



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023

3:00 p.m.

Reitz Union Chamber, Ground Floor

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Channel/8456cbab10b449868436ee51ddb84dc45f/watch/4b036ba6b279439a96504755df404eb31d>

Call to order &

Amanda Phalin, Chair

Approval of [January 19, 2023 Minutes](#)

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

Reports

- **Chair's Report**

Amanda Phalin, Chair

- Chair Phalin presented the [Chair's Report slides](#) and announced a late-breaking follow up to the [December resolution](#). Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) Chair Deanna Michael just relayed a [post-tenure review regulation 10.003 update](#). The HB 7 related language has been removed from the regulation as well as the potential age-discrimination language. Chair Phalin expressed appreciation for the faculty work on the Faculty Senate resolution and for sending regulation comments to the Board of Governors (BOG).

- **President's Report**

Ben Sasse, President

- President Sasse was introduced to the faculty, answered inquiries, and provided his perspective on campus priorities and his new role at the university. [[webcast](#) @ 1:24:40]

- **Provost's Report**

Joe Glover, Provost

- One week from tomorrow, undergraduate admission notices for the 60,000 UF freshman applications will be sent. UF received about 55,000 fully complete/eligible applications. 15,000 admissions offers will be made. Financial aid packages will follow. Admitted applicants must confirm their acceptance by May 1. Approximately 1/3 of the students will arrive in Summer B and 1/3 will arrive in the Fall. About 700 are admitted to [PaCE](#) and typically about 200-300 to the [UF Innovation Academy](#). All will attend the Preview process.
- The Provost discussed his experiences using an AI tool allowing instantaneous translation into eight languages which will be rolled out to the faculty in the next few weeks. UF is hosting and sharing its research and curriculum development resources and experiences with other peer universities.
- The proposal to establish the West Palm Beach educational site project was submitted to the Board of Trustees (BOT) in December and to the BOG this month, who will then hopefully act on the proposal in March.
- Provost Glover answered inquiries and clarified that:
 - Pending The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation approval, it is anticipated that the West Palm Beach site classes will begin in Fall 2025.
 - Multiple UF officials, including BOT Chair Mori Hosseini and President Ben Sasse,

represented UF at a Jacksonville press conference held last Tuesday. It was hosted by the Jacksonville City Council and Mayor Lenny Curry, where an agreement to explore a UF city site was announced. Jacksonville is prepared to provide some funding and designate up to 15 acres. A large part of the site will likely be devoted to the UF Health enterprise, with some focus on AI and financial technology.

Action Items:

Graduate Council

Tom Kelleher, Graduate School

- [Create MS with a major in Artificial Intelligence Systems](#) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- This Graduate Council approved proposal was submitted by the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering (HWCOE) and is a 30-credit hours on-campus masters program which aligns well with UF academic and AI strategic initiatives and categories.
- This item was approved.

[2027-2028 Academic Calendar](#)

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost
for Undergraduate Affairs

- Associate Provost Lindner reviewed the 2027-8 academic year calendar and provided [academic calendar comparisons](#) to illuminate various calendar scenarios, including allowance for more class days post-Thanksgiving Break for consideration. The calendar is approved by Faculty Senate five years in advance and in preparation for each calendar presentation to Faculty Senate, calendar scenarios are run for twelve years out. It was noted that last Fall, the Faculty Senate approved: extending the Thanksgiving holiday to the entire week; a later start to the spring semester; and aligning UF and Alachua County Public School (ACPS) Spring Breaks. (No Spring Break or Homecoming dates are noted and will be determined closer to the start of the relevant academic year following consultation with Student Life, the University Athletic Association, the Registrar, and the UF Foundation.) This calendar implements each of these elements.
- Chair Phalin thanked Associate Provost Lindner and her team for their meticulous and exceptional work in bringing the academic calendars to the Senate floor for annual approval.
- Associate Provost Lindner encouraged continued faculty feedback and addressed inquiries.
- A motion to approve the [2027-2028 Academic Calendar](#) carried.

