

Emergency Senate Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2021

11:30 a.m.

Zoom Meeting Registration:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/join/9151186899>

Present: David C. Bloom, Keith Diem, Keith Rambo, Richard Scholtz, Sarah Lynne, Juan Nino, Amanda Phalin, Ashley Ghiaseddin, Jason Byrd, Rick Stepp, Joe Glover, Sylvain Doré, Taylor Rose, and Laurie Bialosky.

Call to Order

David C. Bloom, Chair

- Chair Bloom called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

Discussion of [COVID Resolution](#)

David C. Bloom, Chair

- Chair Bloom clarified that he called this previously unscheduled meeting to order to address a resolution circulated by faculty member Mark Hostetler, who inquired about having it come to a vote at yesterday's Faculty Senate meeting. Parliamentary procedure as well as constitutional and bylaw protocols were clarified and, given the urgent nature of this issue, Chair Bloom discussed all options available to have this addressed as soon as possible. The content differences between this proposed resolution and [the resolution passed by Faculty Senate yesterday](#) were discussed.
- Discussion points included:
 - The precedence of establishing an emergency Faculty Senate meeting.
 - Paths to addressing the resolution, including referring the resolution to a committee to gather more information and obtain faculty feedback, rejecting the request outright, or moving the resolution forward to an emergency September 3rd Faculty Senate meeting or the regularly scheduled September 23rd Faculty Senate meeting.
 - How to best engage all of the faculty and the role of the Faculty Senate as a representative body.
 - The resolution as presented was largely lifted from a Penn State University resolution and contained references that did not apply to UF's policies and administrative or regulatory environment.
 - Inaccuracies in the resolution were noted, including the statement that faculty were not involved in UF's COVID-19 policies. UF Health faculty and UF epidemiologists have been actively involved in developing UF's campus approach to addressing COVID-19.
 - The COVID-19 environment continues to evolve as more state restrictions are put into place.
 - Clarity and transparency in administrative and faculty engagement and communications was discussed.
 - That the remedies provided in this resolution did not go beyond the previously passed COVID-19 resolution and in that sense were redundant.
 - A motion was made and unanimously carried to refer today's agenda item to a committee, specifically Welfare Council, which is instructed to meet prior to the next regularly-scheduled Steering Committee meeting (on September 2nd) and bring forward a recommendation or revised resolution for consideration and review at that meeting (which is also when the September 23rd draft Faculty Senate agenda is approved.)
 - Further, the Steering Committee agreed that:
 - Welfare Council will relay faculty feedback at the next Steering Committee meeting to assist in determining how best to proceed with Faculty Senate consideration of this item.
 - The Welfare Council will examine and focus on faculty options in safely and effectively carrying out their job responsibilities in the COVID-19 environment, in particular consideration of faculty

instructional mode options and any constraints which may exist due to the University of Florida being a state entity and a part of the State University System (SUS).

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

David C. Bloom, Chair