

Committee on Committees (COC)

Minutes

Monday, December 13, 2021

10:00 a.m.

MBI L1-108

If cannot attend in person, Zoom=

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

Present: Paramita Chakrabarty, Amelia Dempere, Patrick Klager, Richard Scholtz, Laurie Bialosky, Steven Schwartz, Lori Knackstedt, Amanda Phalin, and Nian Wang.

1. **Call to Order** – Paramita Chakrabarty - Chair, COC
 - The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by COC Chair Paramita Chakrabarty.
2. **Approve November 8, 2021 Minutes** - Paramita Chakrabarty - Chair, COC
 - The minutes were approved.
3. **Senate Nominating Committee** – Amelia Dempere - Chair, Senate Nominating Committee
 - Senate Nominating Committee Chair Amelia Dempere is serving her second term as committee chair and a new chair will serve for the next academic year and is being trained this academic year. Committee standard operating procedures has been reviewed and shared with the chairs.
 - Committee size: Seven members is working very well, and no additional members are needed.
 - The committee meets in the Spring after data is received from the Faculty Senate Secretary when the nomination process closes on January 31. The nomination process opens in the late fall and the committee's work is completed by at least late April.
 - Typically three to five meetings are scheduled in 2.5-hour blocks, based on meeting poll results to ensure that all can participate in a majority of the meetings.
 - Associate Provost Chris Hass is the administrative liaison to this committee. He does not typically attend meetings, but strongly supports the committee chair and is in communication with her and the Faculty Senate Secretary regularly throughout the nomination process to answer any inquiries or assist as requested.
 - Attendance is strong with generally at least three to four meetings occurring per academic year.
 - The process of establishing the allocation of committee members to committee nominations was discussed.
 - 2020 meetings were conducted by Zoom only but it is now hybrid.
 - Spreadsheets for the committees and the data being discussed for each particular meeting is shared in advance of the meeting so members can focus on those for each meeting.
 - Logistical challenges were discussed, including when not enough nominees are available for specific committees; when people do not select specific committees; or when there is an excess of nominees for popular committees. The committee tries to allocate nominees by their first-choice selections priority committees and also ensure there is a diverse representation of nominees to encompass varying viewpoints from multiple colleges, units, academic fields, etc.
 - An Open House is being considered for January, although attendance was quite low last year, which is the first year it was coordinated. The committee could advertise this

information in the Provost's newsletter in addition to the faculty listserv. Any ideas to increase the number of nominees is welcome.

- [Committee FAQ's and charts](#) are available online on several pages throughout the Faculty Senate website.

- Chair Dempere communicates with committee chairs if there are either large vacancies or conversely, many nominees for few spots. She also consults chairs if they have any special projects and prefer a certain college, academic field, or demographics. For example, the Sustainability Committee, a joint committee, has a need for engineering and conservation advisement and faculty within these academic areas are very helpful.

- The committee has been advised to identify nominees for the five Faculty Senate Policy Councils first, due to the smaller pool of eligible nominees (i.e., the current 150 Faculty Senators.) During the nomination period, announcements are routinely made at Faculty Senate meetings to encourage Senators to nominate themselves or a Senate colleague, as much of the key work of the Faculty Senate is completed in these policy councils.

- Academic Personnel Board (APB) membership eligibility is also restrictive, so targeted emails have been circulated in the past several years and has increased the number of nominees for consideration.

- Positive faculty feedback has been received regarding the nomination/election process.

4. [Academic Policy Council \(APC\)](#) – Richard Scholtz, Chair, APC

- This council covers all educational policy and is in communication with the relevant joint committees – the University Curriculum Committee (UCC), the General Education Committee (GEC), and Graduate Council, whose chairs all serve as liaisons to this council.

- Chair Scholtz provided an overview of the council's mission:

This council's area encompasses educational policy, including the creation, modification, or deletion of academic programs and units; curriculum; academic standing; relationship of academic units to each other; general policies concerning student instruction; and policies defining academic requirements for administrative positions of academic significance.

- The APC is functioning well and is trying to recruit a vice chair to help with council business and with preserving institutional memory.

- The size and attendance are very good and have helped in generating fruitful discussions.

- APC liaison participation is strong and appropriate to the council's function.

- Much of what occurs in APC is discussed and reviewed in the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, such as the recent policy topics of: student attendance, Gatorevals, terminally ill and posthumous degree awards, and minimal Canvas usage (which was adopted for Spring 2022 and will likely be adopted on a permanent basis.)

- Another major issue is discussion of the recently released academic freedom report issued by the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom. Relevant issues have arisen and been discussed in relationship to curriculum matters and possible undue influence outside of the university. One example is an allegation made by faculties that 'critical and race' should not occur in same course or program, so it is being reviewed if this may have erroneously been taken out of context or further examination may be needed.

- APC currently has no SOP. While it would be useful, council business has consistently been quite brisk (particularly this academic year) and effective, so it is not a priority.

- There is a large diversity of thought in this council and representation is strong.

- APC moved to a one-hour meeting time during the pandemic but will go back to its 1.5-hour time slot next semester to assist in efficiently facilitating council business.

- 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
(5) Senate Policy Councils

5. Identify next month's Committee/Council Invitation

- View [APPENDIX](#) of Recommended Committee on Committee Review Rotation
- COC will stay with this meeting time for the Spring semester. The Faculty Senate Secretary will invite the chairs below for the following general timeline:
- January: Academic Assessment and General Education Committee.
- February: Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations And Standards Committee (AFTPRS) + University IT Committee (same chair)
- March: Compensation & Equity Committee and COC
- The Academic Personnel Board (APB) will be considered for the Fall due to its heavy Spring workload.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Resources:

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