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

https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/e45d91ab69f84bf184946ea62aafcbb1d?catalog=8456cbab10b449868436ee51dddb84dc421

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 Christodouloupolou
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 Minteer
Timothy M. Murtha
Christine T. Myers
Walter O’Dell
Madan Oli
Jorg Peters
Ariel Pomputius
Mary Risner
Lorenzo Rossi
Richard Scholtz
Karla Shelnutt
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 Edelmann
Joe Glover
Taylor Rose

Student Senators
Hope Lerman

Guests
Wayne Archer
Sarah Brunning
Carlos de la Torre
Mark Hostetler