletics, the Provost's Office, Human Resources, and the Florida Blue Key, Associate Provost Lindner requests that the Faculty Senate amend this year's previously Senate-approved university calendar to revert the October 2, 2020 Homecoming official university holiday to a class instruction and employee workday.
- The Florida Blue Key will carry out its Homecoming activities virtually throughout the month of October. There will be no Homecoming Parade. The Alachua County School District has reverted October 2 to a class day (from a holiday). Additionally, the community is eager to alleviate the concerns involved with a mass, Homecoming gathering during a pandemic.
- To address the removal of a paid holiday for university employees, particularly staff, who did not benefit from the extra five days off due to the push-back of the start of the semester from August 24 to August 31, (i.e. faculty did not have to begin their instruction until August 31), this proposal reflects that the Homecoming holiday be substituted with December 24 as an official holiday. After having lost five instructional days due to the delayed start of the semester because of COVID-19, students and faculty will benefit by gaining a day of classroom instruction on Homecoming if the proposal is accepted.
- This item was approved.

University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost
for Undergraduate Affairs

[Sustainability and the Built Environment](#)

- This was approved by the 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.
- This item was approved.

Information Items:

Human Resources Updates

Jodi Gentry, VP of Human Resources

- VP Gentry shared that, as one of the nation's top public research universities, UF is dedicated to elevating the suite of benefit offerings and services to support the wellbeing of faculty and staff and to be responsive to a range of individual and family needs. With this in mind, UF Human Resources is introducing enhancements and changes to the leave benefits and voluntary investment plan services that will take effect in 2021 and has added a family resource officer. More information will be shared this academic year with Faculty Senate and a September town hall will also provide an opportunity for employees to learn more about these initiatives.

University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost
for Undergraduate Affairs

- [Common Prerequisite Manual for Programs in CALS](#)
 - Working with the Office of Undergraduate Affairs, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is requesting a modification to the Common Prerequisite Manual (CPM) for the following programs: Food and Resource Economics; Animal Sciences; Plant Science; Soil and Water Sciences; Forest Resources and Conservation; Geomatics; Entomology; Interdisciplinary Studies;

Dietetics; Horticultural Science; Wildlife Ecology and Conservation; Human Resource Development (FYCS); Nutritional Science; Food Science; and Landscape and Nursery Horticulture.

Graduate Council

Paul Duncan, Sr. Associate Dean
Graduate School

- [PhD with Major in Plant Breeding](#)
- This interdisciplinary PhD degree in Plant Breeding is proposed to fill the demand for breeding research and for training new plant breeding graduates at the University of Florida.
- [Termination Health Services Research PhD Program](#)
- This is a request to terminate the Health Services Research PhD, which has been replaced with the PhD in Public Health, Health Services Research concentration.
- [Name change of Major from Tourism and Recreation Management to Tourism and Hospitality Management](#)
- The Department of Tourism, Hospitality & Event Management in the College of Health and Human Performance is proposing to rename the current MS with a major in Tourism & Recreation Management (TRM) program to MS with a major in Tourism & Hospitality Management (THM).

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 4:10 p.m.

Attending

-260+ Zoom attendees participated.