

Jason Byrd, Ph.D., D-ABFE



My first association with UF was in 1991 as a undergraduate student, and since that time I have received three degrees from this institution (BS 1993, MS 1995, Ph.D. 1998). I have been fortunate to experience UF from the viewpoint of a undergraduate, graduate student, and faculty member. Each of these experiences has provided a unique perspective on UF and the associated student and faculty communities. Currently I serve as an Associate Professor in the College of Medicine where I am the Associate Director of the William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine, and program director for Veterinary Forensic Sciences, Wildlife Forensic Sciences, and Forensic Medicine distance education programs. My committee service at UF has included, charitable campaigns, ADA Committee, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Compensation Committee, and Faculty Senate. The idea of shared governance requires participation between faculty and staff and a balance in leadership and accountability between the administrative functions of both groups. This style of governance should encourage representation by both faculty and administration, and as such, I am honored to be able to serve UF in the Faculty Senate.

In February 2018, our current faculty senate chair presented a summary of retirement benefits in the AAU. Although UF is ranked in the US News and World Report Top 10 Public Colleges and Universities, UF is last employer contribution to retirement, and last in both public and private AAU Universities in employer contribution to retirement. In order to address this discrepancy, the UF Faculty Senate should make increasing the defined contribution to equal at least the national average a multi-year goal. My efforts in the faculty senate would be to make UF more competitive for hiring and retaining faculty strive to ensure UF's employer contribution plans are equal to our peer institutions.

Link to Profile: <http://pathology.ufl.edu/faculty/clinical-pathology/byrd/>