



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.
Reitz Union Chamber

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/4306d9fa932c44b2a80425c9a3568e4b1d?catalog=8456cbab10b449868436ee51ddb84dc421>

Call to order & Approval of [August 26, 2021 Minutes](#) **David C. Bloom, Chair**

- The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair David C. Bloom.
- The minutes were approved.

[Chair's Report](#)

David C. Bloom, Chair

- As part of the Chair's Report, COVID-19 comments and discussion will be entertained during the 'Open Discussion from the Senate Floor' portion of this meeting.
- Chair Bloom discussed the UF model for shared governance and the role of the College Faculty Councils/Assemblies, Faculty Senators, and faculty. He discussed the critical need for faculty participation in shared governance and ways to strengthen awareness of the pathways to do so. Reviewing and strengthening the [Faculty Senate Bylaws](#) and [University Constitution](#) as part of this model was also discussed. The [UF Shared Governance Model](#) has been prominently placed on the [Faculty Senate home page](#) and was reviewed and discussed. Inquiries and further shared governance discussion are encouraged.
- All colleagues are encouraged to join us for the first lecture in the [2021-22 Distinguished Professor Lecture Series](#), which will be held at 5 p.m. following today's Faculty Senate meeting in the Reitz Union Chamber Room, with a reception to follow in Room 3320 (3rd Floor). Distinguished Professor [Sanjay Ranka](#), from the Department of Computer Information Science and Engineering in the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, will present 'Big Data versus Big Brother: Leveraging AI for Smarter Transportation.' This presentation will be live-streamed and recorded.
- Chair Bloom attended the Board of Trustees (BOT) retreat September 9-10 in Winter Park, FL. The BOT focused on UF's 'Rise to the Top Five' efforts and strengthening faculty retention and recruitment. The challenge going forward will be for UF to sustain and continue to rise in reputation and stature. To assist with these efforts, a metric driven approach will be taken to elevate the reputation of individual colleges and departments by rewarding consistently over-performing faculty. Chair Bloom will work with Faculty Senate committees and councils to place this on their agendas this academic year.

[President's Report](#)

Kent Fuchs, President

- President Fuchs discussed the rapidly decreasing COVID-19 cases across Florida and UF and shared data trends and numbers. Data reflects declines in the isolation or quarantine of UF affiliates and the number of cases at UF Health Shands Hospital, (including those on ventilators and in the ICU, which have halved over the past week). UF-affiliated cases by date of onset of symptoms from April 2020 to the present were reviewed. UF's COVID-19 dashboard shows positive cases, which peaked on August 1, 2021, for students and employees tested by UF and also by others, as reported to the Department of Health. The seven day, weekly average of positive cases has declined to 22. Vaccines are expected to be authorized later this fall for children age five and up and boosters authorized for those 65 and older.
- President Fuchs provided context as to why UF, or any university in the State University System (SUS), does not have the authority to mandate masks, vaccines, or to move large numbers of classes online.

Dr. Fuchs discussed the university's relationship to the Florida state government and how it is different from other entities, such as public school districts. He discussed decision-making by official, representative university bodies, such as himself as the university president or the Faculty Senate (as a whole, not as individuals), and a loss of the ability to influence decisions affecting the university should they become an adversary of state government and elected officials. He voiced that the August 26, 2021 [UF Faculty Senate Resolution Calling for Requirement of Safety Measures to Protect our Campus from COVID-19](#) and many other past [Faculty Senate resolutions](#) have not been viewed as fractious to the university and state government or elected officials and contrasted that with a public, no confidence vote in a decision or a policy or an entity being placed after the state government has made a final decision (such as with masking and vaccine directives). President Fuchs expressed that such a vote would have no positive impact on the university's ability to issue health-related mandates and would, for many years, foreseeably fracture the relationship between the university and the state government and its officials who made those decisions, ultimately leading to a diminished or inability to impact future policies or decisions affecting the university. UF remains a part of the State of Florida. Dr. Fuchs spoke of the university's ability to enormously influence, without requiring, the use of indoor masking, vaccinations, and encouraging healthy behaviors in our community. He expressed optimism for a safe academic year and that we are beginning to see the end of the pandemic.

