

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

April 4, 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: Chris Hass, Walter O'Dell, Amanda Phalin, Charlene Luke, Joe Little, Stephanie Bogart, Ashley Ghiaseddin, Rick Stepp, Jeremiah Blanchard, Ruth Steiner, Taylor Rose, Laurie Bialosky, Nancy Clark, Tom Kelleher, Toby Shorey, Taylor Rose, and Jorg Peters.

Call to Order

Danaya Wright, Chair

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

Approve [March 5, 2024 Minutes](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Council Reports are due May 1st.
- Chair-elect Election by written ballot at this month's Senate meeting. Candidates will be announced this Monday, April 8th.
- Ballots will open later this month for committee, boards, and council elections and will remain open for two weeks.
- Faculty Senate will host two April [Distinguished Professor Lectures](#) before our next Steering meeting:

-- April 12, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

[Chris Janiszewski](#)

Distinguished Professor and Russell Berrie Eminent Scholar Chair

Marketing Department

Warrington College of Business

Processing Fluency in Decision Making.

Bryan 130 & via *Zoom

*<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91666899388> / Meeting ID: 916 6689 9388 / Dial: +1 305 224 1968

[Flyer](#)

-- April 18, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m. (immediately before the Senate meeting)

[Matias Kirst](#)

Distinguished Professor of Quantitative Genetics and Genomics

School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

UF IFAS

Deciphering Plant Exceptionalism.

J. Wayne Reitz Union, Ground Floor, Chamber Room & via Livestream

[Flyer](#)

[\(Webcast\)](#)

- The Annual Faculty Senate Reception is Friday, April 26th @ 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. @ the Earl and Christy Powell University House. Please RSVP to the email invitation you will receive from Presidential Events Director Colleen Flage.

- Chair-elect Lynne was introduced and provided a brief update that the Task force has a meeting tomorrow morning and is connecting with Quest, the University Curriculum

Committee, a number of units, the Advisory Council for Undergraduate Advisors, Associate Deans, the General Education Committee, and Faculty Council Chairs. They are working on benchmarking with peer institutions and are doing grassroots outreach to discuss impacts on the units' curriculum core, students, and more. The task force is in data collection mode through the end of this semester.

- Chair Wright has put together a working group to address and identify any headwinds encountered when colleges are working on cross-collaborations in the education space for structural and course approvals. Attention is being given to streamlining procedural steps and increasing efficiency while decreasing faculty workload.

- BOG met March 26 - 27. The BOG's current strategic plan expires this year, so faculty have opportunity to provide input into the new plan. Each Faculty Senate Chair was asked to provide Governor Phalin with faculty goals for their institutions. She requested that two to three Steering Committee members volunteer to establish UF's articulation to the system-wide goals. They will meet and bring back their list to the next Steering Committee meeting. The goal is to identify five to ten strategic goals by April 25th. Please consider what actions should be done to support faculty and relay to Drs. Stepp, Phalin, Wright, and Hass, who will work on this project.

- The Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) met March 25th. The ACFS Chair election was held, and Amanda Phalin will continue as chair through June 1, 2025. The next ACFS and BOG meeting will be held in June at UCF.

- The Steering Committee discussed that there is a need for procedural and policy clarification for conflicts of interest when internal approvals fail. It was noted that if employees from countries of concern are not domiciled, they are not hired. There are inquiries about how to handle students/potential employees who are funded by their home country to collaborate with a UF researcher or teacher. Are there exemptions for those who are domiciled, funded by their home country, and invited by faculty for employment in UF labs?

- **Provost's Report**

Scott Angle, Provost

- Provost Angle was unable to attend today.

- The Steering Committee discussed post-tenure review with Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs Chris Hass, including questions being relayed by faculty. Please direct specific inquiries to Associate Provost Hass who can clarify any instructions and scale inquiries to specific units.

University Athletics & Academics

Scott Stricklin, University Athletic Director

- Director Stricklin is unable to attend today but has provided an overview of his Senate talk:

- General University Athletic Association Update
- 2023-2024 University of Florida Student-Athlete Achievements
 - Academics
 - Community Service
 - Internships
 - Championships

Honorary Degree Candidates & Vetting
& [Administrator Proclamations](#)

Ruth Steiner, Chair, Honorary Degrees
Distinguished Awards Committee

- The Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee has recommended nominee Singer. A motion to table and to ask the candidate sponsors to speak to the Steering Committee carried unanimously.

