

**Senate Steering Committee Minutes**  
**February 3, 2022**  
**3 p.m.**  
**Tigert 226**

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**Present:** David C. Bloom, Taylor Rose, Sarah Lynne, Juan Nino, Richard Scholtz, Keith Diem, Joe Glover, Keith Rambo, Karen Whalen, Angela Lindner, Amanda Phalin, Maria Leite, Charlene Luke, Rick Stepp, Tobin Shorey, Jason Nance, Major Bart Knowles, and Captain Kristy Sasser.

**Call to Order:** **David C. Bloom, Chair**  
- The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Chair David C. Bloom at 3:02 p.m.

**Approve [January 13, 2022 Minutes](#)** **David C. Bloom, Chair**  
- The minutes were approved.

**Reports**

- **Chair's Report** **David C. Bloom, Chair**
  - Chair Bloom discussed the February 15 transition of the special Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom, chaired by Ray Issa to the standing Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards (AFTPRS) Committee, which is also chaired by Ray Issa.
  - Chair Bloom discussed concerns raised the faculty over the proposed new Central Energy plant with CFO Chris Cowen and specifically that there had been limited background presented to the Senate on carbon-friendly options that had been considered. CFO Cowen emphasized that sustainable elements are being considered, including the ability to retrofit the plant as better technologies to use sustainable sources of energy become available as time proceeds. CFO Cowen committed to holding a town hall discussion and to bring the Goldman Sachs sustainable group to discuss this. CFO Cowen also offered to making a presentation to the Senate on this subject.
  - Chair Bloom discussed the charge to the Chairs of College Faculty Councils and Assemblies to provide input from faculty in each of their colleges as to what faculty would like in a new president for the presidential search. A Presidential Search committee is expected to be named in March.
  - Chair Bloom discussed dates: October 8 has been designated as Homecoming; Honorary Degree nominations close on March 1; and Senate Chair Elect nominations close on March 31, with all nominations of [current Senators](#) to be emailed to the Faculty Senate Secretary at: [lbialosky@aa.ufl.edu](mailto:lbialosky@aa.ufl.edu).

- **Provost's Report** **Joe Glover, Provost**

  - The Dean of Engineering is stepping down, as is the Dean of the International Center.
  - The COVID-19 infection rate is dropping, and barring COVID-19 variants, things are getting better. Currently 200 tests per day for the last four days were conducted at the Student Health Center with significant additional capacity available.
  - Following an inquiry seeking clarification of CDC rules and possible differing mandates to different entities by state and federal guidelines, Provost Glover responded that UF Health is trying to determine how to sort this out with no changes of policy in the offing.
  - Freshmen admissions decisions will be released this month.
  
- **UPD Report of Police Activity 2021** **Major Bart Knowles  
& Captain Kristy Sasser**

  - Major Knowles and Captain Sasser discussed the annual UFPD report presentation to be presented to the Senate. Chair Bloom asked if they could also present on the new training programs that have been instituted including non-lethal use of force.
  
- **Graduate Council** **Angela Lindner,  
Associate Provost of  
Undergraduate Affairs**

  - [Department Name Change from Otolaryngology to Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery](#)
  - This name change request has been made by the faculty members in the Department of Otolaryngology in the College of Medicine.
  - [PhD and MS in Engineering Education](#)
  - The proposed programs aim to prepare graduate students for roles in research, practice, and leadership in engineering education.
  - These items were approved.
  
- [2025-2026 & 2026-2027 Academic Calendar](#) **Angela Lindner,  
Associate Provost of  
Undergraduate Affairs**

  - Associate Provost Lindner will provide an overview of the calendars and answer inquiries at Faculty Senate. Spring Break will align with Alachua County Public Schools.

[University Constitution & Regulations Committee \(UCRC\) Report & BOT Regulations](#) **Charlene Luke, Chair,  
UCRC**

- UCRC Chair Charlene Luke discussed:
- BOT Regulations Lighting
- Membership increase request from the Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee;
- Senate Bylaws and University Constitution Update Request to establish a new Professional Curriculum Committee (PCC) to review professional

curriculum and update the University Curriculum Committee description in the Senate Bylaws;

- Academic Assessment Committee Senate Bylaws Update Request; and
- Special Meetings Update. Steering Committee members discussed the quorum needed for Faculty Senate meetings, including a special or emergency meeting. A Faculty Senate meeting quorum consists of those present (as opposed to a majority or supermajority of the Faculty Senate membership). Members discussed that because the underlying purpose of this proposed change is to deal with emergencies, and if someone calls for the meeting compelling to Senators, then it should also be compelling for the majority. A motion to conditionally approve this UCRC report with the requested changes from the UCRC was approved. [UCRC updates are viewable at: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Pages/University-Constitution-And-Regulations-Committee/AgendaMinutes2021-2022.>]

- **Ad Hoc committee on Ladapo Hire** **Richard Scholtz**
  - Ad Hoc Committee Chair Richard Scholtz discussed the process of obtaining information from a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request which was recently received. He also discussed that there was a strong feeling of retaliation by College of Medicine faculty, and that Dr. Ladapo's hiring search committee members had not met with the Ad Hoc Committee.
- **Academic Policy Council** **Richard Scholtz**
  - Council discussed academic freedom and the key point that syllabi need to adhere to its outlined content and university policies.
  - Following inquiries, Steering Committee members noted that Automatic Canvas Shells with minimum requirement will be available; additionally, there is pending legislation for textbook database and syllabi posting, and archive for five years with instructor names, etc.
- **Infrastructure Council** **Keith Rambo**
  - No air quality report was received from Facilities Services.
  - The University Information Technology Committee reported on Canvas minimum requirements.
  - The Lakes, Vegetation & Landscaping (LVL) Committee reported a request for more committee members.
  - The Land Use & Facilities Planning (LUIFP) Committee discussed a new Physics area pathway.
- **Welfare Council** **Sarah Lynne**
  - UF Director of Benefits Shannon Edwards discussed retirement plans and her office's priority to disseminate information to faculty to assist them in selecting the most appropriate plans for them.
  - Council recommended Juneteenth be a UF holiday.
- **Approve [February 17, 2022 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)** **David C. Bloom, Chair**

- The agenda was unanimously approved.

- **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**David C. Bloom, Chair**