

Report on Review of UF Faculty Senate Councils by the Senate Committee on Committees

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Committees (COC) to conduct a review of all Senate committees on an annual basis, which will consider the selection process for members, the purpose of the committees, and attendance at committee meetings. The Committee shall have the responsibility of recommending to the Senate the addition, reclassification, or dissolution of any Senate Committee, transformation of existing Presidential Committees into Joint Committees, or vice versa, and assignments of committees to Senate Policy Councils as Contributing or Related Committees. The Committee on Committees is also responsible for recommending any special qualifications for members of Senate Councils and Senate Committees to the Faculty Senate. Such special qualifications shall be as set forth in this Constitution and in the Senate Bylaw. The Committee shall report to the Senate at least twice a year.

This report summarizes the reviews that the Committee on Committees has conducted from November 2015 through June 2017 on five Senate Councils (Academic Policy; Budget; Infrastructure [includes the following standing and joint committees: Senate Steering Committee (S)*, University Information Technology Committee (S)*, Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee (J)*, Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Committee (J), Parking and Transportation Committee (J), Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee (J), Sustainability Committee (J), University Libraries Committee (S)]; Research and Scholarship; and Welfare)

* *Key:* (J) = Joint Committee, elected or appointed by and reporting to both the Senate and the President; (S) = Senate Committee, elected by and reporting to the Senate

Charges to COC from Faculty Senate Chair

At the November 2015 COC meeting, Paul Davenport, Faculty Senate Chair, thanked the members for participating in shared governance by sitting on this committee. Paul had several charges that he wanted the committee to address:

- Determine the structure of a new IT Committee. Currently we have an adhoc committee called Faculty IT Subcommittee that advises the CIO. The last four Faculty Senate Chairs wanted this committee to become a standing committee of the Senate.
 - Status: COC recommended change in status from subcommittee to full standing committee. The Faculty IT committee (University Information Technology Committee) is now a standing senate committee
- Currently the constitution does not specifically state how to fill temporary vacancies on committees. The Constitution Committee has asked that the COC discuss if there should be a change in the constitution to address this issue? Traditionally the Faculty Senate Chair follows the same procedure to fill temporary committee seats as the senate fills temporary senate seats.
 - After discussion Jane Gannon made a motion to not change the constitution as it pertains to temporary vacancies on committees. Todd Brusko seconded. The motion passed.
- Paul gave a “heads up” that the Constitution Committee might send a request to COC about what constitutes a quorum for joint committees.

Overview of reviews conducted by COC on UF Faculty Senate councils/committees:

The councils that were reviewed from November 2015 through June 2017 were found to be fulfilling their missions and responsibilities as charted. Some changes in name, membership, responsibilities, and/or policies were requested from councils or committees and are described below.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS FROM SENATE COUNCILS

Academic Policy Council

Presenter: Beverly Sanders, Chair

At the January 11, 2016 CoC meeting, Beverly gave background information about the Academic Policy Council. Out of all the responsibilities listed in the charter, the council only works on “general policies”. Beverly suggested that the charter/responsibilities should be revised. Many times APC meetings have lively discussions. Provost has asked that the council give feedback on the strategic goals. APC consists of six elected senators, contributing chairs from Joint Committees, and upper administrative liaisons and meets monthly.

Beverly submitted three recommendations to the committee:

1. Add the chair of the Graduate Curriculum Committee as a standing member of the Academic Policy Council. It didn't make sense to us that the chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is a member while the chair of the Graduate Curriculum Committee is not. I communicated with Paul Duncan (Assoc dean of the Graduate School and the chair of the GCC) and he supports this change.
2. Introduce a new council or committee to deal with online learning. Currently, shared governance involving UOnline (other than what goes through the normal curriculum approval process) is solely at the discretion of the UOnline director. Also, online learning can be found in MANY units across campus, and even residential students may end up taking many of their courses in an online format. The APC felt that the senate needs to formalize shared governance with UOnline in particular, and it would be beneficial for the new council or committee to have a broader scope encompassing online learning at UF in general.
3. That the charter/responsibilities of the council be revised to reflect the current role of addressing “general policies”. Specific recommendations need to be presented by the council to COC for consideration.

Budget Council

Presenter: James Seale

This council is a relative active group. Responsibilities are to review the budget process of the University. The Chair serves on the RCM Task Force. Greg Dubois, Assistant Vice President in Finance and Planning, is a liaison. The council recommended the creation of the “College Financial Information” template for a faculty resource. Links are on the Budget Council website and also the CFO’s website.

