

**Call to Order & Approval of [August 25, 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 acknowledged colleagues, primarily from IFAS, coping with Hurricane Sally flooding in the Florida Panhandle.
- The Chair encouraged all to take the "[IPledgeFlorida](#)" pledge to uphold university standards to reduce COVID-19 spread, and share this pledge and webpage with faculty, students, and staff.
- An ordinance limiting indoor gatherings to ten was under consideration, but the current indoor occupancy limit for Alachua County is 50 people. To report COVID-19 policy violations and compliance issues, utilize the GatorSafe app to text and/or upload pictures 24/7 or use Alachua County's 311 Critical Information line.
- The Chair reminded faculty of the new UF policy to wear masks everywhere on campus, including outdoors.
- COVID-19 data for the university can be located on a publicly available portal from the [UF home page](#). Posted today and updated as of September 11<sup>th</sup>, the percentages of positive COVID-19 cases at UF are: 0.34% for faculty and staff; 3.1% for students, and 27.1% from the Student Health Care Center. UF Health President & Sr. Vice President for Health Affairs, Dr. David Nelson, will provide further information at today's meeting.
- While instructing, faculty can ask ill students to leave class and contact Student Health.
- Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards nominations close on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please encourage diverse nominations for consideration by the [Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards Committee](#).
- The week of Sept 21<sup>st</sup> is National Postdoc Appreciation Week; please take the time to recognize the work of these dedicated PhD's who provide essential work and intellectual input to the university's research mission.
- At the last Board of Trustees meeting, held in Daytona Beach, a large focus was on Artificial Intelligence (AI). This AI initiative involves all 16 colleges, and Provost Glover will talk more about this at today's meeting.
- The Faculty Senate Chair is now working with Trustee Daniel T. O'Keefe, on a permanent solution to issues related to the Baby Gator facilities, including continuing the quality delivery of the early childhood learning experience. A notice of openings for September enrollment has been distributed and early application is encouraged.
- The Board of Trustees has asked Chief Diversity Officer Antonio Farias to provide more reports, data, and trends about diversity on campus, and he and VP of Human Resources Jodi Gentry will share related regulations, policies, and initiative information with Faculty Senate.
- The Chair discussed the need to address systemic racism, increase recruitment of diverse faculty, and shared [Human Resource's Racial Justice Education Initiative](#) information. Faculty Senate Councils and the College Councils/Assemblies continue to work on diversity issues. The

Chair is working with Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing, Nancy Paton, to have a central calendar highlighting such events and activities and faculty are encouraged to participate in these activities.

-To improve the faculty experience and strengthen representation on behalf of faculty, suggestions and actionable items can be submitted at this [link](#) on the [Faculty Senate homepage](#) and the Chair or a delegate will contact individuals with any follow-ups.

- **President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs**, President

- President Fuchs extended a note of gratitude to all faculty for their outstanding efforts during this trying period in the COVID-19 environment.
- President Fuchs discussed the benefits of university rankings metrics, including student outcomes, faculty resources, financial resources, and alumni support. He also discussed the rankings' impacts on student recruitment and its ability to communicate to those who can help the institution, particularly those who propagate institutional investment.
- President Fuchs discussed 'The Decade Ahead' set of values prepared five years ago which captured what UF is and aspires to be as an institution. Diane McFarlin, College of Journalism & Communications Dean, has been asked to lead an initiative that describes goals for infrastructure, students, and faculty, including increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dean McFarlin discussed this undertaking and noted that three primary goals of this process include that it be inclusive, representative, and timely.
- Dr. Fuchs also noted that a website devoted to providing information about combatting systemic racism and related recent university diversity and inclusion initiatives is being developed.

- **Provost's Report**

**Joe Glover**, Provost

- Provost Glover discussed the Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiative. UF has received the largest AI supercomputer in education in the world. The machine will arrive in late winter. The new supercomputer, HiPerGator AI, will interface with UF's current supercomputer HiPerGator 3.0. How faculty and students can familiarize themselves with the opportunities available across the curriculum were discussed. David Norton, Vice President of Research, and Dr. Glover recently solicited proposals from the deans to assist them in identifying and authorizing forthcoming AI-related hirings.
- Finalists for the Deans of both the College of Medicine and the College of Journalism & Communications have been identified.

## Action Items:

### University Curriculum Committee

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

- [Common Prerequisite Manual for Programs in CALS](#)  
-This item was approved.

### Graduate Council

**Paul Duncan**, Sr. Associate Dean  
Graduate School

- [PhD with Major in Plant Breeding](#)  
-This item was approved.
- [Termination Health Services Research PhD Program](#)  
-This item was approved.
- [Name change of Major from Tourism and Recreation Management to Tourism and Hospitality Management](#)

-This item was approved.

## Information Items:

### **Introduction of UF Health President & [COVID-19 Updates](#)**

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

-Dr. Nelson discussed UF Health's role in preparing the community and hospitals for the pandemic and steps being taken to maximize safety and information distribution. UF's [COVID-19 dashboard](#) and data as well as the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect Program were discussed.

### **[International Center Updates](#)**

**Leonardo A. Villalón**, Dean  
International Center (UFIC)

-Dean Villalón provided updates on study abroad, and UF international student enrollment and travel. The cancellation of all UF summer 2020 study abroad programs has resulted in over \$1,200,000 in lost revenue to UFIC and this year's I20 numbers are precipitously low. As of today, there are 18 UF faculty and staff registered abroad and that number is typically over 250. The UF International Center information and travel registry link was provided: <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/>.

### **[University Calendar / Spring Break](#)**

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

-Associate Provost Lindner presented a proposal to move Spring Break 2020 from March 6-13 to January 2-9.

-A motion to move this item from an Information Item to an Action Item carried by the required 2/3 vote.

-Following discussion, this item was approved with 79 percent in favor.

### **[Regulation 1.017 - Separation from Employment, Layoff and Furlough](#)**

**Brook Mercier**, Assistant Vice President UF  
Human Resources  
**Padraic Levings**, Chair, University  
Constitution & Regulations Committee

-The Board of Trustees will consider approving this regulation later this month; if approved, it will provide the university with the option to furlough employees in addition to current options such as employee layoffs and terminations. Assistant VP Mercier answered inquiries pertaining to the [proposed regulation and the policy draft](#) which had also been discussed with Faculty Senate administrative liaisons at the September University Constitution & Regulations Committee and the Welfare Council meetings. No furloughs are currently under consideration. As with all UF regulations, this item is not a Faculty Senate Action Item and faculty and community members were encouraged to add their public comments as indicated in the [public notices by the General Counsel and Faculty Senate offices](#).

### **[Faculty Titles Resolution](#)**

**Sean Trainor**, Chair  
Compensation Committee

-An overview was provided of this Compensation Committee resolution which has been reviewed and approved by the Welfare Council and the Academic Policy Council. The faculty title change is suggested as a change in working titles, rather than the official Human Resources job titles.

### **Successful College Collaborations Series**

**Glenn E. Good**, Dean, College of Education  
**Diane McFarlin**, Dean, College of Journalism  
& Communications

-Deans Good and McFarlin provided an overview of academic collaborations and the historical backgrounds and missions of their respective colleges: [Dean McFarlin's Slides](#) & [Dean Good's Slides](#).

### **Diversity: Review of Programs and Opportunities at UF**

**David A. Canton**, Associate Professor  
Director, African American Studies Program  
**Sharon D. Austin**, Professor of Political  
Science

-Due to time constraints, this item will be presented at the October 15 Faculty Senate meeting.

### **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 5:21 p.m.

### **Attending**

[View meeting registrants here.](#)