

ACADEMIC POLICY COUNCIL (APC) Minutes

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97399537810?pwd=TW1keWdvdS9lYldLMkFqNGtTNUZjUT09>

Present: Hans van Oostrom, Richard Scholtz, Angela Bacsik, Angela Lindner, Jason Byrd, Chris Hass, Andrew Zimmerman, Laurie Bialosky, Eleni Bozia, Elizabeth Wood, Emma Towler, and Paul Duncan.

1. **Call to Order** – Hans van Oostrom, APC Chair
 - The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. **IDEA Tip**
 - Given the increasing instances of anti-Asian sentiments and crimes happening globally, please be aware of the stress being placed on those in the community who are most affected by them. In addition to this awareness, offering a statement of support is advisable. Additionally, there have been a number of laws passed in several states which are seen as damaging to transgender and LBTQ individuals, so please support faculty and staff struggling with this and help be an ally for them.

3. **Approval of March 8, 2021 Minutes**
 - The minutes were approved.

4. **New Business**
 - a. **Election of 2021-2022 APC Chair**
 - Richard Scholtz was elected.

5. **Old Business**
 - a. **UF Academic Calendar**
 - Faculty Senate has requested options to adjust the academic calendar and consider two new possible scenarios:
 - 1- shift the start of the semester by one week
 - 2- align Spring Break with Alachua County public schools
 - The total number of class days is a consideration. Prior to last year, the Florida Board of Governors required a minimum of 220 instructional days. Although this is no longer a requirement, options being considered now will still utilize this framework. Determining the minimum number of instructional days is a key starting point in any academic calendar considerations and mindfulness of how it may impact other UF operating systems (such as HR, etc.) is important.
 - Santa Fe College also designs its Spring Break with the UF academic calendar in mind.

- Spring Break is intended to be a break for students and has been scheduled to be sandwiched in between the first and second half of the spring semester.
- There is some discussion that Alachua County could consider establishing their Spring Break a little earlier and UF could schedule theirs a little later than usual.
- Council members discussed the importance of instructors knowing the number of lecture days established as a minimum in the academic calendar and maintaining consistency with a standard, minimum number of courses in the fall and spring semester and with Tuesday/Thursday or other class rotations/cycles.
- Student liaison Emma Towler offered feedback from a student perspective regarding Spring Break, including that the first three weeks of March are likely the most impactful time for a break and for transitioning to the end of the semester.
- Adding this item to the August Steering Committee agenda will allow needed time to assemble draft scenarios which can be reviewed by the APC in September, prior to the September or October Faculty Senate meeting.

b. Proposed Syllabi Statement/Resource

- There is no new development on a UF-created statement related to inclusivity in the classroom. Associate Provost Chris Hass will keep council apprised if any further steps are taken for such a diversity and inclusion syllabi statement, which is meant to assist students in navigating to DEI resources.
- It is proposed to have a campus resource link which will direct to a sub-page on the [student success website](#). Navigable links to the actual resources, such as the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#), [Counseling and Wellness Center \(CWC\)](#), etc., would then be accessed here.
- UFIT is preparing a mock-up.
- The University Curriculum Committee (UCC) may wish to review the syllabus policy and report any findings to the APC.
- This would be a permanent and required (not optional) tab in all Canvas shells.
- Council approved asking UFIT to present the new tab option to the APC in September.
- Additionally, pronoun use will go live in Canvas in Summer A. This is an offshoot of the 'chosen name' conversation previously held by APC.

c. Faculty Titles

- Beginning July 1, non-tenure track Lecturers within two colleges will be allowed to use the working title of Instructional Assistant Professor. Work continues in the Compensation Committee to advance these titles for use as permanent, official UFHR titles.
- All are welcome to attend tomorrow's Compensation Committee meeting, where Brent Goodman will address this issue. The Outlook appointment will be forwarded by the Faculty Senate Secretary at the conclusion of this meeting.

d. Evaluation of Teaching – Peer Assessment

- Chair van Oostrom shared the last 'track and changes' which resulted in today's discussed document.
- Council reviewed the document's three primary categories: course materials and

organization, educational delivery, and student engagement.

- References can be added to strengthen the document.
- This will be used as a guidelines for colleges to develop policies, and a goal is to have a white paper for colleges to utilize as they see fit. It should also be used to help provide consistency in evaluative measures in various P&T boards across campus.
- The benefits of and how best to execute critical peer evaluations for professional development only (and outside of the P&T process) were discussed.
- Chair van Oostrom will review the last few additions made by council members and implement these edits. He will present at 4/29 Steering &, due to a commencement conflict, Chair-elect Scholtz will present at the May 6 Senate.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.