



**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.
Reitz Union Chamber**

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/fa231a2afe6b47cb85046cf2e6be40d91d?catalog=8456cbab10b449868436ee51ddb84dc421>

Call to order & Approval of [September 23, 2021 Minutes](#) David C. Bloom, Chair

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

Chair's Report

David C. Bloom, Chair

- Chair Bloom provided an update on academic freedom issues of concern, particularly in the realm of higher education, both nationally and at UF. The Faculty Senate will engage in dialogue pertaining to principles of freedom of speech and how they apply to our classrooms and reaffirm our core principles and values.
- Given current legislation taking place in various states against the protection of tenure, the Faculty Senate will engage in reaffirming this central component of academic scholarship.
- The Board of Trustees (BOT) continues to pursue plans to help maintain and elevate UF's Top Five status by focusing on faculty retention and recruitment. This includes post-tenure review processes as well as processes to reward faculty high performance. Following consultation with the Academic Policy Council (APC), Chair Bloom was asked by the APC to establish an ad hoc committee to examine this issue. Please contact Chair Bloom if you are interested in serving.
- The [Center for Instructional Technology and Training \(CITT\)](#) is offering a new, free UF service which allows faculty to have their courses (Canvas sites, materials, syllabus, etc.) reviewed for accessibility. Improvement recommendations will be provided as detailed below:

Course Accessibility Consultations Available

Using the Ally tool in Canvas, instructional support assistants will provide an overview of accessibility concerns within the course, evaluate what content to remediate, and work with instructors to improve the overall course accessibility score. Throughout the consultation, the instructional support assistants will model remediation techniques for content in Canvas, Word or Google documents, PowerPoint presentations or Google Slides, spreadsheets, videos, and PDFs. [Submit a CITT Accessibility Consultation request](#) to begin.

- Chair Bloom asked that faculty pay extra attention to the health and well-being of students during this mid-semester period which can be a stressful one. Please encourage colleagues to view and share the resources available in the Student Life Blue & Orange Folders which clarify the type of support offered through the various campus health and wellness resources. The links to each of the folders can be found at the CWC Faculty and Staff Lounge webpage:

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/resources/facultylounge/>.

- The UF Campaign for Charity is entering its final phase and all are encouraged to contribute, particularly in this time of great need, over the next two weeks.
- Nominations are opening this month to all faculty for service on University Committees and Councils. The [Committee Nomination Form](#) and details will be distributed to all faculty, and are available on the [Faculty Senate home page](#) and in the ['Committees & Councils' tab](#). Nominations close January 31.

President's Report

Kent Fuchs, President

- COVID transmission and positive cases are in steep decline in Florida. UF Health continues to monitor if guidance changes are needed. Please continue to mask and encourage all to vaccinate. Booster shots are now amply available. Vaccines for children five through twelve have been approved and will be available soon through pharmacies, pediatricians, and likely UF Health.
- Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) candidate Dr. Marsha McGriff is providing a public address. Feedback is welcome and can be made at the CDO Search section of UF Human Resources' website at: <https://hr.ufl.edu/manager-resources/recruitment-staffing/talent-search/chief-diversity-officer/>. A decision is expected to be made soon.
- Congratulations to Gilbert R. Upchurch, Department of Surgery Chair, who was elected to the National Academy of Medicine.
- An inquiry was addressed regarding the White House executive order directing that those who are receiving federal contracts (not grants), be required to show proof of vaccination. Faculty are expected to be vaccinated to adhere to this federal directive, with the caveat that state mandates and executive orders are currently rolling out as well, and UF will navigate both.

Provost's Report

Joe Glover, Provost

- Provost Glover introduced Associate Provost Lindner, who provided an [Academic Calendar Summary Table](#) to more concisely review primary proposed changes to the academic calendar which will be voted on today.
- There were no inquiries for Provost Glover.

Action Items:

[Academic Calendar](#)

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost
for Undergraduate Affairs

- [Academic calendar options](#) to extend Winter Break, align UF and Alachua County Spring Breaks, and have no classes the week of Thanksgiving were reviewed and discussed. A [summary table of academic calendar scenarios](#) was presented, numerous faculty comments and feedback were provided, and inquiries were entertained by Associate Provost Lindner.
- Discussion was held regarding whether it is best to retain the current academic calendar format, or vote on and institute one of the new options being presented today. A motion to approve one of today's new academic calendar options carried.
 - A motion to approve [Scenario 2](#), which calls for even Fall/Spring Break terms with the Thanksgiving week holiday carried.
 - This will be in effect 2024-2025.
- Chair Bloom thanked Associate Provost Lindner and Registrar Steve Pritz for their diligent work.

