

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

3:00 p.m.

123 Tigert Hall (General Counsel's Conference Room), 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, Scott Angle, Walter O'Dell, Sarah Lynne, Taylor Rose, Joe Little, Jorg Peters, Tom Kelleher, Hans van Oostrom, Laurie Bialosky, Tobin Shorey, Jeremiah Blanchard, Rick Stepp, Stephanie Bogart, and Angie Brown.

Call to Order

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Danaya Wright.

Approve [February 1, 2024 Minutes](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Chair Wright will present her last report and will relay faculty and Faculty Senate successes to the BOT. She discussed the areas of administrative burden on which her team is working, including p-card limit raises, making training more efficient, and reducing the frequency of UF Engaged (performance management), which are pending, and we are keeping an eye on efficiency changes as we are moving toward the Workday platform.
- Chair Wright spoke to President Sasse about establishing a faculty club or lounge and shared ideas from former (2015-16) Faculty Senate Chair Paul Davenport and other Faculty Senates. Given that the President's box is only used seven times/year, one suggestion is to utilize the Chapman Club in the football stadium. Establishing traditions in fun and cool spaces for students has been ongoing, and such efforts could easily extend to faculty spaces.
- Chair Wright is seeking clarifications and responding to inquiries regarding [Friday's administrative memo](#) pertaining to DEI. Chair Wright answered committee member inquiries and briefly spoke about the legislative mandates and contradictions related to equal access requirements.
- In keeping with the Faculty Senate's past vote to align Spring Break with the Alachua County School System, Spring Break 2025 will be March 17-21, 2025.
- As announced last month, Homecoming 2024 is October 18-19, 2024.
- The BOT meets March 7 – 8, the BOG meets March 26 – 27. Updates will be shared at Senate.
- Steering Committee members are invited to the BOG and Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) members' luncheon on Tuesday, March 26th in the Reitz Union, room 2365 from Noon-1:00.
- There was an inquiry about HB7 decision issued yesterday which left intact the injunction on the provision prohibiting employers from requiring employees attend DEI programs as likely unconstitutional.

• **Provost's Report**

Scott Angle, Provost

- Provost Angle answered inquires and spoke about the need to clearly communicate the

university's DEI position – which is to adhere to the letter of the law without going beyond it, and to minimize any potential adverse effects on faculty research.

--Committee members noted that there is a need to clarify to faculty that accreditation is not impacted by or an element of the DEI legislation.

- \$5 million is being re-purposed for faculty recruitment and will sit in the Provost's Office.

- Work in Jacksonville is rapidly moving forward and all faculty are invited to bring ideas to deans and department chairs, particularly regarding the graduate coursework to be taught in the new 5,000 square foot facility being rented in downtown Jacksonville.

Following an inquiry, the Provost discussed the UF College of Medicine Jacksonville relationship to the new Jacksonville initiatives(s)/campus.

- Provost Angle discussed President's Sasse's 10x10x10 goal to have 10 of the university's programs among the top 10 of their kind in the country within 10 years. It includes turning the strongest programs within disciplines into top ten programs and focusing on sub-fields which can make the strongest impacts. This includes supporting postdocs and increasing resources for academic areas that have the most impact over the next ten years, especially in areas with a close relationship to Florida. Provost Angle would like to hear from the faculty and the Faculty Senate on how best to meet these goals.

- CLAS and Hamilton Center conflicts and the need for increased cooperation was briefly discussed.

- Post-tenure review. Associate Provosts Schanzenbach and Hass continue to work on a notification timeline for faculty being reviewed, as well as establishing individual unit criteria.

Empowering UF

Elias Eldayrie, Vice President & CIO

- CIO Eldayrie was traveling today and provided a Senate presentation [summary](#), which was shared by Chair Wright.

Council Reports

Budget Council

Jorg Peters, Chair

- [The Institutional Planning and Research webpage](#) was reviewed to help locate data related to tuition and student credit hours (SCHs). Director Dr. Cathy Lebo will visit council in April and council will further discuss.

- Council member John Kraft will provide an update at next month's meeting on progress made on the administrative burdens project, particularly related to travel and p-cards.

- Chair Wright noted that she insisted faculty could opt out of engaging with UFGO for domestic travel. There are forthcoming changes for faculty supervisor approvals for all domestic travel. This is being piloted in the Warrington College of Business, the Levin College of Law and IFAS.

Infrastructure Council

Walter O'Dell, Chair

- Council discussed the landscaping being implemented during the expansion of the orthopedic building and accommodations for electric scooters; Dr. O'Dell asked for an accounting of the number of incidents of scooter/pedestrian and scooter/bicycle accidents and found the numbers were small, so it is suspected that many go unreported. The need for more outdoor charging stations for scooters was also discussed.

- Faculty are voicing concerns about rules loosening post-peak-COVID rules about students attending classes while sick. Mark Helms, Asst. VP for UF's Facilities Services Division and Sustainability discussed air circulation measurements among main lecture halls and libraries, including the posted [Classroom Air Exchange Data](#) resource. Members questioned whether there was consistent directives to students by faculty for missing class due to illness? Council is awaiting a reply from UF Health Compliance from student health.

Welfare Council

- Council will be discussing DEI and faculty lounge options.

Stephanie Bogart, Chair

Approve [March 21, 2024 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

- The agenda was approved.

Danaya Wright, Chair

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Danaya Wright, Chair