

Chair's Report

February 15, 2024

Notes from the President

Legislators were very receptive to our Gator Days and our thanks for previous funding and requests for continued funding. President felt optimistic about this legislative season thanks to the pathbreaking work we are doing.

Lots of excitement about Jacksonville and in student experience. Jacksonville plans will be moving forward at BOT meeting in March.

We had good conversations about the sledgehammer approach of SB 846 - countries of concern regulation.

UF Health Corporation – will discuss at March meeting more fully

Legislative Updates

- HB 266 – Mission Alignment (nothing on this yet)
- HB 266 – DEI and funding prohibitions – draft regulation was approved
 - Will affect DEI programs and offices but those are being worked through with GC
 - No changes to research or teaching
 - Except the gen ed audit that is underway
 - Change nothing unless instructed to do so by the administration
- HB 266 – Removal of Sociology from Gen Ed core
 - Governors requested assurances from presidents that sociology would still be taught and that departments would not be affected
 - Dual Core Gen Ed committee will take up issue of students who need sociology
- SB 846 – Prohibits employment of graduate students as RAs or TAs if they are currently domiciled in one of 7 countries of concern (China, Russia, N. Korea, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Syria)
 - Sympathy at both BOG and legislature
 - No indication of movement during this legislative session

Senate Business

- Next Distinguished Professor Lecture – Lily Elefteriadou (Engineering) *Can AI, Autonomous Vehicles, and Other Advanced Technologies Reduce Congestion?*
March 21, 2024 at 1:00 in the Senate Chamber
- Tech Update – Will roll out zoom option for all senators in March assuming all goes well with voting today – and will bring SOP back to senate as we tinker with process
- Board of Trustees Meeting – March 7-8
- Board of Governors Meeting – March 27-28
- Homecoming has been set for October 18, 2024.

Importance of Faculty Participation in Governance

- March 1st – nominations close for Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards
- Faculty Senator election information for fall 2024 – check your senate end date on the senate website and volunteer to serve another term if you are eligible or encourage colleagues to volunteer
- Chair-elect nominations are open and will close March 31st.