

Committee on Committees (COC)

Minutes

Monday, February 14, 2022

10:00 a.m.

MBI L1-108

If cannot attend in person, Zoom=

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91481247006?pwd=TUdHQWZtRmxCclJlaVNvWXJ2U3Axdz09>

Present: Paramita Chakrabarty, Ray Issa, Patrick Klager, Richard Scholtz, Steven Schwartz, Lori Knackstedt, and Nian Wang.

- 1. Call to Order** – Paramita Chakrabarty - Chair, COC
- The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by COC Chair Paramita Chakrabarty.
- 2. Approve January 10, 2022 Minutes** - Paramita Chakrabarty - Chair, COC
- The minutes were approved.
- 3. [Faculty Senate Bylaws Update on the Academic Assessment Committee \(AAC\)](#)** - Paramita Chakrabarty - Chair, COC
- The Academic Assessment Committee (AAC) have further tweaked their Faculty Senate Bylaws update submission to clarify that Academic Learning Compacts (ALC's) are required only for undergraduate programs. The University Constitution & Regulations Committee accepted this verbiage clarification and COC has no objection.
- 4. [University Information Technology Committee](#)** – Raymond Issa, Chair, University Information Technology Committee
- Dr. Issa provided updates on the University IT Committee. The membership is based on one representative from each college/unit of the Faculty Senate plus two UF IT administrative liaisons. The meetings are well-attended. This committee handles physical as well as IT security. Each year, Physical Security Director Joe Souza gives a presentation with regard to physical security. UF Information Technology Director Mark McCallister, the administrative liaison from UF IT, provides a report to the committee at every monthly meeting. This committee has worked this year with the Academic Policy Council regarding issues related to Canvas, syllabi posting, and minimum Canvas use for all courses as required by the state laws. This committee also interacts with the Senate Infrastructure Council. SOP's follow standard procedures. A question was raised regarding improving the service qualities (timeliness of action) by UF Health IT. This was raised by Frank Bova, COM representative to this committee, and will be discussed in the committee's future agenda. There are currently two separate IT configurations – one for the general campus and one for UF Shands, with different security concerns. The administrative liaison is now involved in exploring solutions to the issues raised by Dr. Bova. Dr. Issa stressed the importance of two-way communication between this committee's discussions and the representatives reporting to their academic homes about these discussions. Another question was raised regarding AI initiative and how this is handled. It was clarified that these AI issues are handled directly by this committee (and not a sub-committee). A suggestion was made that having a sub-committee may be helpful for the expected increase in workload in AI initiatives.

5. [Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations And Standards \(AFTPRS\) Committee](#) –

Raymond Issa, Chair, AFTPRS Committee

- Dr. Issa provided updates on the Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations & Standards (AFTPRS) Committee. The committee has an appropriate size currently. It meets at the beginning of the academic year, starting with an orientation workshop with the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian. This meeting is to review the committee’s mission, its guiding rules, and public records law. The meetings are well-attended. Unless there is a complaint filed, the committee does not meet again. Only complaints from non-bargaining unit faculty are accepted by this committee. For the last three years, no complaints have been filed. Bargaining Unit faculty go through the complaints process via the Union Grievance process. No major issues have been noted for this committee functioning. Dr. Bloom is reviewing a possible reorganization of the responsibilities of this committee, with attention to handling complaints related to academic freedom. While faculty can direct issues regarding academic freedom to the Faculty Senate Ad hoc Committee on Academic Freedom, it is due to wrap up its work on February 15. Early-stage discussions are taking place to explore whether this committee can be given responsibilities for handling academic freedom issues and complaints. This committee is a fact-finding committee, holds hearings, and makes recommendations. The SOP for this committee has been instituted following recommendations from the General Counsel’s Office and is guided by the University of Florida Constitution and the Faculty Senate Bylaws. Dr. Issa represents the AFTPRS in the Welfare Council, to which this committee reports.

- View: <http://senate.ufl.edu/committees--councils/> for a committee/council overview:

Name	Faculty membership consists of:	Seat filled by:	Reports to:
Faculty Senate Committees	UF Faculty	Nominated by UF Faculty & elected by UF Faculty Senators	UF Faculty Senate
Joint Committees	UF Faculty	Nominated by UF Faculty; Typically 50% elected by UF Faculty Senators and 50% Appointed by UF President/President's Designee	UF President & UF Faculty Senate
Presidential Committees	UF Faculty	Nominated by UF Faculty & appointed by UF President	UF President
(5) Senate Policy Councils	*Current (at the time of the election) Faculty Senators	Nominated by UF Faculty & elected by UF Faculty Senators	UF Faculty Senate

Name
Faculty Senate Committees
Joint Committees
Presidential Committees

6. Identify next month's Committee/Council Invitation

- View [APPENDIX](#) of Recommended Committee on Committee Review Rotation
- The agenda for the next meeting (in March) was discussed. Since COC has already reviewed 8 committees this year, it was decided that in the next meeting, the committee members will start discussing how to work on the COC Annual Report that will be presented to the Steering Committee on April 28. In addition, the election of next year's chair will also be completed in the next meeting.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Resources:

- [Committee on Committees SOP](#)
- [Constitution of the University of Florida](#) & [Bylaws of the Faculty Senate](#)