- A Day of Gratitude is tentatively being held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Planning began this past June for this day of gratitude, celebration, and reflection to recognize the work and success of all faculty, students, and staff since the onset of COVID-19. In July, it was decided to postpone this day, originally scheduled to be held this month, due to the COVID-19 Delta variant. This event has now been expanded to celebrate the university's core values. Dr. Fuchs is collaborating with Chair Bloom and Associate Provost of Undergraduate Affairs, Angela Lindner, to formally approve the cancellation of classes on this day. This item will appear on a future Faculty Senate agenda for approval.

Provost's Report

Joe Glover, Provost

- Provost Glover discussed UF's Top 5 ranking achievement in the US News & World Report and what its implications are for UF's faculty and colleges. Appreciation was expressed for all faculty and student's efforts in this endeavor. Metrics which UF does especially well in include the six year graduation rate of students; the student/faculty ratio; and the number of classes offered and the expenditures in achieving this. UF is contemplating how to best increase its 'reputation' metric. Over 300 schools are polled to establish this metric and it primarily rests on the subjective impressions of three individuals within the polled schools: the President, the Provost, and the Deans of Admissions or VP of Enrollment Management. UF appears in the 3.7 to 3.8 range, as compared to the 4.1 to 4.3 range of other peers performing better in this metric. How to improve this standing is not entirely clear but the ranking of graduate research and graduate education enterprise appear to influence the 'reputation' metric, so UF will continue to focus on increasing patents, licenses, and grants awards.

- An inquiry was answered in the negative regarding if any undue state or outside influence was extended during the hiring and promotion and tenure process of newly hired UF Professor and newly named Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo, MD, PHD. The hiring was made through UF Health and the College of Medicine (COM), and the Department of Medicine voted in the affirmative for conferring tenure upon hire for Dr. Ladapo. Final approvals remain at the COM and Provost levels before coming before the Board of Trustees for final approval.

Action Items:

Graduate Council

Paul Duncan, Sr. Associate Dean

- [MS in Applied Data Science](#)

Graduate School

- The Graduate Council and Engineering Education Department propose a Master of Science with a major in Applied Data Science (MSADS) degree to provide students with a working knowledge of techniques and software commonly used in Data Science.
- This item was approved.

Information Items:

[Introduction to the Dean of the Graduate School](#)

Nicole Stedman, Associate Provost and Graduate School Dean

- Dean Stedman discussed her new role in the Graduate School and key priorities in enhancing UF graduate education and student experience. Available resources and Graduate School initiatives were reviewed and discussed.

[Academic Calendar](#)

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

- Associate Provost Lindner presented academic calendar options as a follow up to last year's Information Item to consider a change to the academic calendar by delaying the start of spring semester a week and aligning UF's and Alachua County Public Schools' spring breaks. This will be an Action Item next month.

Senate Officer Term Ad hoc Committee

Richard Scholtz, Chair
Senate Officer Term Ad hoc Committee

- The [Senate Officer Term Ad hoc Committee Report](#) was shared by Committee Chair Scholtz. The report is being moved forward to the University Constitution & Regulations Committee for review and any needed action.

Open Discussion from Senate Floor - Three minute limit per speaker.

1) University of Florida Faculty Senators

- Chair Bloom opened the floor to discussion on COVID-19 resolutions and provided a timeline of recent discussion, beginning with the August 26, 2021 Faculty Senate passage of the [Resolution Calling for Requirement of Safety Measures to Protect our Campus from COVID-19](#). Chair Bloom also provided background on a petition and resolution circulated by faculty member Mark Hostetler which sought a no confidence vote in the university's Fall COVID-19 policy. Chair Bloom relayed the timeline and findings of the emergency and regularly-scheduled [Steering Committee meetings](#), as well as of the emergency and regularly-scheduled [Welfare Council meetings](#), to address this request. He also addressed the emergency Faculty Senate meeting request by petition of 25 or more Senators (as indicated is needed in the Faculty Senate Bylaws) which was forwarded by Professor Hostetler. He discussed the representative nature of the Faculty Senate body and the importance of resolution vetting by all faculty as part of the shared governance process.
- Senator Murtha expressed appreciation of the transparent shared governance process and requested that due to the important and serious nature of this discussion, that the COVID-19 resolution discussion be moved from the Chair's Report to an Information Item in today's meeting and that Robert's Rules of Order be suspended to accommodate this. A point of order was ruled. Chair Bloom noted the COVID-19 resolution discussion is on track to be on the

October agenda as an Information Item, and that Robert's Rules do not allow suspension of certain voting By Laws.

