

President's Task Force on Outside Activities
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Minutes

Task Force Members:

Joseph Glover, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Task Force Chair

Katie Vogel Anderson, Clinical Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy

Hub Brown, Dean, College of Journalism and Communications

Clay Calvert, Professor of Law and Professor of Journalism and Communications

Terra DuBois, Chief Compliance, Ethics and Privacy Officer

John Kraft, Professor and Susan Cameron Chair of International Business, Warrington College of Business

Laura Rosenbury, Dean, Levin College of Law

Task Force Chair Joseph Glover welcomed the Task Force members and called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Glover reviewed President Fuchs' charge to the Task Force (*Task Force currently limited to issue of serving as expert witness; asks for recommendations by November 29*). The following questions were presented for consideration:

- a. How might UF's written policies on disclosure of outside activities and conflict of interest (as they relate to the issue of serving as an expert witness) be modified to better reinforce the university's longstanding commitment to academic freedom and/or to achieve other goals?
- b. If need arises for a new interpretation of written policies or a revised interpretation or application is proposed, what is the process for creating, adopting, or rejecting a new/revised interpretation?
- c. Do the procedures used for receiving and assessing disclosures of outside activities need modification? Who should issue decisions to faculty members and what form should the communications take?
- d. Assuming for the moment that the intention is to grant most requests to serve as expert witnesses, what are the possible exceptions to this intention, how do we delineate them, and who gets to decide those exceptions?

In discussing the issues that need to be addressed, Task Force members agreed to focus on (1) potential revisions to underlying policy, informed by current understanding of academic freedom and free speech policies and case law, and (2) potential revisions to the processes involved in vetting a disclosure of outside activity as an expert witness.

Dean Rosenbury indicated that the Law Center has assembled an Excel spreadsheet containing links to 20 public university conflicts of interest policies that she will share with the group.

A representative from UF Health will be invited to the next task force meeting to discuss issues surrounding requests to serve as an expert witness in a medical context.

The Task Force will schedule 7 additional meetings between now and November 29. Dr. Glover offered to draft a report for editing before submission to the President. Alternatively, Task Force members could participate in the initial drafting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.