Infrastructure Council

Presenter: Bradley Walters

Bradley Walters described the mission, responsibilities and terms of the members of the Infrastructure Council, which is one of the five policy councils of the Senate. Dr. Walters then went on to describe the relationship of the Infrastructure Council to the committees that constitute the council and the responsibilities of these committees. These committees are:

- Senate Steering Committee (S)
- Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee (J)
- Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Committee (J)
- Parking and Transportation Committee (J)
- Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee (J)
- Sustainability Committee (J)
- University Libraries Committee (S)
- University Information Technology Committee (S)

Key: (J) = Joint Committee, elected or appointed by and reporting to both the Senate and the President;

(S) = Senate Committee, elected by and reporting to the Senate

Research and Scholarship Council

Presenter: Valrie Minson

Valrie Minson, Research and Scholarship Council Chair, gave the Committee the [SCORS Report](#) on what her council has done this past year. The Research & Scholarship Council focuses on University policies and procedures related to research and scholarship, including university-wide research and scholarship initiatives and strategies; research grants and contracts; research infrastructure; and other matters related to funding or producing scholarship. Below is a summary of our initial emphasis in the coming year.

Exploration of IDC policies for small awards

The Council will be meeting with DSP to discuss current IDC practices and how they affect faculty ability to meet research requirements. As background, many funding agencies do not support Indirect Costs (IDC) and the cost must then be funded by either the department or the Primary Investigator. There are many faculty or departments who will not pursue or accept awards that do not include support for IDC as the department/faculty member may not have available funds to cover and the work is not able to be completed at the reduced amount. The Council will discuss with Division of Sponsored Programs the current IDC practices with smaller awards (<\$10,000/\$20,000) and explore potential development of recommendations for changes to IDC with the overall goal to support acceptance of a greater number of non-IDC supported awards and increase the ability of faculty to accomplish important research.

Academic Analytics

Academic Analytics is a vendor solution that provides UF administrators with data about their institution, particularly as compared to other institutions. The system is available to UF Deans and last year Provost Glover met with the Council regarding the various applications of the system. The Council is continuing to understand how the system supports academic research and have developed questions for an upcoming December 9th meeting with Provost Glover. Questions include: How evaluations using AA have been applied at the faculty and unit levels; Which colleges or schools have used AA; How the colleges or schools share outcomes of AA; What the most/least reliable data are in AA; Limitations to the data that we weren't aware of a year ago; Models used for data access and distribution.

Interview of Research Deans and/or Strategic Directions Brainstorming

The Council discussed the recent decline in the number of issues being brought to the Council from departmental units or individual faculty. At a future meeting our Council is exploring two possibilities: interviewing research deans regarding research/scholarship challenges experienced by faculty in their units or holding a brainstorming session in conjunction with the President's goal setting symposium scheduled for January 28th and 29th.

Welfare Council

Presenter: Amanda House – Vice Chair

The Welfare Council focuses on matters that support, encourage, define, and evaluate the quality of the faculty and retention of faculty members, including faculty rights and academic freedom; faculty support programs, such as fringe benefit packages; faculty diversity; and programs that improve the quality of faculty life. Below we detail the primary discussions of the council in 2014-2015.

President's Council on Diversity Campus Climate Survey

During the Fall, the Welfare council worked closely with Jarrod Cruz-Stipstits and Shari Robinson from the President's Council on Diversity on the formulation of the Diversity Climate Survey. The survey, which will be administered to all UF employees, was developed by the Council on Diversity and represents the first time that the Climate on Diversity at UF will be assessed. The goal of the survey is to understand how diversity and inclusion is being experienced by the faculty and staff.

On and Off Campus Tutoring

SERU data suggest that UF students consistently rely on Off Campus Tutoring services. Faculty have raised concerns regarding the use of and practices by Off Campus Tutoring services. The Council met with Dr. Winifred Cooke, Director, and Robert Bailey, SI Coordinator of the Broward Teaching Center to better understand the resources provided by UF. It was clear to the Council that the Broward Teaching Center provides significant resources to students and that Faculty knowledge of these services and financial support of these services are likely undervalued.

Assessment and Enhancement of Teaching

The Council has a long history of investigating the practices of assessing teaching performance at UF and the issues that online student teaching evaluations may pose. The council in conjunction with the Office of Faculty Development for Teaching and Technology and the Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars, has begun the writing of a formal “white paper” outlining the collective opinion on best practices for assessing and enhancing teaching excellence at UF.

Graduate Student Mentoring

In conjunction with the Graduate School, the Welfare Council is developing a workshop on Graduate Student Mentoring that will be submitted to the CALS Teaching and Enhancement Symposium as well as the New Faculty Orientation. The goal is to provide faculty resources and skills to enhance their mentoring of professional and graduate trainees.

CoC Approved Report: July 19, 2017

Committee on Committees Members

Chair - Jose Trevino, MED
Todd Brusko, MED
Jennifer Rea, CLAS
Steven Swarts, MED
Ashley Ghiaseddin, MED
Miriam Ezenwa, NURS