



## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Zoomcast:

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/296bcb31fc0a4fb993e607ead1c065c91d?catalog=8456cbab10b449868436ee51ddb84dc421>

---

### Call to Order & Approval of [February 18, 2021 Minutes](#)

Sylvain Doré, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Sylvain Doré.
- The minutes were approved.

### Reports:

#### [Chair's Report](#)

Sylvain Doré, Chair

- The Chair encouraged kindness and support for colleagues and to guide those in need to the mental health support programs hyperlinked in today's [Chair's Report](#).
- Submit your 2022-23 Faculty Senate Chair Nominations to [the Faculty Senate Secretary](#) by March 31 and contact the Chair with inquiries.
- COVID-19 numbers are stable and relatively low. UF is now screening for some of the mutants onsite. Floridians aged 40 and over are eligible for the vaccine beginning Monday.
- Normal university operations are anticipated for Summer B and faculty may now travel without restrictions if approved by a Dean. Six-foot social distancing is still in place but may change.
- Please share with your colleagues that there is an [optional narrative section](#) that has been added to UF's [tenure & promotion](#) submission system for faculty who wish to share specific justifications or explanations for any pandemic-related interruptions in work or productivity, which could ultimately affect one's promotion opportunities or timeline.
- An update of the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting held last week was provided, including that: a list of faculty successes and an open invitation for trustees to visit Senate were shared by the Chair; an increased focus on the graduate student experience is occurring; comments have been heard from faculty and students regarding elements of the Campus Master Plan related to McCarthy Woods and graduate student housing; and at the next BOT meeting there will be an update regarding Baby Gator and childcare solutions.
- Comments and additions to the [Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility \(IDEA\) Action Items: A Living Document](#), created by faculty and assembled by the Welfare Council and Chair Sarah Lynne, are welcome. In lieu of the document's presentation today, a resolution in support of this document, as well as the document itself, will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting as an Information Item.
- Participation is encouraged at the upcoming Distinguished Professor [lecture](#) by Professor Nancy Dowd and a Department of Psychiatry-sponsored [lecture](#) by Dr. Rannah Parekh addressing microaggression and workplace prejudice.
- The Chair discussed that yesterday was Equal Pay Day and Faculty Senate plans to address gender earning inequities.
- The Chair shared a slide from the University Libraries outlining how to avoid predatory publishing and conferences and resources to address both.
- Inquiries were made and briefly addressed about Baby Gator staffing and capacity, as well as encouragement to share University Libraries resources dealing with secure publishing practices with graduate students and faculty.

- Please contact the Chair or any committee or council chairs with faculty comments, suggestions, or actionable items.

### **President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs**, President

- President Fuchs thanked the faculty and Chair for their ongoing efforts in creating positive impacts and also discussed the new vaccine eligibility criteria; available vaccine sites; and efforts being made by VP Mark Kaplan and the Community and Government Relations Office, and their role in liaising with state officials.
- Dr. Fuchs discussed [commencement](#) plans for the 25 in-person ceremonies, including some ceremonies which will have to take place during exam week due to COVID restrictions. Faculty are asked to please accommodate the few graduating seniors who may have conflicts. Commencement volunteer opportunities will soon be released and faculty are encouraged to participate.
- An inquiry was made regarding potential future vaccine requirements to return to campus and although it is unlikely to be mandatory, a determination has not yet been made for schools in the state university system (SUS). Future masking and vaccine requirements in UF Health and at UF were also briefly discussed.

### **Provost's Report**

**Joe Glover**, President

- Provost Glover is awaiting recommendations from the Graduate School Dean search committee regarding the final slate of candidates. Faculty will be apprised when this information is available so that interested faculty may attend a session.
- Dr. Glover shared the press release from Governor DeSantis, which was forwarded by VP of Human Resource Jodi Gentry, outlining vaccine registration opportunities at [www.myvaccine.fl.gov](http://www.myvaccine.fl.gov) and the distribution sites. Beginning April 5, all individuals over 18 will be eligible to receive the vaccine.
- The increased availability of vaccines is allowing increased social interaction but vigilance against the virus remains, particularly as incidents on campus are slowly rising.
- An inquiry was also made regarding addressing Asian hate crimes. The President has published a [statement](#) which has been widely shared, including on social media.

### **Action Items:**

#### **University Curriculum Committee**

**Angela Lindner**, Associate Provost  
for Undergraduate Affairs

- [Plant Science BA Degree Termination](#)
- This request for the termination of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Plant Science is being made by the plant science committee and faculty due to the lack of student selection, current course offerings, and program structure. No students are currently enrolled in this program.
- This item was approved.

### **Information Items:**

#### **Legislative Updates from Tallahassee**

**Mark Kaplan**, VP for Government and  
Community Relations

- Vice President Kaplan provided a process overview of, and what to expect from, this year's legislative session, including budget proposals and major policy issues. The session is now in week four of the sixty-day session and it has been very active in discussing potential higher education policies.

[Resolution in Support of ACFS Resolution to Support the Free Exchange of Ideas on Campus and Therefore Oppose a Legislative Entitlement to Record Classes and](#)

**Sylvain Doré**, Chair

### Mandatory Survey

- The Florida legislature is due to vote on this bill tomorrow. A motion to move this item from an Information Item to an Action Item (which requires a 2/3 vote) was made without objection.
- The resolution carried.

### Updates on University Avenue Plans

**Linda Dixon**, Director of Planning, Planning, Design & Construction Division

- Linda Dixon addressed solutions to widespread concerns about a number of traffic incidents on University Avenue, 13th Street, Archer Road, and around campus. Plans from senior leadership and actions in coordination with the city, county, and state were shared.

### Constitution of the University of Florida & Bylaws of the Faculty Senate Amendments

**Padraic Levings**, Chair  
University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC)

- This is a request from the UCRC to amend the name and charge of the Compensation Committee to include equity and to change the Committee on Committees reporting period from 'periodically' to an annual review of at least 1/3 of Faculty Senate committees.

### **Successful College Collaborations Series**

**John Davis**, Associate Dean, UF/IFAS Research; **Michael Gutter**, Associate Dean, UF/IFAS Extension  
**Laura Rosenbury**, Dean  
Fredric G. Levin College of Law

- Successful college collaborations from [UF/IFAS Extension and Research](#) and the [Levin College of Law](#) were shared.

### Diversity Action Plan Example

**J. Scott Angle**, Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Vice President Angle provided an overview of UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) black faculty and student cohort, available diversity fellowships, minority student outreach, curriculum reviews and assessments, and plans to move away from a strictly academic conversation regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. All (nearly 40) academic units were asked to develop an actionable plan to make significant and "bottom-up" changes within their units. Units have identified their greatest needs and their thoughts for short-term and long-term plans.

### Open Discussion from Senate Floor - *Three minutes per speaker.*

- 1) University of Florida Faculty Senators
- 2) University of Florida Faculty

- There was no discussion from the Senate floor.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

### **Attending**

- View meeting registrants [here](#).