Information Items:

[Update on Recent Federal and State Requirements Related to Undue Foreign Influence](#)

Cassandra Farley, Director of
Research Integrity

- Director Farley entertained inquiries and discussed the university's response to [HB 7017](#), a new legislative measure which became effective July 1, 2021, which aims to stem undue foreign influence on the resources and intellectual property of Florida's higher education institutions and corporations. Another legislative clause, related to state research institution requirements for foreign travel approval, monitoring, and reporting, becomes effective January 1, 2022 and Director Farley informed

faculty of essential program rollout details and how it relates to current and forthcoming UF rules and procedures.

[Driving Thought Leadership to Advance UF Faculty's National/International Stature](#)

Nancy Paton, VP of Strategic Communications & Marketing

- An overview of the resources provided by Strategic Communications & Marketing to advance and amplify faculty stature and work was presented. VP Paton discussed, answered inquiries about, and forwarded a [Faculty Guide to Strategic Communications & Marketing](#) which will be [posted on the Faculty Senate website](#) as a resources consultation for faculty.

[BOT Regulations](#)

Charlene Luke, Chair of University Constitution & Regulations Committee

- University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) Chair Charlene Luke shared university regulations which will be considered by the Board of Trustees (BOT) this fall.
- The UCRC has adopted a color-coded key for easily informing the Faculty Senate of proposed regulation changes that may affect Senators or their colleagues:
 - **Red** – proposed changes affect the faculty; please review and comment as appropriate.
 - **Yellow** – proposed changes may affect or be of interest to faculty; senators may want to review and comment as appropriate.
 - **Green** – proposed changes likely have minimal effect on faculty and do not necessarily warrant further review by the senators.
- Four [regulations](#) were presented. Each regulation was lit as follows:

4.040. Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. Red

**1.300. Direct Support Organizations, Health Services Support Organizations Yellow
Major Gifts Challenge Grant Program (No. TBD) Green**

3.0031. Volunteers Yellow

[Faculty Titles Resolution](#)

Sean Trainor, Chair of Compensation & Equity Committee

- The [Faculty Titles Resolution & Survey Report](#) were presented by Compensation & Equity Committee Chair Sean Trainor and inquiries were answered about this resolution to replace the 'Lecturer' title series with 'Assistant, Associate, or (full) Instructional Professor. Findings from the committee's cross-campus survey were shared and discussed.

COVID Resolution

David C. Bloom, Chair
Sarah Lynne, Welfare Council Chair

- [Welfare Council Resolution](#)

- [August 26, 2021 Faculty Senate Resolution](#)

- Chair Bloom provided a brief introduction of both above resolutions: the [resolution passed by Faculty Senate on August 26, 2021](#) and the [Welfare Council resolution](#) which contains final modifications of the no-confidence resolution initially submitted by faculty member Mark Hostetler. Welfare Council Chair Sarah Lynne provided an in-depth review of the resolution contents.

- Chair Bloom relayed that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee voted to add this item as an Information Item on today's agenda so that it could be heard and discussed by Faculty Senators. A second vote was then taken at the same Faculty Senate Steering Committee as to whether the Steering Committee endorsed the resolution. The vote unanimously against this resolution, for reasons which included that the resolution: overlaps with the resolution approved by Faculty Senate on August 26;

while the language difference in the new resolution (of 'no confidence') is unique, it does not provide a remedy; passing the resolution could diminish the university and Senate's reputation by repeating itself in an unproductive fashion.

During Floor Discussion:

