

Committee on Committees Minutes

Monday, November 19, 2018

1:15 p.m.

MBI L5-101A

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:18 p.m.

2. Approve October 15, 2018 minutes

The minutes were approved.

3. [Parking & Transportation Committee](#) Update

- The Parking & Transportation Committee approved the changes as recommended by the Steering Committee and are awaiting feedback from VP Curtis Reynolds. UCRC met on 11/8/18 and also approved the changes as recommended by the Steering Committee. No action was taken by COC on this item.

4. [Compensation Committee](#)

-This item is on Welfare Council's agenda as they did not have time to review this during their busy October meeting. Welfare Council meets later today and will address this.

5. Council and Committee Reviews

- [Sustainability Committee](#)

Matthew Williams, Administrative Liaison

John Duncan, Chair

Les Thiele, Member & Founding Sustainability Committee Chair

This was originally a task force (created in response to faculty suggestions) with no changes since it's inception in 2005; the field of sustainability has changed greatly since that time. They would like a new charge as they have noted difficulty getting tasks/actions off the ground. The Office of Sustainability appears to be doing the day to day operations and often members selected to this committee do not have the necessary expertise required, particularly given that sustainability is becoming an increasingly technical/technologically-nuanced field. A research and teaching focus is needed and broad engineering faculty membership would be highly beneficial.

The committee membership states "seven faculty or staff" appointed by the President's designee, in addition to eight faculty members elected by the Senate from the faculty at large, and two student members selected by the student government, totaling nineteen members. The director of the Office of Sustainability and an academic officer appointed by the provost serve as nonvoting ex officio members.

Nationally, other campuses initiated sustainability committees/initiatives around this same time period. At UF the initial charge was not action-oriented but focused on promoting campus wide awareness of general sustainability issues. Currently, the Office of Sustainability has challenged committee members to bring issues forward to make direct policy recommendations. To be successful, the committee requires more commitment to complete specific tasks following the meetings.

One approach might be for the Sustainability Committee to assess priorities annually and determine which task force(s) should continue through the following year. The committee could then grow in relevance to campus needs.

Experiential learning is required of every third and fourth year student, so this presents an opportunity to make campus more of a living laboratory and accomplish specific committee/task force goals.

Each year the Sustainability Committee is provided a list of the office's strategic priorities and professionally knowledgeable committee members are needed. For example, campus Climate Action Plan task force, consisting of five to six working groups, is currently taking shape. The Office of Sustainability Director is presenting this and other initiatives to Faculty Senate this Spring.

Currently this committee reports to the Infrastructure Council and VP of Business Affairs, but, given the request to promote student experiential learning, teaching, and research advances, the committee recommends adding the Associate Provost of Academic & Faculty Affairs, the Associate Provost of Undergraduate Affairs, or an administrative representative from the Provost's Office. An advisory committee to the Office of Sustainability is not helpful; an action-based task force(s), with faculty/scholarly-heavy membership, would be.

Recommendations from the members of Sustainability Committee in attendance include:

- Sharpen the focus of the committee to be oriented towards what faculty do best: advancing teaching and research in the field of sustainability. This plan requires selecting faculty who agree to promote these goals. Discuss with the Senate Nominating Committee to request a faculty CV for committee nominees. Include aspects of UF's required student experiential learning.

The Committee on Committees agreed to the above plan and structure.

The Sustainability Committee will send these requests and recommendations to the Committee on Committees to review at an upcoming meeting.

- [Student Petitions Committee](#) – Deborah Mayhew, Chair
- Tabled to next meeting.
- (To schedule Fall 2018): [University IT Committee](#) – Frank Bova, Interim Chair

6. Work on Draft of 2018-19 Committee on Committees Council Report to the Senate

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at: 2:07 p.m.

Resources:

[Constitution of the University of Florida](#)

[Bylaws of the Faculty Senate](#)