

Committee on Committees Report

Summary of August 2017 – present Faculty Senate Councils

- [Academic Policy Council – Chris Hass, Council Member](#)
 - The council is pleased with the current size and appears to be working well. With regards to their current issues, they have heard 3 presentations regarding the implementation of change with faculty evaluations and are reviewing which direction to go.
 - Working to help with resolution on a proposed bill to accept computer coding as eligibility for incoming students to meet their language requirements.
 - Working with the Academic Integrity Task Force
 - Working on student civility by considering development of a resource for faculty to highlight Rights/Responsibilities and addressing 'Uncivil behavior of students in the classroom
 - Future goals: See their Future Initiatives. Under their safeguards for undergrads exposed to animal tissue and excreta, they are reviewing best practices and research ways to enhance student safety. For UF Syllabus policy, they would like faculty to post syllabi prior to semester start
 - Area of concern discussed with COC: Under APC responsibilities is 'academic merits of candidates for administrative positions of academic significance'. Does this fit with the current construct of the APC or should this be assigned to another group. Another option would be to expand upon these responsibilities further. APC believes the topic is important and should be addressed but needed guidance on whether or not this should be assigned to their group.

- [Infrastructure Council – Ann Wehmeyer](#)
 - Issues: Not all reporting committees are attending regularly. The Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites has yet to attend a meeting. Transportation and Parking Committee attended once this year. Sustainability Committee has trouble attending due to overlap with other meeting.
 - For this year, they are considering post-Irma response to damage on campus, and deferred maintenance. COC asked if there could be development of website or link where for the entire campus for reporting of damage from natural disasters. There is something already being done by the University it appears, so can this be expanded upon or merged with the initiative of the Infrastructure Council. Next term, they will review a plan for UF Faculty Club
 - For Campus damage/Deferred Maintenance or regarding Infrastructure, the process for identifying issues/queries is not clear. How best to report? recommended creating an online template/form that can be filled out and create a virtual list of the queries that can be tracked by Infrastructure council
 - The council serves as monitoring group where some problems see remedial action and others do not? What is the follow up and what should happen. COC discussed if there can be a process put in place where issues that are brought up by the council at least receive follow up from the Steering Committee to 'close the loop' on outstanding issues.

- **Welfare Council** – Alice Rhoton-Vlasak, Chair

Current council member and past council chair Ray G. Thomas presented a report of issues discussed by the council, referencing the [2016-2017 Welfare Council Report](#). Additionally, Chair Alice Rhoton-Vlasak relayed that the council has also focused on issues, many of which were raised in the Climate Survey, such as: restoring classroom civility; how parking impacts faculty quality of life and productivity; childcare issues such as the lengthy Baby Gator waiting list; gender pay inequities; the need for increased faculty mentorship opportunities; and reviewing course evaluation webinars.

- *** Discussion with Compensation Committee Chair about merging with Welfare Council**

– Steve Thomas, Chair, Compensation Committee (1/22/18 COC meeting)

The Compensation Committee has met inconsistently and relatively few times over the past years. Welfare Council suggested the possibility of enhancing the focus of the Compensation Committee to include such items as: evaluating and reporting compensation related to peer institutions; benefits offered during open enrollment; and exploring retirement benefit packages. The Welfare Council sees this committee playing an advisory role in conjunction with the business undertaken by the council; the Compensation Committee reports to the Welfare Council and can explore issues in greater detail before the council reports to the Faculty Steering Committee and Faculty Senate.

The Committee on Committees recommended that Compensation Committee meet and discuss if a newly acquired focus on their role can lead to increased productivity and meetings. Overall consensus of all involved was against merging.

However, if the Compensation Committee continues along the path of not meeting and unable to find focus for their annual tasks/plan of action, then the idea of merging needs to be reconsidered

- **Research and Scholarship Council** – Jamie Collins, Chair

Research and Scholarship Council Chair Jamie Collins provided an overview of recent council activity including presentations from:

- Library representatives to discuss an open access publishing fund supported by the Provost's Office. This issue will be discussed in the upcoming steering committee meeting.

- Glen Morris from Emerging Pathogens Institute regarding international research which was passed along to the steering committee. VP of Research Dr. David Norton will provide a follow-up and update of recent university efforts at an upcoming SCORS meeting.

Issues/Ideas to improve council include:

The council encourages faculty to submit topics of interest to be explored by the council and would like as much faculty input as possible, particularly in the area of international research.

Council would like to explore the possibility of developing a central repository for ongoing research being conducted by individuals across multiple disciplines within UF to increase networking and collaboration. This would connect faculty by informing them of what

other researchers are doing and would connect them to relevant research projects and collaboration.

Future council plans include:

- Revisit faculty effort reporting issues in Enterprise and explore how to make the process easier and more efficient.

Team-Science - Clarify the key issues surrounding P&T assessment and evaluating team science contributions from faculty.

IRB updates will be presented in a future council meeting as well as updates from the University Libraries.

- **[Budget Council](#)** - Meera Sitharam, Chair (Report embedded [here](#).)
Meera Sitharam, Budget Council Chair, submitted a written, annual report on the Budget Council which was read by the COC Chair. The report was reviewed by COC members. Council is hoping to bring transparency to the revenues that flow into the university from the UF Foundation which is a 501 (c)(3) public charity. The council continues to work with the University of Florida Budget Office on the [UF Financial Transparency Portal](#).