



**Faculty Senate Emergency Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.  
Reitz Union Chamber**

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/e45d91ab69f84bf184946eae62aafcbb1d?catalog=8456cbab10b449868436ee51ddb84dc421>

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**Call to order**

**David C. Bloom, Chair**

- The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair David C. Bloom.

**Reports**

• **Chair's Report**

**David C. Bloom, Chair**

- Chair Bloom spoke to why this special session of the Faculty Senate has been called. A critical need has arisen to address issues of academic freedom at the University of Florida, specifically considering recent events in which faculty were denied an opportunity to serve as expert witnesses. While it is appreciated that this was later overturned by the administration, the ability to perform outside consulting is a central part of scholarship and denial to perform such activities strikes at the heart of academic freedom. Because this matter falls squarely in the purview of Faculty Senate as part of UF's shared governance, Chair Bloom called this special meeting ahead of tomorrow's regularly scheduled November Faculty Senate meeting to provide ample opportunity to discuss this urgent matter.
- Chair Bloom presented [slides](#) which outlined actions being taken by Faculty Senate.
- The [University of Florida Constitution](#) Article III, Section 2 that defines academic freedom was reviewed.
- There are currently three Faculty Senate Ad Hoc committees working on issues of shared governance.
- Faculty are asked to submit any information related to academic freedom violations to the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom.
- The administration has appointed a Presidential task force to look into issues of academic freedom and UF conflict of interest review practices pertaining to outside activities specifically involving service as an expert witness. Provost Glover provided an update and expects task force recommendations will be presented to President Fuchs next week. He also discussed administrative efforts to review the underlying processes by which an evaluation of conflicts of interest and/or outside activities takes place, improving the transparency of the process, increasing faculty participation in the assessment process, and establishing an appeal procedure.

**Information Items:**

**Academic Freedom Resolutions**

**David C. Bloom, Chair**

- [Welfare Council Resolution](#)

**Sarah Lynne, Welfare Council Chair**

- [Advisory Council of Faculty Senates \(ACFS\) Academic Freedom Resolution](#)

- This resolution is in support of the [Advisory Council of Faculty Senates \(ACFS\) Academic Freedom Resolution](#) which was passed unanimously by its twelve State University System (SUS) Faculty Senate Chairs members more than a week ago. Five of the SUS Faculty Senates have also individually passed a resolution in support of this one to date.

- A motion to move the Information Item to an Action Item passed.

- Discussion was held and a motion to approve the resolution carried unanimously.
- Welfare Council Chair Sarah Lynne provided a timeline and overview of the [Welfare Council Resolution](#), which outlines specific goals to protect and engage faculty in issues related to academic freedom.
- A motion to move the Information Item to an Action Item passed.
- Discussion points included faculty support for a strong statement to acknowledge and defend academic freedom as a cornerstone of faculty research and scholarship.
- The resolution was amended.
- Following discussion, a motion to pass [the amended resolution](#) carried.

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

**1) University of Florida Faculty Senators**

- There was no discussion from UF Faculty Senators.

**2) University of Florida Faculty**

- Professor Zachary Hamaker (CLAS) asked that it be considered if a separate, university conflict of interest office should exist at UF as it appears one does not exist at other Florida and peer universities.
- Professor Mark Hostetler (AG) urged support for the [COVID no confidence resolution](#) being voted on in tomorrow's Faculty Senate meeting, specifically if Senators feel that there was outside influence on the university's COVID policy.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

**Attending**

*Senators*

Luis Alvarez-Castro  
Theresa Antes  
Lisa Anthony  
Angela Bacsik  
Donald Behringer  
Lauren Berkow  
Mario Binelli  
Helene Blondeau  
Stephanie Bogart  
Wesley Bolch  
Eleni Bozia  
Brent Broaddus  
Nico Cellinese  
Konstantina  
Christodouloupoulou  
Maddy Coy  
Cynda Crawford  
Megan Daly  
Santanu K. Datta  
Michael K. Davis  
Sara Moscovita Falzarano  
Yuguang (Michael) Fang  
Jamie Foster  
Klibs Galvao  
Breann Garbas  
Kristina Garcia-Guettler  
Jamie Garner  
Malay Ghosh

Reetu Grewal  
Liwei Gu  
Selman Hershfield  
Dennis Hiltunen  
Amie Hoefnagel  
Helene Huet  
Lisa King  
John Kraft  
Jaclyn Kropp  
Jose Lemos  
Lora Levett  
Maureen Long  
Sarah Lynne  
Lucas Majure  
Diba Mani  
Crystal Marull  
Tara Mathien  
Victoria Menzies  
Carey Minter  
Timothy M. Murtha  
Christine T. Myers  
Walter O'Dell  
Madan Oli  
Jorg Peters  
Ariel Pomputius  
Mary Risner  
Lorenzo Rossi  
Richard Scholtz  
Karla Shelnett  
Matthew C. Smith

Peter Sprowls  
Ruth Steiner  
Jessica-Jean Stonecipher  
Catherine Striley  
Andres Susaeta  
Saundra TenBroeck  
David Therriault  
Stephanie Toelle  
Apichai Tuanyok  
Hannah Vander Zanden  
Shawn Weatherford  
Houston A. Wells  
Trent Williams, Jr.  
Gene Witmer  
Sarah Wolking

*Liaisons*

Jonathan Edelman  
Joe Glover  
Taylor Rose

*Student Senators*

Hope Lerman

*Guests*

Wayne Archer  
Sarah Brunning  
Carlos de la Torre  
Mark Hostetler