

University Constitution and Regulations Committee (UCRC)

Minutes

15 November 2021

Via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93300549824?pwd=V0FyY2ZGNkxkcWxqbVlqaWpBYmxodz09>

10:00 a.m.

Present: Charlene Luke, Katie Vogel Anderson, David C. Bloom, Jerimiah Blanchard, Hannah Vander Zanden, Ashley Ghiaseddin, Chris Hass, Casey Griffith, Laurie Bialosky, Danaya Wright, Merritt McAlister, Taylor Rose, and Amanda Phalin.

- 1. Call to Order** – Charlene Luke, UCRC Chair
 - The meeting was called to order by UCRC Chair Charlene Luke at 10:01 a.m.
- 2. Approval of 18 October 2021 Minutes** – Charlene Luke, UCRC Chair
 - The minutes were approved.
- 3. Follow-up on the [Professional Curriculum Committee](#) and [University Curriculum Committee \(UCC\) Requested Bylaw and Constitution Amendments Update](#)** – Casey Griffith, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Academic Policy, Office of Undergraduate Affairs
 - Casey Griffith reviewed the [University Curriculum Committee \(UCC\) Bylaw and Constitutional language updates](#), as requested last month by the UCRC. This language was accepted by the UCRC, clarifies UCC's focus on undergraduate curriculum, and helps clarify the new Professional Curriculum Committee's focus on professional curriculum.
 - Graduate Senior Associate Dean Dr. Paul Duncan will be invited to provide an update to UCRC on any needed amendments to the Graduate Council constitutional or bylaws language. This will allow UCRC to shepherd the Professional Curriculum Committee proposal to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and Faculty Senate as it will clearly define the roles of the related joint committees (the UCC and the Graduate Council).
- 4. UF Constitution's Special Meeting Provision: [Update from the Subcommittee on Constitutional Revision Related to Special Meetings](#)** - Merritt McAlister, UCRC Member & Subcommittee Chair
 - Professor McAlister presented the subcommittee's updated proposal to incorporate UCRC's feedback from its October meeting.
 - UCRC discussed how best to implement guardrails to make a necessary special meeting meaningful while avoiding possible abuse of this procedure by a small and/or non-diversified group of Senators.
 - UCRC discussed: the number of Senators and the diversity of units needed to call a special meeting; what powers, including agenda-setting authority special meeting organizers would have; if current quorum rules would apply; how much authority special meeting organizers would have to decline, defer, or refer an item to a Faculty Senate committee or council; and if changes to the current constitutional language would result in removing the discretion of the Faculty Senate Steering

Committee to establish Faculty Senate agendas, which, as the elected executive committee of the Faculty Senate, is one of its essential and primary missions.

- UCRC strongly recommends that the special meeting organizers involve/meet with the Faculty Senate Chair when pursuing a special meeting option.
- UCRC agreed that the Faculty Senate Chair will chair the special meeting.
- To aid in: effective share governance; providing a voice for all faculty; and in establishing precedence, it was discussed that it is imperative that a special meeting item(s) in question be viewed through a 'long term' lens and not in a heated, incautious, or spur of the moment way. This includes clearly and concisely spelling out effective procedures to determine minimal time needed for meeting discussion and notice, and rationale for calling a special meeting.
- To avoid future chaotic or ineffective shared governance efforts, UCRC concurred that it is appropriate to revisit today's proposal if, in the future, nuisance, aimless, or abusive multiple special meetings are called to the detriment of the faculty or its elected Faculty Senate.
- Administrative liaison Taylor Rose provided topic context from a Parliamentary perspective and Senators Vander Zanden and Blanchard provided their perspectives on rationale for when it would be appropriate for a special meeting to be called.
- The sub-committee will incorporate UCRC's recommendations and feedback from today's meeting and revamp the proposal to present a more complete and polished proposal to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and Faculty Senate. UCRC will review these updates as next month's meeting.
- Please send any suggested December agenda items to Chair Luke.

5. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Resources:

[Constitution of the University of Florida](#), as amended by April 15, 2021

[UF Senate Bylaws](#), as amended by April 15, 2021

[UCRC Operating Procedures](#), as amended by May 2015