- Senator Bolch (ENG) expressed opposition to the resolution because of its redundancy to the August 26 resolution, and agreed with President Fuchs' comments at the past two Faculty Senate meetings.
- Senator Blanchard (ENG) expressed support for the resolution to send a strong message that academics and faculty will not allow being put at risk by a state government and politicians that go against scientific knowledge and place individuals in harm's way. He voiced that it is imperative and incumbent upon us to make such a statement.
- Senator Vander Zanden (CLAS) commented that the other Top Five schools each have mask mandates and all but UNC Chapel Hill have vaccine mandates. She expressed support of the resolution's reference to vulnerable child populations on campus. She sought clarification of the inaccuracies in the originally submitted no confidence resolution. Chair Bloom clarified that some inaccuracies noted, among other points, were that policy guidance was provided by UF Health and its physicians/faculty; this differed significantly from what was essentially/largely a cut and paste from the Penn State no confidence resolution which Professor Hostetler used as a template for the resolution.
- Senator TenBroeck expressed resolution opposition because of its adversarial nature, redundancy, and because colleagues in his unit have expressed opposition to the resolution.
- The issue was raised that, if needed at the time of a vote, the resolution could be modified to more accurately represent the current rate of community transmission.
- Senator Long (VetMed) shared her view that it is imperative that the resolution discussion not be delayed, but moved to action by the Faculty Senate, because the handling of COVID is an issue which will persist; decision-making needs to take place all around and from the bottom up, to include front line individuals who can give an accurate picture from the ground to ultimately address and determine health risk mitigation.
- A motion to move the resolution from an Information Item to an Action Item was discussed, with one Senator noting she would like the opportunity to bring the resolution to her colleagues for feedback, and another receiving confirmation that if this motion fails, it will still be voted on as an Action Item (as scheduled) next month. The motion, requiring a 2/3 vote, failed. The resolution will be an Action Item in November.

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

1) University of Florida Faculty Senators

- Senator O'Dell (MED) discussed that there is interest in obtaining information about UF's power plant proposal. Cornell has a useful [energy assessment for Cornell campus steam, co-generation plant options](#) and it would be useful to obtain similar documentation for UF. Chair Bloom noted that discussion of energy options related to the generation of steam and chilled water on campus is being brought to the Infrastructure Council and that UF project information (<https://procurement.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UF-Energy-ITN-Phase-I-Addendum-Final.pdf> and <https://www.facilitieservices.ufl.edu/information/central-energy-plant-project/>) will be shared.

2) University of Florida Faculty

- Professor Mark Hostetler expressed disappointment that no vote was taken on the COVID resolution today which he stated is reflective that there is not really a shared governance in this body right now. He urged Senators to please take a careful look at the resolution because it is

the most important thing now for student and faculty health and safety and is needed to help respond to other upcoming issues such as academic freedom and safety.

Adjournment

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

Attending

Senators

Maria Aguilar
Theresa Antes
Lisa Anthony
Haldun Aytug
Angela Bacsik
Ludmila Veloso Barbosa De Faria
Lauren Berkow
Jeremiah J. Blanchard
Helene Blondeau
Stephanie Bogart
Wesley Bolch
Eleni Bozia
Brent Broaddus
Julie C. Brown
Andrea Caloiaro
Teresa Cavanaugh
Nico Cellinese
Konstantina
Christodouloupoulou
Maddy Coy
Cynda Crawford
Michael K. Davis
Luisa (Amelia) Dempere
Thomas Denagamage
Christina Deremer
Yousong Ding
Petra E. Duran-Gehring
Sara Moscovita Falzarano
Yuguang (Michael) Fang
Jamie Foster
Kristina Garcia-Guettler
Jamie Garner
Ashley Ghiaseddin
Liwei Gu
Charles Haddad
Barry Hartz
Dennis Hiltunen
Amie Hoefnagel
Helene Huet
Robert W. Huigens, III

Frederick (Rick) Kates
Lisa King
Marcus Kirk
Jose Lemos
Lora Levett
Maureen Long
Shannon Rae Lowe
Sarah Lynne
Lucas Majure
Diba Mani
Crystal Marull
Anne Mathews
Mindy McAdams
Victoria Menzies
Marjorie Montanez-Wiscovich
Walter Lee Murfee
Timothy M. Murtha
Christine T. Myers
Juan Nino
Walter O'Dell
Monika Oli
Jorg Peters
Ariel Pomputius
Ana Puig
Czerne Reid
Margarete Ribeiro Dasilva
Mary Risner
Albert D. Ritzhaupt
Jemmie Robertson
Christopher Robinson
Lorenzo Rossi
Hardev Sandhu
Richard Scholtz
Megan Sheridan
Matthew C. Smith
Patricia Sohn
Peter Sprowls
Ruth Steiner
Jessica-Jean Stonecipher
Catherine Striley
Andres Susaeta
Saundra TenBroeck

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

Liaisons

Jonathan Edelmann
Kent Fuchs
Joe Glover
Angela Lindner
Charlene Luke
Nancy Paton
Taylor Rose
Sean Trainor

Student Senators

John E. Brinkman
Devon K. Mims
Daniel C. Schultz
Ryan L. Scott
Alex Wong

Guests

Mayra Cordero
Sylvain Doré
Cassandra Farley
Mark Hostetler
Camila Pereira
Katie Vogel Anderson
Monica Webb