



**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
December 17, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Zoomcast:** <https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/c1042aa93f274b3d93aa26fb22e1e57c1d>

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**Call to Order & Approval of [November 19, 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 Chair expressed gratitude to all medical personnel caring for COVID 19 patients and all faculty for their efforts and resilience this semester.
- The Chair provided a furlough policy update, following its discussion at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting and subsequent approval at the December 14<sup>th</sup> BOT Finance, Strategic Planning and Performance Metrics Committee meeting:
  - The furlough regulation was approved at the September 29<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting.
  - Chair Doré voted in opposition to the furlough policy and outlined his and constituents' concerns about the policy. He shared these concerns at the December 14<sup>th</sup> BOT committee meeting and at Faculty Senate.
- The Chair continues to encourage an increased trustee focus on the 'Graduate Student Experience' and needs, including housing. All are encouraged to send constructive feedback on how to meet such graduate student goals by contacting the Faculty Senate Chair and fellow Senators.
- In addition to the furlough policy, and graduate student housing cuts and rental rate increases, public comments entertained at the Board of Trustees meeting included the topics of COVID 19, ongoing ADA accommodations, and Spring 2021 F2F classes.
- Engineering reports about ventilation in all classrooms and campus gathering locations for students, staff, and faculty will be shared.
- Due to COVID, Baby Gator has reduced hours until 4:30 p.m. and reduced childcare numbers (from 344 to 240 children). In January, the number will increase to 265, and hours will be extended to 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Baby Gator Director, Dr. Stacy Ellis, and her team reported no COVID transmissions and the Chair continues to work with Trustee O'Keefe on resolutions of long-term childcare issues.
- Academic Policy Council (APC) Chair Hans van Ostrom, provided an overview of a newly-approved [Canvas policy](#) which aims to help faculty prepare for all teaching/instructional formats.

**President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs, President**

- President Fuchs discussed the arrival of the COVID vaccine on campus and its positive implications.
- The groundbreaking for the Chris Malachowsky Data Sciences & New Technology Building took place this month. Context, including a brief overview of funding mechanisms for campus construction projects, was provided for this, as well as other campus construction projects.
- Dr. Fuchs expressed gratitude and appreciation to the faculty for their accomplishments this calendar year.

## Provost's Report

**Joe Glover**, President

-An update on the [HiPerGator AI project](#) was provided, including the scale and speed of this supercomputer, and its computational research benefits. The interface available for faculty to prepare data and to input projects into the machine was also discussed. Research funding inquiries can be directed to Department Chairs, College Associate Deans for Research, or the office of the [Vice President for Research, David Norton](#). To speak to a technology or supercomputer specialist, contact the office of the [Vice President and CIO, Elias Eldayrie](#).

## Action Items:

### 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. This item was approved.

-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.

-This item was approved.

-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.

-This item was approved.

## Information Items:

### COVID and Vaccine Updates

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

-Dr. Lauzardo provided an update on: the vaccine, targeted and surveillance testing on campus, Florida COVID numbers, and the latest developments surrounding COVID.

### Successful College Collaborations Series

**Douglas S. Jones**, Director of the Florida  
Museum of Natural History and Curator  
**Judith Russell**, Dean University Libraries

-Director Jones and Dean Russell shared successful college collaborations from the [Florida Museum of Natural History](#) and the [University Libraries](#).

### [Spring F2F Readiness Update: HyFlex Technology in the Classroom](#)

**Mark McCallister**, Director  
Academic Technology

-Mark McCallister provided an update on the timeline and approach to the HyFlex technology and equipment being installed and enabled in campus learning spaces. The optimization of classrooms, available equipment and resources, and examples of Hyflex room upgrades were reviewed.

### [Research Undergraduate Training/Opportunities](#)

**Jennifer Moses**, Assistant Director

-Anne Donnelly, Director of the Center for Undergraduate Research joined Assistant Director Jennifer Moses in providing an overview of the center, as well as its available resources for faculty and students.

**Diversity: Intersectional Analysis as a Framework for Analyzing Equity and Justice Institutional Inequalities, & Faculty Hiring Practical Tips**

**Bonnie Moradi**, Director of the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research

**Audrey M. Gainey**, Director  
Talent Acquisition & Onboarding

-Bonnie Moradi's [presentation](#) offered a framework of how to think about and analyze diversity, equity, and justice at the institutional level. Gender, race, sexuality, class, as well as other sociodemographics were discussed in terms of a structural analysis of faculty recruitment. Audrey Gainey, UF HR Director of Talent Acquisition and Onboarding, presented hiring resources which could be used to explore concrete [strategies for inclusive recruiting](#).

**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 5:19 p.m.

**Attending**

-[View meeting registrants here](#).