

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

January 11, 2024

3:00 p.m.

135 Tigert Hall (Student Affairs Conference Room 142), or if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93351231856?pwd=NkthSk41NVhrWnZnY01aZkpBSGpWdz09>

Meeting ID: 933 5123 1856 Passcode: 217185 Dial in: +1 646 558 8656

Present: Danaya Wright, Sarah Lynne, Amanda Phalin, Taylor Rose, Chris Hass, Joe Little, Jorg Peters, Tom Kelleher, Larisa Cavallari, Michelle Farland, Nancy Clark, Stephanie Bogart, Walter O'Dell, Laurie Bialosky and Catherine Striley.

Call to Order

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Chair Danaya Wright at 3:02 p.m.

Approve [December 7, 2023 Minutes](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Chair Wright asked Associate Provost Hass and Governor Phalin to provide Provost's Office and BOG updates respectively, as Dr. Angle is out of town. Provost Angle is no longer the Interim Provost and will serve as Provost for 18 months.

--Governor Phalin requested that the committee members and leadership encourage all faculty to provide specific data and trends to identify concrete issues arising from SB 846 (hiring graduate students from the seven countries of concern). Discussion and work continue on regulation 8.005 (to remove Principles of Sociology as 1 of 6 courses that would fulfill the social sciences core general education requirement). She spoke to SUS Chancellor Rodrigues to voice faculty concerns. Pending legislation may include updated SUS presidential search changes which could potentially allow more BOG control over each university's search.

--Associate Provost Hass shared that the CBA units are still bargaining the details of the proposed process to identify the 20 percent of faculty who will undergo post-tenure review.

- Chair Wright provided an update on the administrative burdens project. McKinsey consultants are reviewing UF data and seeking work solutions for this semester. Project team members continue meeting to collect data and troubleshoot solutions to pervasive issues. A guiding coalition of about a dozen senior administrators, faculty, faculty administrators, and staff will meet twice weekly for one hour; their recommendations are then distributed to a wide array of offices for checks to ensure there are no unintended consequences; these approved recommendations are then sent to VP and General Counsel Amy Hass and to President Sasse. For the next several months, twice weekly meetings will be held with action teams of subject experts, including the faculty administrators who will conduct the data diving, and who will help identify changes which can be made. Additional action teams will be set up over the next month.

- Chair Wright was thanked by the Steering Committee for her extensive efforts. Many admins were aware of the administrative burdens within their unit, so this project is helpful

for them to see the across-the-board, university-wide effect on faculty. Building processes to avoid such future predicaments is also an aim of this project.

- Positive comments were received on electronic voting in the December Faculty Senate meeting. This month, to test the technology, there will be a Zoom test run for designated Off-site senators only. However, all voting Senators will have access to the January test ballots at voting.aa.ufl.edu.
- Last two charges by President Sasse: review the Core requirements which Faculty Senate Chair-elect Lynne will chair. Senate leadership Wright, Lynne, and Phalin will be meeting with President Sasse soon to discuss options and charges for the project. The second is the question of free speech v. indoctrination and what constitutes teaching misconduct. Steering briefly discussed President's Sasse's request to Faculty Senate (in his [December 14th Faculty Senate President's Report video](#)) to identify faculty disciplinary action surrounding indoctrination violations. Faculty impacts, as well as identifying the clarity and scope of indoctrination definitions and scenarios were briefly discussed. Chair Wright will clarify if Dr. Sasse is requesting that faculty participate in policy development.
- Nominations are open for Honorary Degrees. Closes March 1. View details @: senate.ufl.edu under the Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee tab: (<http://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Committees/Honorary-Degrees-and-Distinguished-Awards-Committee>).
- Last chance to self-nominate or nominate a colleague for Senate and university-wide committees, boards, and councils. Please encourage your colleagues to join the University Committees and Councils Virtual Open House on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 - 1:00 – 2:00. Details are posted on the [master calendar](#): <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93014200320?pwd=OU95MXVjc2szSzZ2YlJEUU85cGZ0dz09> | Meeting ID: 930 1420 0320 | Passcode: 008404 | Dial: 305 224 1968.
- Faculty Senator election information (for the Fall 2024 - May 2026 service term) will also be sent this month to all [College Faculty Council Chairs](#). You can check your Senate or your committee term-end dates on, respectively, the [Faculty Senate membership](#) and the appropriate [committee](#) web page.
- The 2nd lecture in the Distinguished Professor Lecture Series is in the Reitz Chamber at 5:00 following this month's Senate meeting. Dr. Michael Okun presents: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Pages/Faculty-Senate/DistinguishedProfessorLectureSeries>
- Next month, Chair Wright will provide updates from the Board of Governors and ACFS meetings being held in Tallahassee Jan 23 – 24. Chair-elect Sarah Lynne and Past Chair / BOG member Amanda Phalin will also attend.
- At February's meeting, Senate will also review the 2028 – 2029 academic calendar, will hear from the new VP for JAX Programs Kurt Dudas, and updates from Melissa Johnson, Honors Program Interim Director.

SB 846/HB 7017/Countries of Concern Update

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Awaiting new information/data (see above Chair's Report.)

Graduate Council

Tom Kelleher, Graduate School

- [Create the Dept. of Pharmacy Education and Practice \(PEP\)](#) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- The Department of Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research (PTR) will remain in existence with graduate faculty. The proposed department will be more clinically focused and has gone through rigorous support and review.
- Unit Chairs (PEP and PTR) were present to comment on the degree programs and answer inquiries.

No degrees are changing within the proposed department re-structuring. Rather, this is a department re-alignment following a faculty vote.

Council Reports

Academic Policy Council

Nancy Clark, Chair

- Associate Provost Hass reported updates to council on the new third-party vendor, the Faculty Insights, Excellence and Advancement System, which is replacing OPT for faculty evaluations.

Budget Council

Jorg Peters, Chair

- Council continues to work on learning and reviewing the financial portal by time, department revenue, etc., including reviewing variables. Council also hosted two guests from the Office of the CFO transition leadership - Taylor Jantz and Kevin Lintner, who have worked with Huron.

Infrastructure Council

Walter O'Dell, Chair

- Council met on Monday. Key points from Monday's meeting were:

1. extended the discussion of Linda Dixon's presentation to the parking and transportation committee regarding improved design of roadways and pedestrian walkways on campus to better accommodate bicycles and e-scooters.

2. E-scooters have become very popular among students. The libraries and classrooms are seeing more e-scooters brought into their facilities. New regulations ban students from storing or charging e-scooters inside residence halls. The University needs alternative accommodations, including secure outdoor storage with charging stations, throughout campus.

3. Need to consider how to plan for increased and safe e-scooter usage. Should E-scooters be restricted from sidewalks. Legally in FL they are considered as same as bicycles. There have been fewer moped permits since introduction of E-scooters.

4. The commercial E-scooters have GPS-tracking and restrictions on where they can be used. Students seem to have turned to buying their own E-scooters to bypass these limitations.

5. The Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan is coming together. It is comprehensive and has broad stakeholder input.

- Steering Committee members discussed scooter issues including allowable speeds and optional registrations. Dr. O'Dell will share this and review with council.

- A suggestion was made that a council (Budget or APC) topic of consideration could be UF's move to the Workday platform.

Approve [January 18, 2023 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The agenda was approved as amended to update Dr. Angle's job title by removing 'Interim'.

Adjournment

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.