

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL Minutes

Friday, May 7, 2021

Noon

Via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97039734452?pwd=KzhGZWVjSFV0Q0ZlKzh2dz09>

Present: Keith Rambo, Hannah Norton, Moon Lee, Jonathan Orsini, Amanda Phalin, Paul Duncan, Laurie Bialosky, and Sylvain Doré.

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.

II. Approval of April 2, 2021 Minutes

- The minutes were approved.

III. Council Chair's Report

- Senator Amanda Phalin presented the below graduate student experience document at yesterday's Faculty Senate.

IV. Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Updates

Graduate School - Paul Duncan, Sr. Associate Dean

- The new Dean of the Graduate School has been named. Dr. Nicole Stedman, a professor and associate chair of the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, will assume this role effective June 1.

V. Election of 2021-2022 Research & Scholarship Council Chair

- Jason Byrd, associate professor of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine was elected.

VI. [The Graduate Student Experience](#)

- This document deals with graduate student needs and enhancing the graduate student experience, a topic of interest and recent focus by the Board of Trustees (BOT). It aims to serve as a guide for the university and the graduate student community moving forward. Key points highlighted included: representation of graduate students and how a committee to do so would be created and set up; reviewing and updating the codes of conduct for faculty and students, including the Ombuds process or a process whereby students can bring concerns to the university; creating a central mentoring and team work training program accessible to all graduate students. Senator Amanda Phalin highlighted the diversity statement which could be added to syllabi and aid in the recruitment of underrepresented faculty and graduate students. Also highlighted were the suggestions to: increase graduate student accessibility to affordable housing; promote paid parental or family leave to students; expand insurance and health care access; extend accommodations and increase engagement with the Disability Resource Center; and find ways to reduce graduate student fees. The document is meant to provide a path to recommendations to central administration, with annual reviews as a

living document.

- This collaborative document was produced by faculty from several colleges and graduate student organizations. Concern was expressed that the Graduate School and the Faculty Senate administrative liaisons were omitted from this process until today, when it was first viewed by the the Research and Scholarship Council. Problematic areas of the document were discussed, including the need to clarify that there are distinct categories of graduate students, which include the vast majority of whom are enrolled in master's degree programs, as well as the other categories of doctoral and post-doctoral students. No UF 'Dean of Graduate Student Affairs' exists. Talline Martins is the Director of the Office of Graduate Professional Development and is responsible for coordinating professional development activities, resources, and programs for UF graduate students. This Graduate School division aims to develop core competencies for graduate students to successfully complete their graduate degree and transition into careers. The Graduate School is attentive to and has resourced graduate student activities which are distinct from editorial activities. The Graduate School also devotes attention to minority and international graduate student recruitment and Murielle Gammons is the Director of Graduate Diversity Initiatives.
- Graduate Student Council President Jonathan Orsini provided feedback which included the need to have a centralized location for graduate students to go to and the need to continue to find ways to enhance the overall UF graduate experience.

VIII. New Business

- There was no Old Business or new items from the floor. Final discussion points included:
 - Increasing administrative liaison meeting attendance and shared governance participation was briefly discussed.
 - The Faculty Senate Chair noted he had formally requested in a previous President's cabinet meeting that additional staff be added to assist the critical work of the Institute of Research & Planning.
 - Council discussed plans to meet in person in the Fall, given that Summer B will mark when the 'switch must be thrown' to fully return to in person activities. The Faculty Senate Chair relayed that, in the last Deans and Provost meeting, it was indicated that masking decision-making will continue at that time to allow the opportunity to review the latest UF Health recommendations.

IX. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.