Information Items:

[Introduction of Dean of Public Health & Health Professions \(PHHP\)](#)

Beth Virnig, PHHP Dean

Dean Virnig was introduced to the Faculty Senate, shared her goals and priorities, and provided an overview of the College of Public Health and Health Professions (PHHP), including its mission, accomplishments, and focus on three primary levels of prevention activities.

[Introduction of VP for Student Life](#)

Heather White, VP for Student Life

- VP White provided an overview of her professional background and information gained from listening to and supporting the 'student life experience' within the academic experience. UF student experience and student engagement resources were highlighted, including the focus on advancing student wholistic wellbeing and wellness, community building, AI career and scholarly opportunities, and student-faculty and campus partnerships.

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

- 1) University of Florida Faculty Senators
 - Graduate Student University of Florida Faculty Senator Paul Wassel was asked to bring an item to the floor from a concerned graduate student regarding the loss of graduate student housing, the closing of University Village South (UVS) and Maguire Village, which are slated for closure at the end of this semester, and the replacement plan. Chair Phalin responded that the Infrastructure Council, led by Professor Keith Rambo, the Research & Scholarship Council, and Past Faculty Senate Chair David Bloom has committed extensive time to this topic over the past +two years and Faculty Senate is highly supportive of adequate and affordable graduate student housing for this key university cohort.
- 2) University of Florida Faculty
 - There was no discussion from University of Florida Faculty.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Attending

Senators

Jose Abisambra
Luis Alvarez-Castro
Angela Bacsik
Katie Basinger
Donald Behringer
Lauren Berkow
Sally Bethart
Mario Binelli
Jeremiah Blanchard
David Bloom
Michael Bumbach
Andrea Caloiaro
Rachel Carrico
Teresa Cavanaugh
Nico Cellinese
Mayra Cordero
Maddy Coy
Cynda Crawford
Megan Daly
Margarete Ribeiro Dasilva
Santanu Datta
Michael K. Davis
Luisa (Amelia) Dempere
Thomas Denagamage
Richard B. Dickinson
Yousong Ding
William P. Dishong
Randell Doty
Lili Du
Petra E. Duran-Gehring
Guy El Helou
James Essegbey
Sara M. Falzarano
Michael Feely
Jamie Foster
Klibs Galvao
Breann Garbas
Laurie Gauger

Reetu Grewal
Liwei Gu
Robert L. Hatch
Selman Hershfield
Amie Hoefnagel
Hélène Huet
Robert W. Huigens, III
Flora Iff-Noel
Sarah Rajkumari Jayasekaran
Frederick 'Rick' Kates
Samantha Kennedy
John Kraft
McKenzie Landrum
Ji-Hyun Lee
Yu Hao Lee
Maureen Long
Charlene Luke
Kiran Lukose
Sarah Lynne
Lucas Majure
Diba Mani
A. Corinne Manley
Alexandra Mannix
Crystal Marull
Anne Mathews
John A. Mendoza-Garcia
Carey Minter
Charles Mitchell
Marjorie Montanez-Wiscovich
Walter Lee Murfee
Christine T. Myers
John Neubert
Cuong Nguyen
Juan Nino
Madan Oli
Monika Oli
Jorg Peters
Ana Puig
Heidi Radunovich
Mary Risner
Albert Ritzhaupt

Jemmie Robertson
David Gaddis Ross
Judi Schack-Dugre
Megan Sheridan
Hugh A. Smith
Matthew C. Smith
Ruth Steiner
Svetlana Stepchenkova
Richard Stepp
Catherine Striley
Melanie G. Taylor
Saundra TenBroeck
Hannah Vander Zanden
Wagner Vendrame
Nathalie Wall
Nian Wang
Tony S. Wen
Karen Whalen
Gene Witmer

Liaisons

David C. Bloom
Joe Glover
Chris Hass
Tom Kelleher
Angela Lindner
Ben Sasse
Richard Scholtz
Nicole Stedman
Beth Virnig
Heather White
Danaya Wright

Student Senators

Ethan Ghazali
Anthony Valenzuela
Paul Wassel
Alex Wong

Guests

Toshi Nishida