



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Zoomcast:

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/35eade20fcdf4b999786bd338cbca8b11d?catalog=8456cbab10b449868436ee51ddb84dc421>

Call to Order & Approval of [December 17, 2020](#)

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:

- Extended new year's greetings and gratitude to faculty and staff, particularly for those caring for COVID 19 patients. Please utilize [resources to encourage good mental health](#) for yourself and your colleagues as we all navigate through the pandemic.
 - Requested that Provost Glover address faculty concerns raised by the implementation of a 'course concerns' feature on the Gator Safe app., including how the app originated, future plans, clarification of standard grievance processes and reviews, and trust-building between students, faculty and the administration. The Chair received many phone calls and emails from faculty concerned about adverse impacts on shared governance and the negative attention received by some national news sources, colleagues in the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates ([ACFS](#)), and others.
 - Is encouraging discussion in Faculty Senate about how to help negate any potential state-wide, university budget cuts, such as promoting potential early retirements, etc.
 - Continues to collaborate with Board of Trustee members on a permanent solution to childcare issues and the lack of space.
 - Requested that information regarding air exchange and fresh air in each classroom and commons rooms be made available, and that Sr. VP for Health Affairs & UF Health President, David Nelson provide a COVID and virus vaccine update today. COVID19 tests remain available for scheduling.
 - Requested that Faculty Senate councils and committees generate a list of actionable items to share, notably following the events which succeeded the death of Mr. George Floyd. More recently, the term nativism has resurfaced. Important faculty discussions about addressing racism continue.
 - Welcomed speaker suggestions for the Faculty Senate's continuing series on diversity.
 - Directed the Board of Trustees' attention to the 'Graduate Student Experience'. Constructive ideas and actionable plans to address the loss of 340 on-campus graduate student housing units (i.e. due to implementation of the Campus Master Plan) are welcomed. Graduate students account for one-third of all UF students. They assist in bolstering UF's university rankings and peer institution competitiveness, and their retention and recruitment are essential.
 - Reminded faculty that the following nominations are open and encouraged diverse nominees:
 - [Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards](#) – Due March 1
- Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged for all seats below:*
- 2022-23 Faculty Senate Chair. Submit nominees to [the Faculty Senate Secretary](#) by March 31.

- [University Committees and Councils](#) – Due January 31; only [current Senators](#) are eligible for nomination to the [five Faculty Senate Councils](#).
- During the nomination period, the nomination forms are available at the above hyperlinks.
- Committee participation FAQ's, as well as the recording of the virtual open house hosted by the Faculty Senate Committee and Council Chairs to answer such FAQ's, are posted on the [Faculty Senate home page](#). Chairs have agreed to answer all additional questions from faculty. Shared governance participation by faculty is highly encouraged and specific recommendations or inquiries are welcomed by all Chairs.
- Announced the [Distinguished Professor Lecture Series](#).

President's Report

Kent Fuchs, President

- President Fuchs discussed UF budget plans to work with the legislature during its legislative session, taking place over the next several months, to achieve mutual goals and UF aspirations to grow faculty in the area of Artificial Intelligence (AI), maintain competitive salaries with peer institutions, and invest in campus infrastructure, including deferred maintenance.
- Pedestrian safety changes, particularly for students, will be enacted on University Avenue. Dr. Fuchs spoke about the death of Ms. Sophia Lambert and the injury of four students resulting from a January 16, 2021 University Avenue car crash, which follows the December 2020 University Avenue hit-and-run death of UF student Ms. Maggie Paxton, and the January 29, 2020 death of Ms. Denise Griffiths in the 2500 block of E. University Avenue. University Avenue is a state road which is state-maintained and UF Chief Operating Officer Charlie Lane will work with the city and the Department of Transportation to facilitate safety improvements.
- This semester, UF has not seen the spikes in positive COVID testing rates, which were seen when students returned to campus Fall semester. Dr. Fuchs expressed gratitude to students and UF Health for their management of the virus and this lower COVID testing positivity rate. At this point, faculty over 65 have had the opportunity to vaccinate.
- Dr. Fuchs expressed gratitude to faculty and staff who continue to successfully conduct teaching, scholarship, and clinical work in the strain and intensity of the COVID environment. Commendation was made as it was noted that UF now has more students seeking admission and being taught today than in the past and scholarship has risen.

Provost's Report

Joe Glover, President

- Provost Glover shared statistics following this past weekend's conclusion of the Add/Drop period:
 - Students taking one or more face-to-face (F2F) courses: 16,577; Graduate 5,635; Professional: 3,318.
 - UF's undergraduate population is 38,497, so 43 percent of undergraduates (16,577/38,497) are taking F2F courses this spring. Because an individual student may take more than one F2F course, the number of filled F2F seats was also shared: 29,690 seats.
- The Gator Safe app was updated to facilitate the reporting of COVID violations, course and course structure concerns, and is intended to serve as a vehicle for students to easily and quickly report such concerns, on an app already familiar to students. Discussion included: the app's reporting structure; concerns expressed by faculty of the app undercutting morale and trust; the app's re-design from a drop-down menu to a free text box; the academic policy and procedure conflict resolution process and the hierarchy of this reporting process; the faculty grievance processes; and, as suggested by a Faculty Senator, the creation of an app faculty applause button.

- Dr. Glover discussed the arithmetic the HiPerGator AI is able to execute and shared panoramic-view photos of the [HiPerGator AI supercomputer and theHiPerGator 3.0 general purpose supercomputer](#). The new supercomputer is fully installed and operational. The Chief Information Officer's staff is configuring it and it will be available for faculty use by late January or early February.

Information Items:

[COVID and Vaccine Updates](#)

David R. Nelson, Sr. VP for Health Affairs & UF Health President

- Dr. Nelson provided an update on the COVID vaccine, including distributions of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, and the fourteen-day outlook on vaccine supply and appointments. Dr. Nelson also responded to inquiries regarding the recent, more contagious virus mutants, the spacing of vaccinations, and the state's vaccination policies.

Academic Integrity

Andy McCollough, Associate Provost for Teaching and Technology

- Feedback was received last fall that online enrollment classes were at times being compromised by various forms of cheating. Associate Provost McCollough led an Online Learning Assessment & Academic Integrity group. It assembled to examine this problem, and academic integrity as a general study. The group is comprised of Associate Deans, students, and faculty to work under the assumption of five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. These are fundamental to higher education and are dependent on the actions and attitudes of faculty, students, and administrators.

Successful College Collaborations Series

Anna M. McDaniel, Dean
College of Nursing

Dana N. Zimmel, Dean
College of Veterinary Medicine

- Dean Zimmel shared successful college collaborations from the [College of Veterinary Medicine](#). Dean McDaniel was unable to attend Faculty Senate today and is being re-scheduled.

Graduate Council

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

Paul Duncan, Sr. Associate Dean
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.

University Curriculum Committee

[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](#)

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

- 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.

2025-2026 Academic Calendar

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost
for Undergraduate Affairs

- The 2025-2026 academic calendar was presented, and Dr. Lindner responded to inquiries about a possible later start of the semester and matching UF and Alachua County public school Spring Break.

Striving for Non-normal After the Pandemic: Racism, Resetting, and Equity Within the Academy

Cecilia Suarez, Co-President
Latinx Staff/Faculty Association

- Dr. Suarez discussed rethinking and refocusing on issues of cultural relevance following the pandemic. Anti-racist teaching praxis, including course inventory, language and communication, and modes of inclusivity were also presented.

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 4:59 p.m.

Attending

-[View meeting registrants here.](#)