- The Steering Committee discussed an inquiry from the Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee on how to strengthen vetting for Honorary Degree candidates. The Steering Committee agreed that, while diligent vetting must take place, the level of vetting and who does the vetting belongs with the Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee, who are to use all available resources from the offices of Human Resources, General Counsel, and the University of Florida Foundation. Steering can instruct or advise the committee to do the vetting as a best practice. To maximize clarity and transparency, protocol additions or amendments to the committee's current practices will continue to be posted at: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Committees/Honorary-Degrees-and-Distinguished-Awards-Committee> (view left navigation bar)
- The Steering Committee reviewed the [Administrator Proclamations](#) submission from the Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards Committee and agreed with its content, making one minor [amendment](#) to arrive at the [agreed-upon final version](#). Moving forward, this is the criteria which the Faculty Senate will utilize when awarding administrator proclamations of recognition and gratitude. To increase clarity and transparency this criteria is posted @: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Pages/Faculty-Senate/SenateResolutions>.

University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) Report – Graduate Council

Charlene Luke, Chair, University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC)

- UCRC was approached by Graduate Council liaisons to amend the language in Faculty Senate Bylaw 20 (A)(2)(b)(6) to better reflect actual practice and protocol.
- The UCRC and Steering Committee approve this language change.

University Curriculum Committee

Toby Shorey, Director of Curriculum Monitoring & Analysis, Undergrad Affairs

- Common Prerequisite Manual Modification:
 - [for Environmental Science BA](#)
 - [for Environmental Science BS](#)
- Dr. van Oostrom is traveling today. Toby Shorey, Director of Curriculum Monitoring and Analysis, Office of Undergraduate Affairs, presented this approved UCC item on his behalf.
- The Steering Committee discussed and approved both requests to update the Common Prerequisite Manual to reflect recent curriculum changes to the Environmental Science BA and BS degrees.

Council Reports

Research and Scholarship Council

Ashley Ghiaseddin, Chair

- The need for increasing payment options to human research subjects, including digital tools, was discussed at the last meeting. Stephanie Gray, Assistant VP of Sponsored Programs, discussed current options and procedures, and heard from faculty about other options which might be available. She will communicate with UF research teams to evaluate these options and will report back to council in the fall.
- The need to review duplications at different research service centers was discussed by council, as well as the LabArchives/BioRender institutional licensing terms which rendered the software unavailable to UF.
- Faculty Senate has been contacted by UF emeritus and other faculty in regard to research misconduct allegations. The Steering Committee discussed that Faculty Senate does not have the authority to oversee or conduct individual case investigations related to allegations of faculty research misconduct. Dr. Ghiaseddin has served on the College of Medicine Faculty Council and shared that unit's actions in responding to past and ongoing faculty concerns.
- Although there have been allegations about research misconduct in matters related to Covid, the most recent concerns involve the processes by which the University office of research integrity evaluates allegations and notifies, or fails to notify, complainants about proceedings.
- Following Steering Committee discussion, Chair Wright instructed the Research and Scholarship Council to investigate if the university has a clear, robust, and fair process for investigating research

misconduct claims. Dr. Ghiaseddin will invite Cassandra Farley, Director of Research Integrity, Security, and Compliance (RISC) within the UF Office of Research to present its process and procedures to council, and he will report the outcome at the Steering Committee meeting.

Infrastructure Council

Walter O'Dell, Chair

- The Parking and Transportation Committee voiced concerns about service vehicles haphazardly parking when they are on call. Designated spaces are being requested to increase safety.
- The Preservation of Historic Buildings & Sites Committee have reviewed phase one of the renovations for the Hamilton Center and the infirmary space.
- The Sustainability Champions of Change awards are being presented soon.
- Facilities Services will work with Reitz to increase e-scooter charging, but the Reitz Union has its own facility oversight and management teams.
- The Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee discussed trees to be cut for north parking lot outpatient circle off Hull Road.
- Selman Hershfield was elected as the next council chair.

Welfare Council

Stephanie Bogart, Chair

- At the last minute, nearly all council members could not attend the regularly scheduled meeting, so the March meeting was cancelled. March's invited guest from UF HR was to discuss paid leave and will now present this topic at council's April meeting.

Academic Policy Council

Nancy Clark, Chair

- Council approved the clarification of policy language to [Certificate Credit Policy](#), and received an update on both the [SB 266](#) and on the system replacing the Online promotion and tenure and faculty evaluations system - the [Faculty Insights, Excellence and Advancement System milestone timeline](#). The timeline was presented to council by Associate Provost Chris Hass, who would also like to present it to the Faculty Senate in May.

Budget Council

Jorg Peters, Chair

- Maria Gutierrez Martin, Interim Vice President of University of Florida Advancement and Associate Vice President for the UF Foundation presented [UF Advancement slides](#) and explained the responsibilities and goals of the Foundation, including advancement officers at each college. Fundraising and keeping UF alumni connected through potential continued use of UF email, etc. were discussed.
- Cathy Lebo, Associate Provost and Director of Institutional Planning and Research, will present at the next council meeting and will help answer council inquiries about student credit hours and UF enrollment tracking over the years.
- John Kraft was elected as the next council chair.

Approve [April 18, 2024 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The agenda was approved with the deletion of the Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee Information Items.

Adjournment

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.