- Senators Anthony and Vander Zanden offered support of discussing a COVID-19 resolution today and explained why support to do so was of critical importance.

- Senator Vander Zanden expressed the need to act now on a COVID-19 resolution and the adverse impacts to the university and community in not doing so. Additionally, Chair Bloom responded to her disagreement with his quote in the [August 26th Chronicle of Higher Education article](#).

- Senator Blanchard expressed his concern about his colleagues and community during COVID-19 and the serious risk of adverse reputation to the university due to a 'politics over science' response to the COVID-19 environment.

- Senator Antes expressed concern that health risks must be acknowledged for faculty, staff, and students, particularly those who are health-compromised. The stress of the COVID-19 environment was discussed.

- Senator TenBroeck expressed appreciation for having the time to vet the COVID-19 resolution proposal(s) with her colleagues and voiced concern that a vote of no confidence could be damaging to the university. She also shared her students' comments of appreciation of being back in the classroom and on campus.

- Chair Bloom encourages additional discussion and input on COVID-19 and would like to see additional discussion at the October meeting. A motion was made but not recognized by the Chair to add the COVID-19 resolution discussion to the October agenda as an Information Item. Chair Bloom responded that he is in agreement with the discussion moving forward for the October Faculty Senate agenda and will continue to seek the advisement and approval of the Steering Committee to establish the Faculty Senate agenda(s).

2) University of Florida Faculty

- There was no discussion from the Senate floor by university faculty.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Attending

Senators

Luis Alvarez-Castro
Theresa Antes
Lisa Anthony
Haldun Aytug
Angela Bacsik
Katie Basinger
Lauren Berkow
Mario Binelli
Jeremiah J. Blanchard
Helene Blondeau
Stephanie Bogart
Wesley Bolch
Brent Broaddus
Michael Bumbach
Andrea Caloiaro
Teresa Cavanaugh
Nico Cellinese
Konstantina
Christodouloupoulou
Cynda Crawford
Yousong Ding
Petra E. Duran-Gehring
Sara Moscovita Falzarano
Yuguang (Michael) Fang
Monica A. Fernandez
Jamie Foster
Klibs Galvao
Breann Garbas
Jamie Garner
Ashley Ghiaseddin
Charles Haddad
Rebecca Hanson
Barry Hartz
Dennis Hiltunen
Amie Hoefnagel
Helene Huet
Robert W. Huigens, III
Patrick Inglett
Sobha Jaishankar
Frederick (Rick) Kates

Lisa King
Marcus Kirk
Sujata Krishna
Jose Lemos
Lora Levett
Maureen Long
Kiran Lukose
Diba Mani
A. Corinne Manley
Crystal Marull
Anne Mathews
Tara Mathien
Mindy McAdams
Victoria Menzies
Carey Minter
Marjorie Montanez-Wiscovich
Kiran Motaparathi
Walter Lee Murfee
Timothy M. Murtha
Christine T. Myers
Juan Nino
Walter O'Dell
Madan Oli
Monika Oli
Jorg Peters
Ariel Pomputius
Ana Puig
Czerne Reid
Mary Risner
Jemie Robertson
Christopher Robinson
Richard Scholtz
Karla Shelnutt
Megan Sheridan
Stephen Smith
Matthew C. Smith
Ravi Srinivasan
Ruth Steiner
Catherine Striley
Andres Susaeta
Melanie G. Taylor
Saundra TenBroeck

David Therriault
Vilma Torres
Apichai Tuanyok
Hannah Vander Zanden
Wagner Vendrame
Nathalie A. Wall
Shawn Weatherford
Houston A. Wells
Trent Williams, Jr.
Gene Witmer
Sarah Wolking
Elizabeth Wood
Erich Wyckoff

Liaisons

Jason Byrd
Paul Duncan
Kent Fuchs
Joe Glover
Mark Kaplan
Angela Lindner
Taylor Rose
Nicole Stedman
Sean Trainor

Student Senators

Kushi Alluri
Hope Lerman
Devon K. Mims
Micah Page
Soha Ramadan
Daniel C. Schultz
Ryan L. Scott
Alex Wong

Guests

Mayra Cordero
Sylvain Doré
Mark Hostetler
Katie Vogel Anderson